

THE LONDON PROGRAMME

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649220403

The London programme by Sidney Webb

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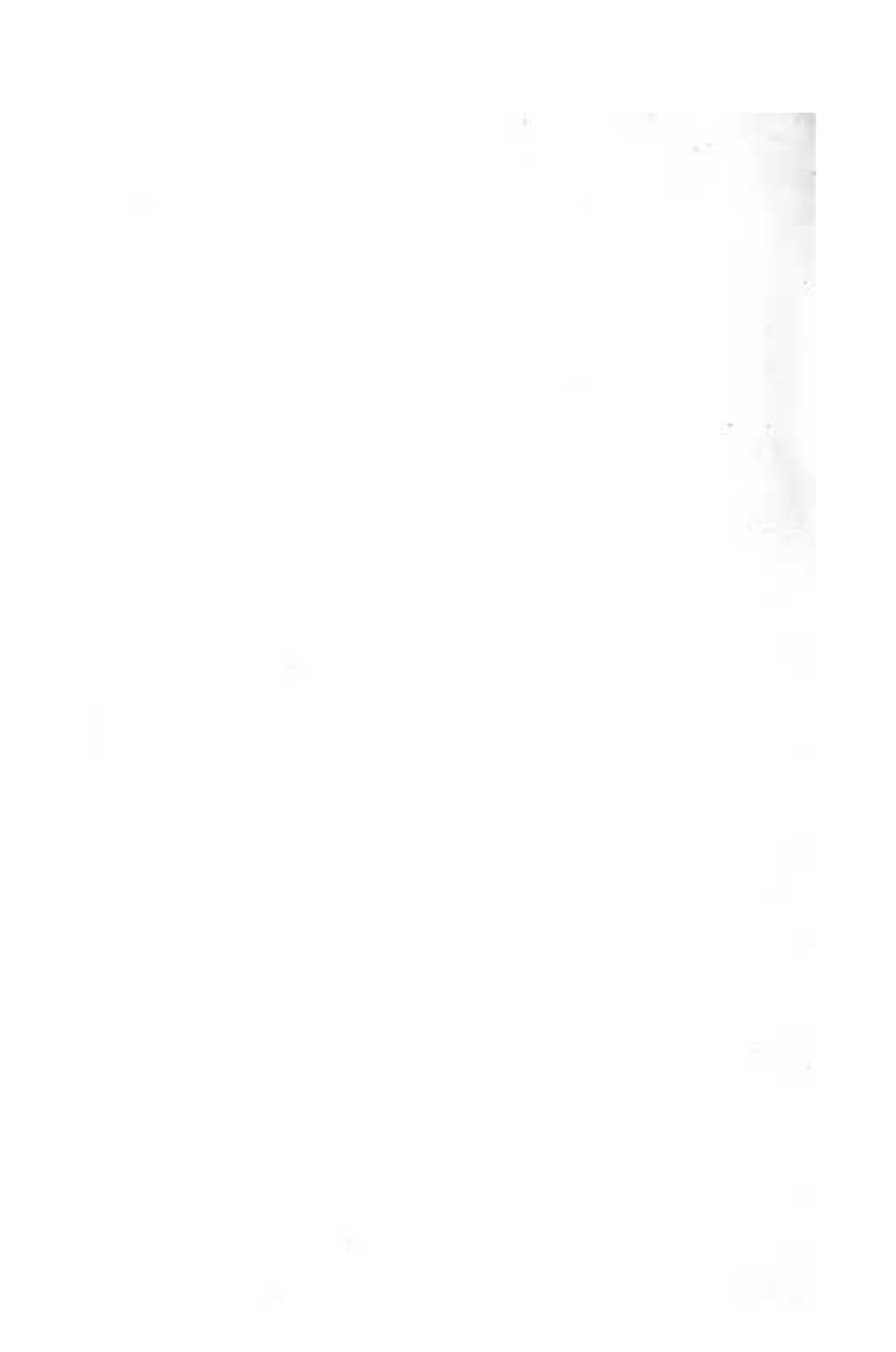
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P A T E R N O S T E R S Q U A R E

1891

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, LD.,
ST. JOHN'S HOUSE, CLERKENWELL ROAD, E.C.

PREFACE.

THE following pages are not presented as any contribution to either science or literature. They aim at nothing more pretentious than describing, in language easily read and understood, the more important of those reforms in the administration of the metropolis, which are often known as "The London Programme." The present exposition of that programme is in no sense authoritative, and the writer has no other warrant for his task than a life-long acquaintance with London, and a very real and deep affection for his native city.

The greatest need of the metropolis is, it may be suggested, the growth among its citizens of a greater sense of common life. That "Municipal Patriotism" which once marked the free cities of Italy, and which is already to be found in our own provincial towns, can, perhaps, best be developed in London by a steady expansion of the sphere of civic as compared with individual action.

The Reform of London Government is, therefore, no

mere matter of cleaner streets or better drains. We should "municipalize" our metropolis, not only in order to improve its administration, but as the best means of developing the character of its citizens. The promotion of the interests of London as a whole, rather than those of individual Londoners, forms the leading principle underlying all the proposals in this little book.

It remains to be said that some of the matter has appeared before in print, mainly in the columns of the *Speaker*, to the editor of which the author is indebted for permission to make this further use of it.

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