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A Substitute for War by Percy MacKaye

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PERCY MACKAYE

A SUBSTITUTE FOR WAR

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A SUBSTITUTE FOR WAR

BY

PERCY MACKAYE

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY IRVING FISHER, PH.D. PROFESSION OF RODUCTION AN VALUE UNIVERSITY

AND WITH PREPATORY LETTERS BY THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M. FOREMELT AND NORMAN ANGELL AUTEOR OF "THE GEBAT (LEDENCE "

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INTRODUCTION

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WHEN Colonel Waring adopted a white uniform for the street cleaners of New York City, some people were inclined to smile, and some were puzzled to understand the purpose in view; but, after the first street-cleaners' parade, there was a chorus of approval. Street cleaning suddenly seemed to assume a certain dignity, when our attention was turned from dirt to cleanliness and from the forlorn individual sweeper at the crossing to the mighty host of the Defenders of a City.

Since the general public always fails to catch the higher overtones in com-

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6 INTRODUCTION

mon life until some bright symbolism reveals them, we may well pay heed to the suggestion of Mr. MacKaye that the social service of to-day should be clothed in brighter garments and expressed in clearer symbols. Its real splendor will then be recognized through the splendor of its expression.

For years social reformers in Saint Louis advocated the pressing need of a new charter for their city; but almost nothing was accomplished until the vivid symbolism devised by Mr. MacKaye in the "Pageant and Masque of Saint Louis" fired the imagination of hundreds of thousands of citizens, and, through them, aroused the dormant civic pride of a whole city. The result was that a new charter was adopted within a few weeks after that memorable festival.