

THE CASE FOR THE FACTORY ACTS

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The case for the factory acts by Mrs. Sidney Webb & Mrs. Humphrey Ward

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MRS. SIDNEY WEBB & MRS. HUMPHREY WARD

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**THE CASE
FOR THE FACTORY ACTS**

EDITED BY

MRS SIDNEY WEBB

WITH A PREFACE BY

MRS HUMPHRY WARD

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PREFACE

THE book to which these few words are prefixed needs no recommendation from me or from anyone else to press it on English attention. It is written by a group of students and practical workers well acquainted with the subjects on which they speak; and at their head stands that brilliant writer, economist and historian, Mrs Sidney Webb. For one who, like myself, has no special knowledge of the great matters with which they deal, to dwell in terms of criticism or even of praise on the work of writers led and marshalled by one of the two authors of "Industrial Democracy" would be impertinent and absurd. It seems to me that the *why* of Factory Legislation has never been more lucidly analysed than by Mrs Webb in her introductory essay; and that the story of that great movement, which, although still incomplete, has already revolutionised and regenerated the greater part of industrial England, has been told by Miss Hutchins with a clearness of summary statement not easily to be found elsewhere. But in saying so, I am only speaking as the first grateful reader of an interesting book, who turns to the