

LABOUR AND THE NATION

FOREWORD

This statement of the Labour policy and programme was drafted in accordance with instructions given to the Executive by the Blackpool Conference of 1927, and was approved by the Annual Conference at Birmingham in October, 1928. It is a survey of the whole of the problem which the Labour Movement has been created to solve. For the Labour Party, unlike other Parties, is not concerned with patching the rents in a bad system, but with transforming Capitalism into Socialism. It is necessary for it, therefore, to be clear as to its aims, because only in relation to the goal can immediate steps be either understood or justified.

The Party is essentially one of action, and it asks for power both in order to lay the foundations of a new social order and to relieve immediate distress. Acting with our Trade Union colleagues we can command the industrial and the political power which together will enable society to control its economic resources and re-fashion its organisation so as to secure justice.

In the survey of wrongs to be righted we mention a long array of parliamentary and administrative measures, and we summarise them at the end. They make a formidable list, but who can hope to deal with the evils of to-day except by undertaking tasks that are both weighty and numerous? These tasks, one after another—the more pressing and important being dealt with first of all—must be undertaken by a Labour Party in power, and every parliamentary opportunity used to settle them.

Macmillan