

THE ENGLISH FACTORY LEGISLATION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649224692

The English factory legislation by Ernst Edler von Plener

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ERNST EDLER VON PLENER

**THE ENGLISH
FACTORY
LEGISLATION**

THE
ENGLISH FACTORY LEGISLATION.

BY

ERNST, EDLER VON PLENER,
FIRST SECRETARY TO THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN
EMBASSY IN LONDON.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL GERMAN,

WITH THE AUTHOR'S CONSENT,

By FREDERICK L. WEINMANN.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

By ANTHONY JOHN MUNDELLA, Esq., M.P.



LONDON :

CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY.

1873.

All Rights Reserved.

HI 7876
PS

LONDON:
BRADSHAW, AGNEW, & CO., PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.

14.5565

TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.

To whose untiring efforts and powerful advocacy on the Platform and in the Senate millions of toilers in the Factories of Great Britain are indebted for those wise and beneficent laws which have been instrumental in protecting Infant life, securing the education of young persons and children, and promoting their material and moral well-being, the following translation is, with his Lordship's kind permission,

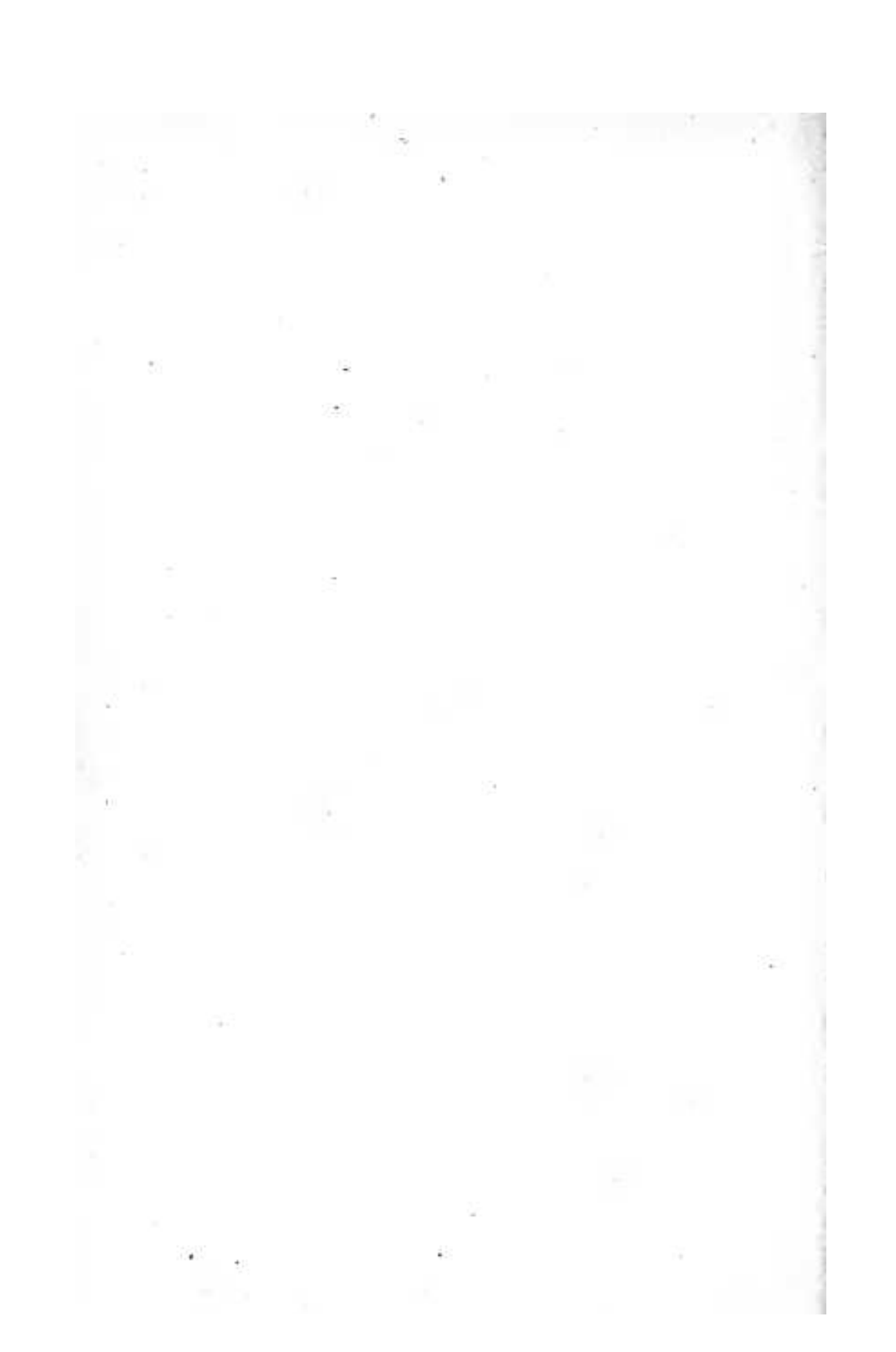
Respectfully dedicated

By his Lordship's

Obedient, humble servant,

FREDERICK L. WEINMANN.

LONDON, *February, 1873.*



INTRODUCTION.

A FEW months ago Dr. Weinmann consulted me as to the desirability of publishing a translation of Herr von Plener's work, "Die Englische Fabrikgesetzgebung." There appeared to me such abundant reason for believing that its publication would be useful and acceptable to the English public, and specially opportune at the present time, that I urged upon him to undertake it in the form in which it is now presented to the reader.

So far as I am aware, Herr von Plener's work is the first attempt at a complete history of English Factory Legislation and the causes which gave rise to it. The reviews of it, both English and foreign, do justice to the great care and accuracy of the original, and I venture to think that in these respects it has not suffered in translation. Having myself had nearly thirty years' experience of the working of the Factory Acts, and having taken during

that period considerable interest in their growth and development, I feel that I can hardly speak too strongly in appreciation of the care and industry of Herr von Plener in the compilation of this history, and of his just perception of the causes which have led to such beneficent results.

The many evils in which the Factory Acts had their origin have nearly passed away from the knowledge and recollection of the present generation of Englishmen. There are even some amongst our ablest legislators and political economists who begin to question whether they were ever needed, or could fairly be regarded as within the functions of Government. To such questionings this history will furnish a sufficient answer. And if any further answer is needed, I would give it in the eloquent and forcible reasoning of the Duke of Argyll. Writing in 1867, he says :—

“The last report on the employment of children shows that evils as bad as ever existed before the passing of the Factory Acts prevail at this moment among large classes of our operative population, and demand again, as imperatively as before, an authoritative interference of Positive Institution with the freedom of the individual

will. The fact of such legislation has indeed gained a sort of silent acquiescence, and some of the old opponents have admitted that their fear of the results in an economical point of view has proved erroneous. But there is no clear and well-grounded intellectual perception of the deep foundations of principle on which it rests. Nor is there among a large section of politicians any adequate appreciation of the powerful influence it has had in improving the physical condition of the people and securing their contentment with the laws under which they live.

“When, however, we think for a moment of the frightful nature of the evils which this legislation has checked, and which to a large extent it has remedied—when we recollect the inevitable connection between suffering and political disaffection—when we consider the great moral laws which were being trodden under foot from mere thoughtlessness and greed—we shall be convinced that if, during the last fifty years, it has been given to this country to make any progress in political science, that progress has been in nothing happier than in the factory legislation.

* * * * *