



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BOOK DEPARTMENT

BULLOCK, EDNA D. and JOHNSEN, JULIA E. *Employment of Women*. Pp. xxxvii, 214. New York, H. W. Wilson, 1920. \$1.25.

PHELPS, EDITH M. *American Merchant Marine*. Pp. xxxvii, 344. New York, H. W. Wilson, 1920. \$1.50.

TALBOT, W. and JOHNSEN, JULIA E. *Americanization*. Pp. lxiv, 373. New York, H. W. Wilson, 1920. \$1.80.

All of these books are second editions of volumes in the Debaters' Handbook Series heretofore reviewed in THE ANNALS. The volume on the *American Merchant Marine* contains a supplement of nearly 150 pages bringing the material up to 1919. There is a similar supplement to the volume on *Employment of Women* bringing the material up to date of publication.

The volume on *Americanization* discusses the principles of Americanism, essentials of Americanization, technique of race-assimilation. It contains a good bibliography. A supplementary section of fifty pages brings the discussion of Americanization up to date. All books are eminently suited to their purpose.

HOBSON, J. A. *Taxation in the New State*. Pp. x, 258. New York, Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1920.

In most modern states the tendency in taxation has been (1) to draw an increasing proportion of the tax revenue from direct taxes, (2) to do away with specific taxes earmarked for some special public service and (3) to adopt the policy of graduation for direct taxes. A tax to be sound must not remove or impair any instrument or incentive to essential or useful processes of production, nor remove or impair any essential or useful element of consumption.

The phrase "ability to pay" should be changed to "ability to bear." The following groups have no ability to bear taxation and if taxation is placed upon them the tax must be shifted: (1) Standard wages—including wages not only sufficient to keep up physical efficiency but also to keep up standard comforts and pleasures; (2) A minimum rate of interest upon invested capital (the current world rate) to induce the saving class to sacrifice current spending power to save the new capital needed for industrial processes; (3) Standard incomes, differing in each grade of business, for the remuneration of business men; (4) Standard rents of ability, varying with each profession, but sufficient to keep up the various

professional classes. These groups have no true ability to bear taxes and taxes placed upon them must inevitably be shifted.

The real power to bear taxes rests with economic rents, whether "scarcity" or differential rents, and with all interest, profits and other payments for the use of capital, brains or labor which are due to superior economic opportunities including monopolies, quasi monopolies with all business subject to the law of increasing returns.

To attempt to tax the groups who cannot bear taxes is to cause great economic waste and discontent incident to the shifting of these taxes on to those groups able to bear taxes.

Revenues cannot be secured from sources able to bear taxation, without impinging on essential production processes or on consumption standards in quantity sufficient to maintain the interest on the present debt of Great Britain, and to meet the future needs of the state. The author, therefore, urges a levy on capital sufficient to underwrite about seventeen and one-half billion dollars of Britain's existing public debt. His argument for this is not only to lower the burden of an income tax and of other direct taxes in the future but also to make the people in the British Isles the equal competitors of any other group of people. He points out that, whereas preceding the war large quantities of goods were flowing into England yearly as interest on debts due England, now goods must flow out of England to pay the interest on about five billion dollars due to those outside of the British Isles. This outward flow of goods can be brought about only by lowering wages and lowering prices on British goods and to do this will bring about such an unrest as to make ills flowing therefrom outweigh the ills flowing from the levy on capital. The author states that the levy on capital of 50 per cent on war-made wealth would get the sums needed but he believes to levy on war-made wealth alone would be unjust and hence he argues for a levy on all capital. He works out in some detail the process by which this levy can be made.

Such are the tenets and such the main conclusions of the author. As to the power to shift taxes they differ essentially in their general concept of the marginal producer. The author believes that the wage must now be sufficient not only to keep up the race physically but also to get for the working classes those standards of comfort which organized economic and political power can and will now obtain for wage earners. His taxation plan would therefore exclude the