

**THE NEW TRADES
COMBINATION MOVEMENT:
ITS PRINCIPLES,
METHODS AND PROGRESS**

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The New Trades Combination Movement: Its Principles, Methods and Progress by E. J. Smith
& J. Carter

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E. J. SMITH & J. CARTER

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MOVEMENT**

©

THE NEW
TRADES COMBINATION
MOVEMENT

Its Principles, Methods, and Progress

BY
E. J. SMITH

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
THE REV. J. CARTER, M.A.
BURSAR OF PUSEY HOUSE, OXFORD

RIVINGTONS
34, KING STREET, COVENT GARDEN
LONDON
1899

PREFACE

IN presenting to the public in book form the series of articles which have appeared from time to time in the *Economic Review*, I have yielded to the request of many people who have become interested in the scheme which these articles explain.

This interest has been promoted as much by the criticism to which the plan has been subjected as by the success which the movement has attained. To me the one has been as welcome as the other.

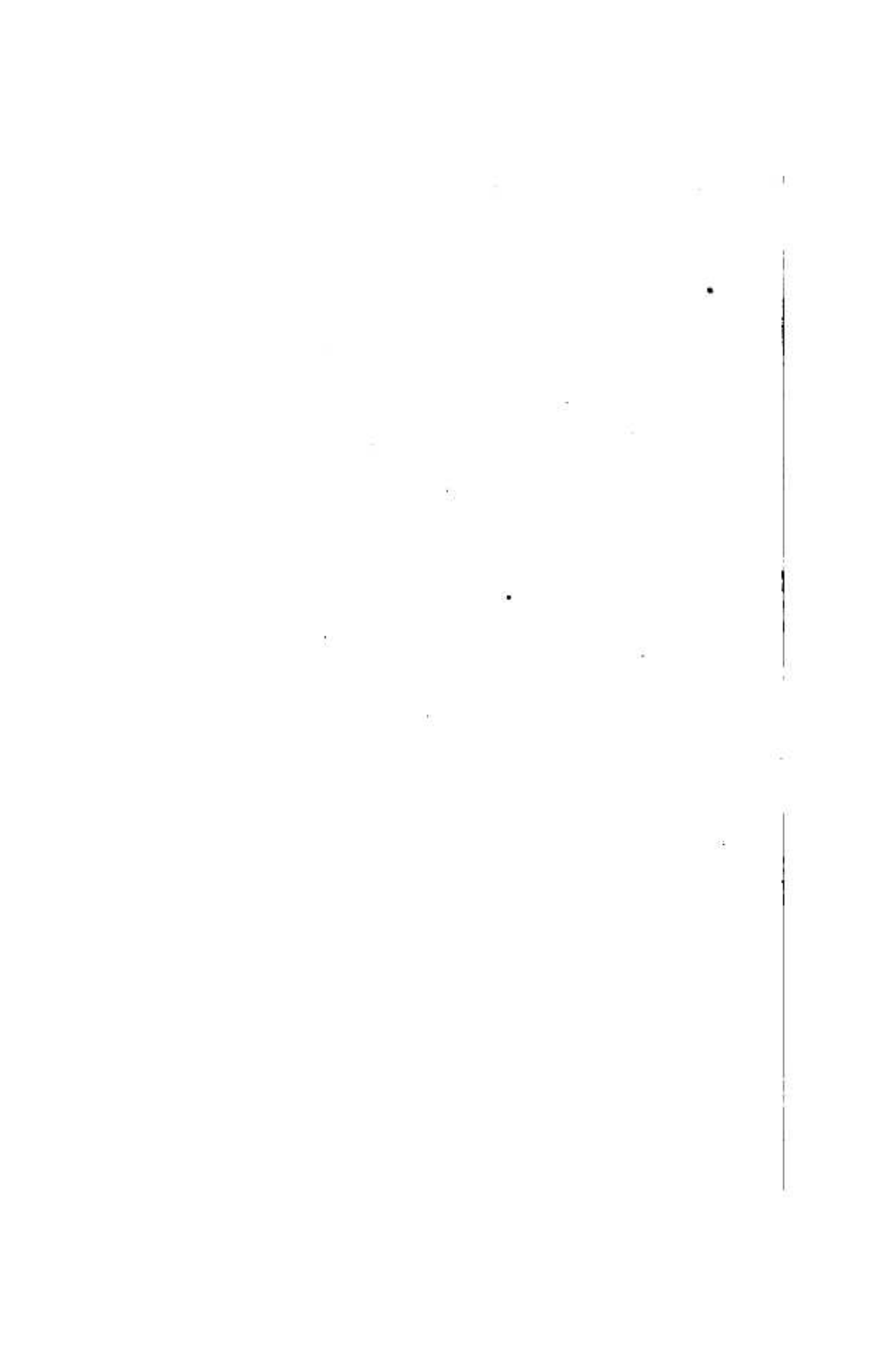
That the attempt to reform the trading methods which have brought about so much ruinous competition is a drastic one, I admit. I have long been of opinion that a drastic method is the only one which could be of service. "Nothing, however, could be more open to criticism from this point of view than State interference, which so many people demand. It would be difficult enough for the State to put an end to the "Labour war;" it would

be many times more difficult to regulate selling prices by Governmental control. Every one must admit that it would be better for the manufacturers and their workmen to settle their own difficulties, and for each to provide their own remedies. These articles not only suggest a way by which this might be done, but describe the way by which it is done. That the difficulties are great, and the opposition keen, goes without saying. The scheme could not be worth much were it not so. But those who wish to know more about the movement have now the case before them as completely as it can be presented to-day. If the plan is a bad one, inquiry will help to kill something which ought not to live. If it is a good one, criticism can only increase its vitality. I have only to add that, so far as the legality of the methods employed are concerned, every effort has been made to obtain the best legal advice, and that the scheme is formed on the lines suggested in the legal opinions obtained. In several cases workmen have, on their own initiative, gone beyond the arrangements made with them. Whenever this happens the aggrieved persons have their own remedy, and no one can say that our magistrates err on the side of leniency if the law has been broken. There has, however, been much to learn, and the lessons have not been

wasted. Time alone will determine the value of the scheme, and, for myself, I can only hope during one short life to assist in making a few practical experiments which will be of more value than any theory I have advanced.

E. J. SMITH.

HAGLEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM,
August, 1899.



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