

PREFACE

I HAVE deliberately sought to make this book impersonal and uncontroversial. I have attempted to leave the plain facts to speak for themselves, and I have tried to arrange them without bias, or without imposing upon them (so far as I could avoid it) any preconceived point of view. I have restricted comment to a point which may even lay me open to the accusation that I was unable to draw the obvious inferences from the events which I described. I had rather face that accusation than attempt to reach conclusions that could not but be tempered and twisted by the heat of events so recent.

But the price of impersonality has been that I have been unable to indicate the share in moulding these events taken by individuals. To ignore these entirely would be not merely ungracious, but would leave an actual lacuna. I shall not refer to what was done by Ministers. This is known, and is chronicled elsewhere. But the services of some servants of the State I will, if I may, mention.

First in the list must come Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith and Sir William Beveridge, the first General and Assistant General Secretary of the Ministry of Munitions, who were the joint authors of the Munitions Code. With them must be joined Mr. C. F. Rey, to whose energy the War Munitions Volunteer Scheme owed its first impetus. Following them comes Sir Stephenson Kent, upon whom the whole burden of carrying the Labour Departments of the Ministry fell during the later years of the War, first as Director General of Munitions Labour Supply, then as Member of the Munitions Council, and finally as Controller-General of Civil