

# **GOVERNMENTAL ACTION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649363469

Governmental action for social welfare by Jeremiah W. Jenks

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**JEREMIAH W. JENKS**

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SOCIAL WELFARE**



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THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

64-66 Fifth Avenue, New York

AMERICAN SOCIAL PROGRESS SERIES

GOVERNMENTAL ACTION  
FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

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New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1910

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Set up and electrotyped. Published June, 1912.

**Norwood Press**  
J. S. Cushing Co. — Berwick & Smith Co.  
Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.



## PREFACE

THE lectures which make up this book were given as the Kennedy Lectures for 1907-08 in the School of Philanthropy of New York. When the course was suggested on "Legislation and Administration for Social Welfare," the first plan was a critical study of existing laws for the prevention and checking of special social evils, such as pauperism, crime, vice of various kinds, and the way in which these laws were administered. Such a critical study might be suggestive of improvement. Further reflection, however, on the unpractical nature of some of the proposals for legislation made by reformers and the lack of literature on the nature of the problems which actually face reformers who attempt to secure government assistance, have made it seem best to attempt to go still nearer the source of difficulty and to discuss the various departments of government, their powers, their weaknesses, their practices. Such a study may perhaps ulti-

## PREFACE

mately help social workers more in their task of remedying social evils than would a study of special laws which must naturally vary with time, and place, and circumstance. Moreover, in each field experts are found who can work detailed plans out to best advantage, provided always they work under the limitations laid down by our governmental conditions. If this study shall be of assistance to these special workers in determining the metes and bounds within which they must work, and in indicating, however broadly, the ways of approach to governmental assistance, I shall be content.

These lectures are printed substantially as they were delivered. From the limitation of time, the treatment is often brief, even incomplete. They are written naturally in a less formal style and with less careful citation of authorities than would have been by many deemed suitable if prepared only for reading. Possibly in their present form they may not be less useful to the public.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY,  
April, 1910.

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