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**A CRITICAL STUDY
OF GOLD RESERVES AND THE
MONETARY STANDARD**

A CRITICAL STUDY OF
GOLD RESERVES AND THE
MONETARY STANDARD

*With special reference to the
position of the Bank of England ;*

AND

AN OUTLINE OF A PROPOSED
MONETARY SYSTEM FOR THE BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

BY

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LONDON

P. S. KING & SON, LTD.
ORCHARD HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

1933

Printed in Great Britain by
RICHARD CLAY AND SONS, LIMITED
BUNGAY
SUFFOLK

X 61; 1.1-3

G3

9698

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

CURRENCY matters are tending to slip too easily into the position of political counters or political dogmas. There is need for a greater degree of dispassionate calm and good humour when approaching the monetary problems now suspended like imminent avalanches over the heads of the world's responsible statesmen and central and commercial bankers. This short study represents an attempt to assist in a more judicial survey of the gold standard's efficacy over a longer period than is currently taken into consideration in a number of quarters. Pronouncements by leading statesmen on the floors of parliaments and at welcoming dinner-tables often raise the question whether the true statistical aspects of the gold question have as yet been widely studied. Such a study must lead on to an examination of the possibility of introducing a higher degree of management into a gold standard which without it may prove so easily to be a jilting mistress.

The writer has therefore attempted to deal with the case for a managed gold sterling standard from a new angle. The modifications which he suggests in the administrative arrangements of the currency system involve no interference with the existing provisions whereby the British note-issuing and credit-controlling authorities find themselves independent of political and undesirable business pressure. His efforts are made as a contribution to that searching for a re-orientation in currency

practice which the statistics of gold supplies, needs and utilisation, and the conservation of improved versions of our present economic structure, seem urgently to demand.

The central bankers and statesmen of to-day shirk their duty to their proximate generations in an inexcusable manner if they do not take a longer view in currency matters than that which ran through the League of Nations' recent Gold Delegation's investigations. We must question and doubt, devise and reconstruct. This slim volume should therefore be taken as an expression of critical yet constructive thought. Written from a purely independent standpoint, it is the outcome of the author's private work and reflection, and in no way must it be connected with any position he may hold in a British financial institution.

DOUGLAS S. EDWARDS.

Hull,
January 27th, 1933.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the firms of John Murray, P. S. King and Son, and George Allen and Unwin for permission to cite works they issued; and the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office for leave to quote recent official publications (Cmd. 3897 and Cmd. 4175). Full references will be found in footnotes.

D. S. E.

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