

**STUDIES IN
CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT**

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Edited by G. D. H. COLE

Being a volume of
New Fabian Research Bureau
Studies in Socialist Problems

By

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INTRODUCTION

THIS BOOK consists of eight essays produced by the Economic Section of the Bureau on a number of related financial subjects. It is hoped that it will be followed by further studies on other subjects as the work of the Bureau progresses. One volume of collected studies on these lines, *Twelve Studies in Soviet Russia*, has already been published by the Bureau and has met with a favourable reception.

It should be pointed out that in this collection of essays, as in all other publications of the Bureau, the author is solely responsible for the materials included in his study and for the views expressed. The Bureau is not a policy-making but a research organisation. It allows its members complete freedom of expression, provided they believe that a Socialist system affords the right solution for the problems of the present day and that the organised Labour Movement should be used to accomplish this end. Care has been taken, however, to see that adequate criticism both of the facts and of the views contained in these studies was obtained before publication was decided on.

The book starts with two essays of general economic and historical interest. Mr. Dickinson describes the breakdown of the capitalist system and its failure to

provide either security or comfort for the ordinary man, whilst G. D. H. Cole traces the growth of the modern form of capitalist enterprise. The later studies are detailed analyses of important financial questions which have long needed an examination from the Socialist point of view. They will be found to contain much new material, particularly in their statistics. In other cases material which has not previously been related is brought together. A number of the studies deal with the use that is made of national savings. If a Socialist Government is to embark upon any big plan of national development, it will be vital to its success to know beforehand how far, and in what channels, at home and abroad, savings are now put to a fruitful or unfruitful use. Mr. Radice further analyses this in a discussion of the attitude that the State ought to take up concerning investment in the transitional stage towards a Socialist State, both to prevent a flight of capital overseas and to direct internal investments into suitable channels.

The two following subjects of considerable interest are dealt with by Mr. Francis Williams and Mr. Watkins. It is asserted by many Socialists that insurance ought to be socialised, both to provide better services to policy-holders and to see that the large investments made through the insurance companies are used in the national interest. The enormous growth of the building societies since the war has taken place largely unrecognised by Socialists ; the effects of this growth,

both upon savings and private enterprise building, have been far-reaching.

I have no desire in this Introduction to deal with any of the conclusions reached by the various authors. I should, however, like to recommend those who, as a result of reading these studies, become interested in the New Fabian Research Bureau, to write to the General Secretary, 17 John Street, W.C.1, to obtain particulars about its organisation and the valuable work it is carrying out.

CHRISTOPHER ADDISON
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N.F.R.B.

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