

MONETARY RECONSTRUCTION

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR

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CURRENCY AND CREDIT

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MONETARY RECONSTRUCTION

BY

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PREFACE.

OF the essays which form this book, No. III (the Gold Standard) appeared in the "Economic Journal" for December, 1919, and No. VI (the Genoa Resolutions on Currency) in the same periodical for September, 1922. No. IV (the European Currency Situation) appeared in a French translation in the special economic number of the "Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale" for July, 1921. No. V (the Federal Reserve System of the United States) was read to the Royal Statistical Society in February, 1922, and appeared in the Society's Journal. I have to thank the editorial authorities in each case for consenting to republication.

The Introduction and the first two essays appear for the first time.

It has been thought desirable to print the essays in their original form.¹ To test the application of a theory to practical problems, it is better to view the problems and the theory as they appeared at the time than to be wise after the event. It is possible to be highly scientific in *post mortem* investigation, without being very trustworthy in diagnosis or prescription.

In place of a revision of the text, the Introduction supplies comment, and links each essay to the present time. Some of the hopes, fears, and expectations expressed in the essays have not been substantiated, but if the reader will forgive these errors, he will also find, as he passes from case to case, that the diagnosis has

¹ One or two superfluous passages have been omitted. In No. V some more recent figures not previously available have been utilised.

sometimes been confirmed by experience, and I trust he may be persuaded to give some measure of assent to the treatment prescribed.

Throughout it has been my aim, in face of a too prevalent scepticism, to show that treatment is possible, that remedies for our present disorders, difficult though they may be to apply, are not beyond human power. In particular I have sought to throw into relief the importance and also the feasibility of a rational control of credit.

R. G. HAWTREY.

November, 1922.

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