

**STUDIES IN THE MINIMUM WAGE,  
NO. II: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
MINIMUM RATES IN THE  
TAILORING INDUSTRY UNDER THE  
TRADE BOARDS ACT OF 1909**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649216611

Studies in the minimum wage, No. II: The establishment of minimum rates in the tailoring industry under the Trade Boards Act of 1909 by R. H. Tawney

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**R. H. TAWNEY**

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THE RATAN TATA FOUNDATION (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

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BY

R. H. TAWNEY, B.A.



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G. BELL AND SONS LTD.

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## INTRODUCTION

THIS report is the second<sup>1</sup> of a series designed to throw light on some of the attempts which have recently been made to establish and enforce minimum standards of payment. The evidence on which it is based was collected between March 1913 and May 1914, and does not, therefore, reflect the disturbance of industry caused by the European war. A previous publication of this Foundation discussed the effect of the Chain Trade Board, established under the Trade Boards Act of 1909, upon piece-rates, earnings, prices and employment in the chain-making industry, which is carried on in Cradley Heath. The present work attempts to examine the effect of another Trade Board upon a much larger, more complex, and more elusive industry, that of ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, and such other branches of the tailoring industry as are carried on under approximately the same conditions. The industry is so extensive that Ireland and, except for the facts as to wages quoted on page 69, Scotland, have been entirely omitted. An outsider cannot hope to understand its intricacies or to avoid error, and though he may perhaps be allowed to come to his own conclusions on

<sup>1</sup> The first was *The Establishment of Minimum Rates in the Chain-Making Industry under the Trade Boards Act of 1909* (G. Bell & Sons Ltd. 1s. 6d.).