

**THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901:
ITS GENERAL EFFECT AND PARLIAMENTARY
HISTORY, WITH NOTES AND OTHER
INFORMATION (INCLUDING THE FULL TEXT
OF THE ACT) FOR THE GUIDANCE OF
EMPLOYERS OF LABOUR AND OTHERS**

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The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901: Its General Effect and Parliamentary History, with Notes and Other Information (including the Full Text of the Act) for the Guidance of Employers of Labour and Others by C. Willoughby Williams & Charles E. Musgrave

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C. WILLOUGHBY WILLIAMS & CHARLES E. MUSGRAVE

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EMPLOYERS OF LABOUR AND OTHERS.

BY

C. WILLOUGHBY WILLIAMS, B.A.,
Of Lincoln's Inn, and of the South Eastern Circuit,
Barrister-at-Law.

AND

CHARLES E. MUSGRAVE,
Assistant Secretary to the London Chamber of Commerce.

LONDON:

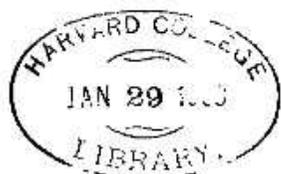
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TO THE CHAIRMAN,
(WILLIAM EASTMAN, Esq.)
AND THE
MEMBERS OF THE MANUFACTURERS' SECTION
OF THE

London Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated,)

THIS LITTLE WORK IS

(By kind permission)

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHORS.

"Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it."

*(BOSWELL, *Life of Johnson.*)*

TEMPLE,
LONDON, *February, 1902.*

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PREFACE.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, is an advance on previous legislation of a similar kind. It is a measure of considerable economic importance, and will have far-reaching effects. Not only does it confirm and consolidate the bulk of the old law, but it largely extends the state regulation of industry as regards health, sanitation, safety, hours of labour and other matters. The Act is also directed against the evils of "sweating," which are condemned alike by the best class of employers of labour and by social reformers, and it is to be hoped that legitimate industry will not suffer by the general application of the prescribed remedies. It throws additional responsibilities upon the Home Office and the Local Sanitary Authorities, and increases the statutory obligations of manufacturers in many material respects.

Any guide to an Act which came into operation on the 1st of January, 1902, must at present be necessarily incomplete. It should be borne in mind that the administration of the law is mainly vested in the Home Office, the Factory Inspectors and the Local Sanitary Authorities, whose powers are largely exercised without the possibility of effective appeal against them. Many of their powers are purely discretionary; but some may be enforced by a Court of Summary jurisdiction.

The Authors do not claim to have produced a complete text book of the Act. Their design is to show in simple language its effect as a whole, the principal changes that have been made in the Law, and the manner in which the measure passed through Parliament. They appeal to the

PREFACE.

consideration of laymen rather than lawyers; to those who are subject to the law rather than to its administrators; to practical every day readers rather than to political economists. Their task is lightened now that existing Factory legislation is embodied in one statute which, as such things go, is more comprehensive and less obscure than usual. The text of the Act is reproduced in full, and the new or modified portions are, so far as practicable, shown in italics. This feature in itself should be useful to those who prefer to read the Act without the aid of notes or comments, though these are added.

The importance and magnitude of the interests involved are shown by the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1900, in which it is stated that the number of Factories on the District Registers was 95,664, and of Workshops 137,548. The persons employed therein may be counted by millions and their number is ever increasing. An Act affecting so many of His Majesty's subjects should possess a wide public interest, and if the present work assists in making it better known, the authors will be amply repaid for their modest contribution to the Literature of the subject.

C. W. W.

C. E. M.

TEMPLE, LONDON,

February, 1902.

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