

STUDIES IN HISTORY, ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC LAW

EDITED BY THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE OF
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Volume XXV] *Whole No. 66*

[Number 2

THE BUDGET IN THE AMERICAN
COMMONWEALTHS

BY

EUGENE E. AGGER, Ph.D.,



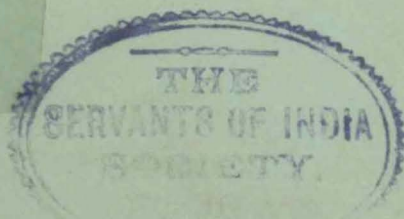
New York

THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

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PREFACE

IN the preface to Professor Burgess's work on Political Science and Constitutional Law one reads the following words: "It is, indeed, a serious thing to ask the world to read a book. It should never be done unless the book answers a purpose not fulfilled, or not so well fulfilled by some book already existing." Ever since the author of this monograph read that statement his own conscience has been troubling him sorely. The need for some treatise on the subject with which this one purports to deal has been, of course, generally recognized; but whether the pages here offered meet this need to a degree that justifies their publication is a question concerning which the author has been harassed by numerous doubts. Now, however, it is too late to retract, and therefore the author fondly cherishes the hope that at least somebody may find something of interest somewhere within these pages, and if such person be only induced to go into the matter a little further, the author will feel that what he has attempted has not been entirely in vain nor absolutely without justification.

In the second place, the author desires to explain that in only a few cases has he been able to go into the court decisions, concerning certain points that are discussed in the body of the monograph. The reason for this was that he found that such decisions were entirely too numerous to permit an examination of them for all the states, as would have been necessary if he were going to attempt it at all. He hopes at a later time to work this out more fully.

Finally the author desires to acknowledge his grati-

tude to all those who in divers ways have helped him in the preparation of this monograph. Certain acknowledgments are made in the text and emphasis is laid upon them at this place, but it is to Professors Seligman and Seager of Columbia University that the author is most deeply indebted and it gives him the keenest pleasure to express to them his sincere appreciation and gratitude. The author is also indebted to officials in every state of the Union for the kindness with which they answered numerous questions concerning conditions and practices in their respective states and to them, without attempting to give a full list of their names, he expresses grateful acknowledgments. To the others,—friends at Columbia and elsewhere,—who have been of service to the author in manifold ways during the preparation of this monograph, he expresses again his sincere thanks, and he trusts that they may never want for the kind of friends that they have been to him.

EUGENE E. AGGER.

Columbia University, 1907.

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