

**SYNDICALISM AND LABOUR;
NOTES UPON SOME ASPECTS
OF SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL
QUESTIONS OF THE DAY**

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Syndicalism and labour; notes upon some aspects of social and industrial questions of the day by
Sir Arthur Clay

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SIR ARTHUR CLAY

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PREFACE

EACH generation is, in its day, trustee for the country of its birth, and it is its bounden duty in dealing with the exigencies of the moment to take due heed for the future, and, so far as human prevision will allow, to safeguard the interests of which it is the temporary guardian from ulterior as well as from present injury.

Social and industrial movements of far-reaching importance are now in progress, and what they portend no living man can say. The immediate responsibility for guiding their development in accordance with the welfare of the nation lies upon those to whom the country has entrusted the conduct of its business. Behind the Government is the unseen and inarticulate but irresistible force of public opinion; it is difficult to ascertain with any degree of precision what this opinion is, but—subject to the exigencies of party politics—the Cabinet of the day will always endeavour to carry out what they believe to be the wishes of the Public. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the power which thus controls national policy, and indirectly the legislation which gives it

effect, should be as fully informed as possible about the conditions upon which its opinion and its mandates are based. But our social organisation is now so complicated, and the action and reaction of forces within it so intricate and so difficult to estimate, that public opinion is apt to be formed upon a very incomplete understanding of existing facts.

The object of these notes is to give some description of the doctrine of Syndicalism, and to direct attention to certain developments in social and industrial conditions which seem likely to exert a material influence upon the future, and which do not appear to have received the attention they deserve.

ARTHUR CLAY.

July 1911.

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