

**BEDROCK: EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT, THE
FOUNDATION OF THE
REPUBLIC**

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Bedrock: Education and Employment, the Foundation of the Republic by Annie L. Diggs

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FOREWORD

The system that this little book is designed to establish was not idly conceived or hastily set forth. For a quarter of a century I have been a serious student, both in the United States and in Europe—oftentimes an active participant in movements and measures that gave promise of relief to conditions that bear heavily on the lives of my fellow beings.

For many years it has been to me an intolerable thought that the misery borne by men and women and children resulting from deprivation of the necessaries of life would be permitted to continue. The raw material exists in superabundance, merely awaiting intelligent and humane supervision to be converted into more than ample provision for all human needs.

The broad, rich earth yields generously all the good things that are essential to the upbuilding of strong, healthful bodies of men. There is not the slightest reason existent in nature for the blighting deprivation that enervates the bodies, embitters the feelings and corrupts the morals of a vast percentage of mankind. There is no reason except the lack of scientific management addressed to the correction of our industrial chaos.

The time is ripe for the inauguration of a remedial method so designed as to eventually compass the entire situation and afford universal relief.

It is none too soon to begin a work that will command the confidence and allay the bitterness of those who feel themselves the victims of injustice.

There is a sincere desire among large numbers of the wealthy and well-circum-

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stanced classes to alleviate the distress and permanently better the condition of those who suffer and those whose labor is inadequately recompensed.

I am not unaware that there are already in operation many agencies directed to the alleviation of distress and to the solution of the industrial problem.

I am not unfamiliar with the political trend that will some day transform our government into a promoter of universal justice and opportunity.

Nevertheless, I present the plan outlined in this little book as one that may be at once begun and that will never become superfluous, no matter what beneficent changes may result from progress along any line. There is in this plan no possibility of future collision with any conceivable changes in the industrial or social system.