

**LABOUR'S MAGNA CHARTA; A CRITICAL
STUDY OF THE LABOUR CLAUSES OF THE
PEACE TREATY AND OF THE DRAFT
CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR CONFERENCE**

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Labour's Magna Charta; a critical study of the labour clauses of the Peace treaty and of the draft conventions and recommendations of the Washington International Labour Conference by Archibald Chisholm

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ARCHIBALD CHISHOLM, M.A.

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TO
MY FATHER AND MOTHER

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

ON June 5, 1215, King John signed, in presence of his barons, the Charter which we still regard as the basis of our liberties. Some may doubt the wisdom of calling the Labour Clauses of the Peace Treaty by a name which recalls the Great Charter of seven hundred years ago; an endeavour is here made to estimate the significance of these clauses, to examine the principles on which they are based, and at the same time to indicate the dangers attached to a too ruthless application of some of them.

The problems of to-day can be solved only by international action. Although chief attention is paid to conditions in Great Britain, it has been found necessary to examine also conditions in other countries. India where the strike spirit has manifested itself even among golf-caddies, and Japan where the workers pursue a ca' canny policy because strikes are illegal, are calling out for the solutions which we ourselves so much require.

The organizations created by the Peace Treaty will not in themselves bring about the desired results. A spirit of selfishness is abroad which will nullify the best schemes even as it has involved our present social system in many apparent but not ineradicable defects. A new spirit is required. We must have faith in our fellow-men; we must believe that the human race is capable of unselfishness; and we must strengthen the forces which make for true religion.

The book is based on lectures which the author gave at Glasgow University in the spring of 1919 to officers and men of the United States Army who were then studying in the Department of Political Economy.

A. C.

February 1921.