

**BRIEFS ON PUBLIC  
QUESTIONS,  
WITH SELECTED  
LISTS OF REFERENCES**

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Briefs on Public Questions, with Selected Lists of References by Ralph Curtis Ringwalt

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BRIEFS  
ON  
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

WITH SELECTED LISTS OF REFERENCES

BY

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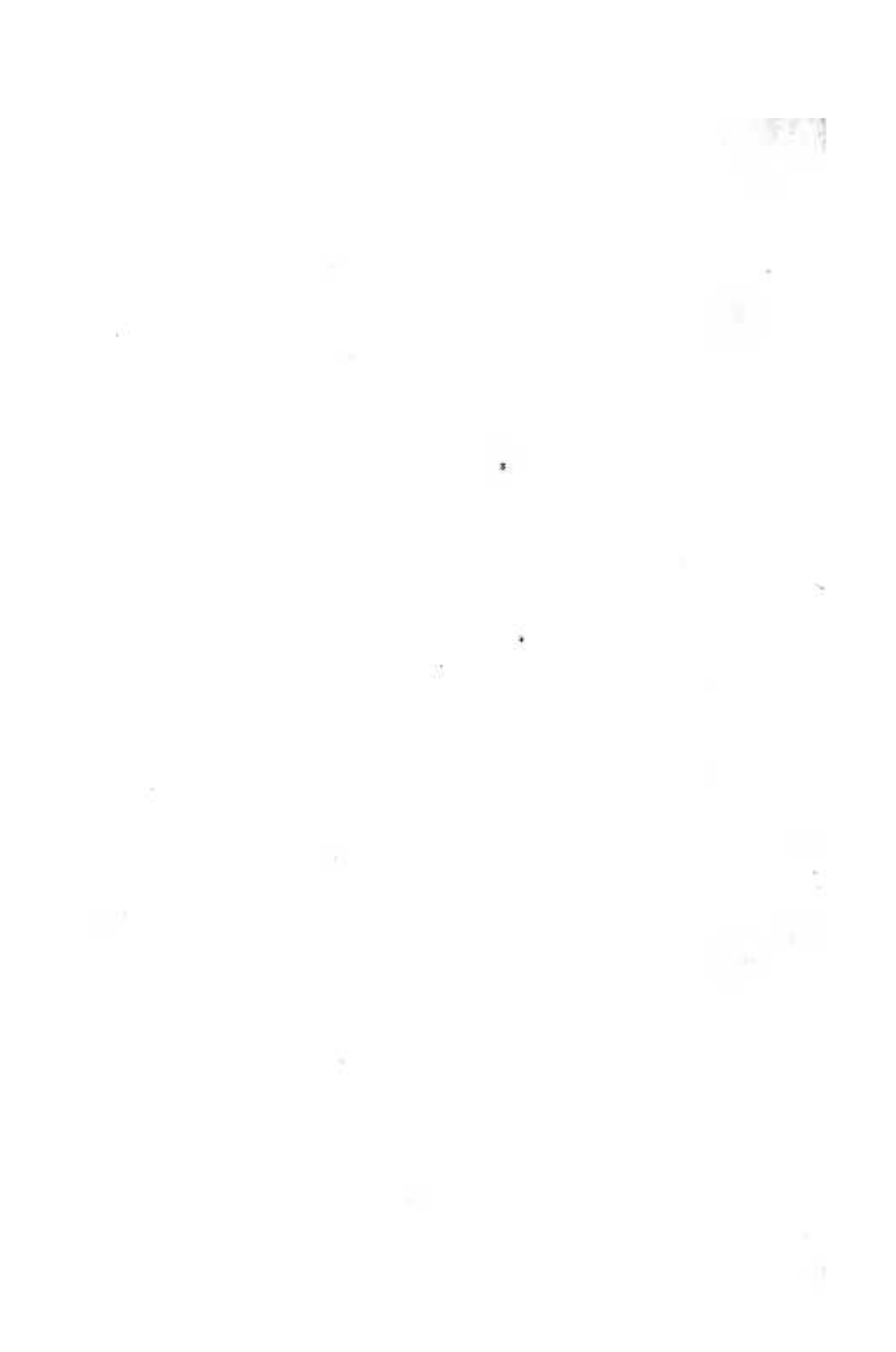
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TO  
J. C. R. AND J. S. R.





## PREFACE

THIS is a series of argumentative briefs and lists of references on twenty-five of the most important public questions of the day.

For greater precision in the argument, each brief has been prefaced with a concise proposition, stating the question for discussion. A few short paragraphs have then been given, explaining why the subject is important, what facts material to it are generally conceded by both sides, and what apparently are the chief points at issue. Then follows the brief proper, a discussion of these issues from the affirmative and the negative points of view. Each main division of a brief is preceded by a list of references, giving information about or evidence in support of the statements that follow.

In the briefs I have attempted little beyond an analysis and arrangement of the more important arguments put forward by those who have written on the same topics. Largely because of the limitation of space, only the main lines of an argument have been given; no especial effort has been made to invent new or original arguments; and whenever a writer's wording of his point has seemed to be particularly effective I have not hesitated to use it. For these reasons, as no one is likely to

recognize more readily than myself, the book doubtless contains many statements to which exception may be taken and which can scarcely be supported by facts. I have felt, however, that the value of the work would be increased, rather than lessened, by this elimination of my own convictions; and hence I have never disregarded an argument, made in evident good faith, simply because it seemed to me personally unsound.

The only end I have had in mind in preparing the lists of references is their usefulness. I have tried to give the most important books on each topic, and especially, references to available books, — those which are, or ought to be, in every large library. The lists are by no means exhaustive; the specialist will be obliged to make many additions to them, additions particularly in the nature of reports and documents, and of references to periodicals having only a comparatively small or a class circulation. But I believe that not a few are the most complete that have thus far been brought together. Where other bibliographies have come to my attention, I have noted them at the beginning of my "General References."

R. C. R.

APRIL, 1905.

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