

**CO-OPERATION  
AND  
CO-PARTNERSHIP**

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Co-operation and co-partnership by L. L. Price

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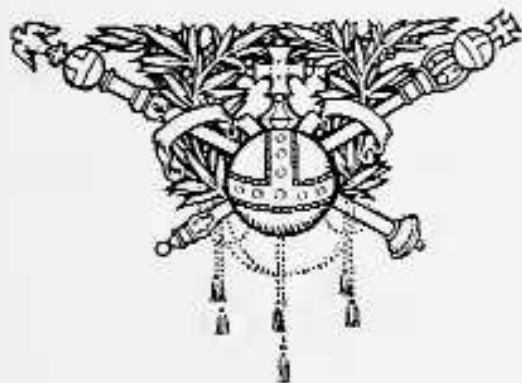


L. L. Price



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L. L. PRICE, M.A.



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# Co-operation and Co-partnership

## PART I

### WHAT CO-OPERATION AND CO-PARTNERSHIP HAVE NOT DONE

#### CHAPTER I

##### THE ORIGIN OF THE PROBLEM WHICH CO-OPERATION AND CO-PARTNERSHIP WERE TO SOLVE

THE two terms handled in the following pages are not free from ambiguity. As we shall see, they have been used and understood in different senses. Sometimes identified, they have also been sometimes contrasted. The theories with which they have been linked successively by their interpreters have varied; and in the case of one at least, with the lapse of time, the practical embodiment sought by many of its advocates has undergone a transforming change.

We shall not attempt at the outset to draw any fine or absolute distinctions, although we hope before we end to reach a broad classification which may be accepted. It was, however, a remark no less happy than profound of Henry Sidgwick, that the final discovery of a perfect definition, should that be possible, was less essential than the preceding search; for the process, he maintained,

when conducted with intelligence and zeal, could not fail to inform. It must prompt the enlightening scrutiny and invigorating pursuit of several suggestions. The chief part of our task will be of this kind. We shall try to show how, under the combined stimulus of the developed thinking and the enlarged experience to which we have referred, points of view have shifted, and reasonings and conclusions have been revised. In a measure, perhaps, the alteration wrought has been unconscious; and the character and extent of the readjustment needed may not yet have been fully realised. We shall at any rate distinguish negative from positive results. In the first part of the book, we shall note how far Co-operation and Co-partnership have failed to settle separately or conjointly the problem which it was believed in influential quarters they would confront and solve; and we shall then investigate, in the second part, what either has in fact accomplished. We may find that the performance does not correspond with promises made on their behalf, although their place on the record and the programme of industrial advance remains conspicuous.

We shall begin with an examination of the origin and nature of the economic problem offered, as it was thought, for their solution in the middle of the nineteenth century.