

**SELECTED ARTICLES ON  
MINIMUM  
WAGE; DEBATERS'  
HANDBOOK SERIES**

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Selected articles on minimum wage; Debaters' handbook series by Mary Katherine Reely

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**MARY KATHERINE REELY**

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WAGE; DEBATERS'  
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Debaters' Handbook Series

SELECTED ARTICLES  
ON  
MINIMUM WAGE

COMPILED BY  
MARY KATHARINE REELY

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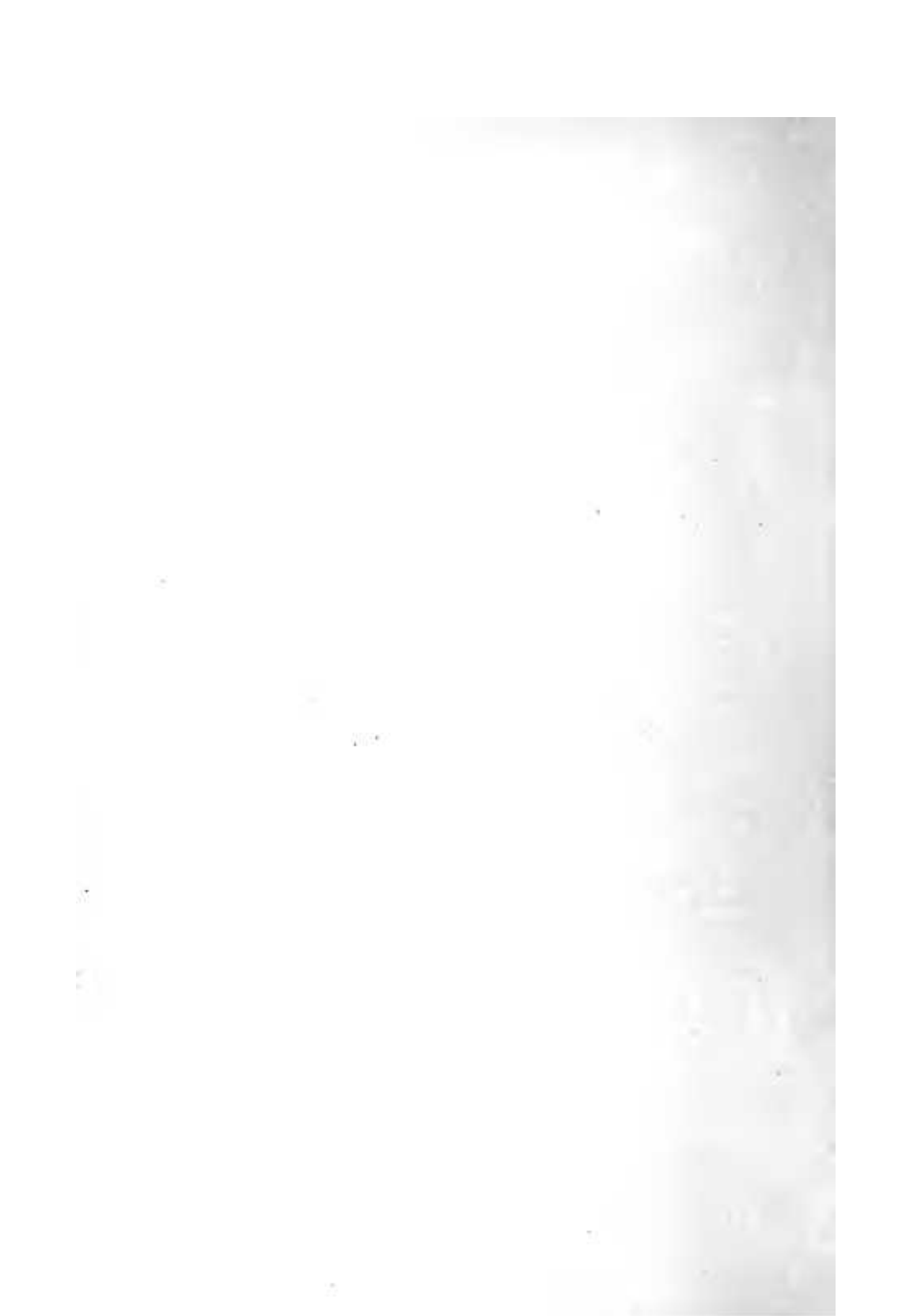
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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This volume is an outgrowth of a pamphlet issued in 1913 in the Abridged Debaters' Handbook Series. At that time minimum wage legislation was still a speculative question in the United States. The Massachusetts act had just been passed and other legislation was pending. The passage of minimum wage acts by nine states during the same year did not take the subject out of the realm of discussion, and with the raising of the question of constitutionality the volume of written matter increased enormously. From this literature an attempt has been made to choose wisely such articles as would present the question from many points of view, that of the employer, the trade unionist, the lawyer, the economist, the social worker, etc. In the arrangement of material the articles have been grouped roughly as follows: those bearing on the conditions that call for a regulation of wages; discussions of the economic theory of the minimum wage; reports on the minimum wage in operation. A word may be said for the index, a new feature in this series. An effort has been made to make the index conform to the brief. In the choice of subject headings for the index, catch words from the brief have been used as largely as possible, so that any one working from the brief may turn to the index and find practically every point covered there. The discussion has not been limited to minimum wage for women,

M. K. R.

September 20, 1916.





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## BRIEF

Resolved, That minimum wage legislation should be enacted in the United States.

### INTRODUCTION

- I. The object of minimum wage legislation is to improve the condition of the working classes.
- II. Questions for discussion are:
  - A. Are bad social conditions due to a low wage?
  - B. Is the regulation of wages by law the remedy?
- III. The Affirmative will attempt to prove that an insufficient wage is the basic cause of social misery; that the economic law of supply and demand cannot be depended on to regulate conditions; that the theory of the minimum wage is economically sound, and that it has proved successful in operation.
- IV. The Negative will attempt to prove that social ills are due to many causes, of which low wage is but one; that low wages, in fact, are due to other causes; that wages cannot be regulated by law since other natural causes operate to control them; that other remedies, chief of them vocational training, are needed in place of the proposed minimum wage legislation, and that where tried minimum wage has had a doubtful success.

### AFFIRMATIVE

- I. Low wage is the basic cause of social misery.
  - A. A large per cent of the working population is living below a subsistence wage.
    - i. Out of this condition grow many evils, among them child labor, sickness, premature old age, dependency on charity.