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Arthur L. Bowley

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WAGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

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W A G E S
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NOTES FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS OF
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

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PREFACE.

THE following notes were originally prepared for the New-march Lectures at University College, London, in 1898; but since delivery they have been extended and entirely recast. Some apology is necessary for presenting this book in so unfinished a form, for in many cases it will be found that figures are left untabulated, and the means of solving a wage problem only suggested, when the solution itself might have been offered. My excuse is that the complete working up of the wage figures in any industry is an undertaking of considerable magnitude, which I am trying to carry out quarter by quarter in the *Statistical Journal*; and that, if I had waited till it was finished, many of the preliminary results, complete in themselves, would have been lost to those to whom they might be useful, and helpful criticism, which I trust may be evoked by these notes, lost to the author. It is hoped that in the course of no very long time it will be possible to extract from the wage records of the 19th century all that is essential, and to offer a more complete history of English wages. Meanwhile in the present volume an effort has been made to illustrate the various questions that arise in the study of wages, choosing those groups which afford problems of any special difficulty or interest; to show in some the work

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in great detail, to indicate briefly in others the difficulties and the way to overcome them, and in others to work up the material to its final form. Enough references have been given in the text to enable any reader to verify most of the figures, but in case of doubt use should be made of the bibliography in Appendix III., and of the more complete one on the same subject in the *Economic Review* of October, 1898. These notes would have been still less complete had it not been for the constant co-operation of Mr George H. Wood of Bristol, to whom my thanks are due not only for help with references, material and writing, but also for the tables on Manchester Cotton and Iron, which will be found to contain very satisfactory solutions of difficult problems. My thanks are also due to the Editors of the *Economic Journal* and to the Council of the Royal Statistical Society for permission to use work already published by them, and to Mr Sidney Webb for valuable help in the compilation of Appendix II.

A. L. B.

December 1899.

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