

HIGHER PRODUCTION
BY A BONUS ON NATIONAL OUTPUT

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A PROPOSAL FOR A MINIMUM INCOME FOR
ALL VARYING WITH NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY

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PREFACE

THE following pages are addressed to those who already see the necessity of higher production, and who realize that this cannot be obtained without the co-operation of all classes. The Prime Minister went very near the root of the matter when he told the National Industrial Conference of 1919 that we need higher production in order that a higher standard of living may be available for every one, but that we shall not get this higher production until (1) every person willing to work is secure against starvation during unemployment, and (2) until it is made absolutely clear, in some way that every one can appreciate, that higher production will be shared by all classes.

The simple concrete suggestion outlined in the following pages is put forward in the hope that it will lead to a solution which satisfies these two essential conditions. The subject is not dealt with exhaustively, and

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all speculations on justice and ethics have intentionally been eliminated, so that the proposal put forward may be considered solely on its merits as a business proposition.

It will have to face the fire of necessary criticism which meets all new proposals, but those who decide that it is neither feasible nor contains the germ of any feasible solution are bound to show that there is an alternative and better method of meeting the undoubted difficulties of a complex and vital problem.

The following pages have been written to elucidate a set of principles and to examine the probable effects of applying them in Great Britain now. It has therefore been simplest to assume the National Output-sharing as taking place on a single fixed basis such as may be finally suitable, whereas in practice a much lower basis would be tried first. Thus 20 per cent. has been spoken of all through, although 10 per cent. might be a better basis for beginning and would be sufficient for a test of all the main principles.

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