SELECTED ARTICLES ON UNEMPLOYMENT

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Selected articles on unemployment by Julia E. Johnsen

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JULIA E. JOHNSEN

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ON

UNEMPLOYMENT

COMPILED BY JULIA E. JOHNSEN



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The subject of Unemployment has taken the form of two leading aspects among debaters—the establishment of public labor exchanges, and the supplying of municipal, state or national work when normal channels are inadequate to absorb surplus labor. The present volume is designed in particular to serve both of these questions, its emphasis being given to remedial schemes and their negation, while at the same time a full bibliography has been provided and an endeavor has been made also to include articles covering the general subject broadly, for the benefit of the outside reader and student. The brief and selection of articles first arranged in affirmative and negative sequence are designed for the labor exchanges question. Following them is a selection of articles more directly on public work, in affirmative and negative sequence. The general references serve as an introduction and to other schemes. The bibliography on the works question, for condensation, includes all forms of public provision of work, compulsory and voluntary, from wood yards to farm colonies, and from municipal to national undertakings. In the labor exchanges division of the bibliography (A W) and (N W) indicate additional articles on the affirmative and negative of the works remedy.

The statement of the works question is: Resolved, That in times of depression public work should be supplied to the unemployed. General arguments in favor of work are: they preserve self-respect, independence and efficiency, are a test of trustworthiness, prevent family disintegration and suffering, encourage return to employment, are cheaper than charity. Against the works question are the contentions: they are not good business, they undermine self-help, they are often accompanied by offensive cross-examination, they are inappropriate for persons trained in other lines, are costly, they aggravate rather than diminish Unemployment, they interfere with the free play of industry, they weaken resources of the community, they reduce incentives of effort, they do not help the classes they are designed to help, they legalize the right to work.



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