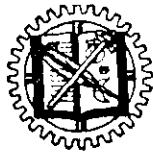


CONSUMPTION AND STANDARDS OF LIVING

By

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the Division of Sociology in
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To
JOHN DONALD BLACK



PREFACE

It has been sixteen years since Carl C. Taylor first interested me in writing a Master's Thesis on the standard of living. Since that time, ideas on this subject have been constantly evolving in my mind. In 1924, John D. Black enabled me to start the work which gave me a definitive idea of a complete family budget, F. B. Garver led me through the utility analysis, and P. A. Sorokin caused me to inspect Ernst Engel's studies in the original. I was also greatly influenced by a careful study of Frédéric Le Play's work, and by stimulating discussions with Robert E. Park on the psychological phases of consumption. After continued investigations in many parts of America, I was enabled to make studies in Canada in 1930, in Siam in 1930-31, among the Ozark Highlanders in 1932-33, and in Cuba in 1934.

From 1932 to 1936 I was aided in the preparation of this manuscript by funds from the Harvard Committee on Research in the Social Sciences. In 1932, through the interest of Max Handman, I was asked to include some of my materials in an analytical bibliography of existing budget studies to be prepared in coöperation with Faith M. Williams, United States Bureau of Home Economics. (See U. S. D. A., Misc. Pub. No. 223.) By 1935 the rest of my manuscript had become so large that I published the material on Le Play in a separate monograph (*Family and Society*, D. Van Nostrand Company, 1935). I am now publishing this third volume which I hope, in conjunction with the other two, will be accepted as a definitive analysis of this part of human behavior.

There are those who say that Social Science is logical, illogical, statistical, non-statistical, purely descriptive, evaluative, and what not. To me, it consists only of a systematic examination of facts and ideas and the relations between these two. In this work I have not only presented a comprehensive study of the pertinent empirical materials but have also ventured to discuss the existing ideas on the subject.

At various times I have been assisted by numerous persons. Particular mention should be made of Dr. Carl Kraenzel, J. W. Riley, Jr., Dr. Robert K. Merton, J. W. Boldyreff, Mrs. John Volkmann, and Martha F. Benedict. Gordon T. Bowden compiled the subject index. I also wish to thank especially the Harvard Committee on Research in the Social Sciences for supporting this endeavor, and the officers of Widener Library for their helpful coöperation.

On account of shortage of space, I had to eliminate a list of studies of food expenditures of the upper classes; an appendix giving further discussions of the consumption theories of J. B. Clark, H. J. Davenport, F. A. Fetter, E. R. A. Seligman, F. W. Taussig, T. N. Carver, G. P. Watkins, Hazel Kyrk, Elizabeth Hoyt, Warren C. Waite, P. H. Nystrom, Adam Smith, Thomas Robert Malthus, J. B. Say, David Ricardo, J. R. McCulloch, James Mill, W. E. Hearn, J. C. L. Sismondì, Frederic Bastiat, Adolf Wagner, Bruno Hildebrand, Lujo Brentano, Karl Bücher, Wilhelm Lexis, Kuno Frankenstein, Hermann H. Gossen, and P. H. Wicksteed; and a number of notes and statistical tables.

CARLE C. ZIMMERMAN.

Harvard University
April, 1936

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE PROBLEM OF CONSUMPTION	3
Concepts	3
The Problem of Consumption	10
History of the Problem	13
II. THE FIELDS OF DESIRE	20
Family Budgets	21
Fields of Economic Desire	27
III. LAWS OF CONSUMPTION	33
Utility Hypotheses	34
A. Supply-Price Theories and the Budget	34
B. Diminishing Returns and the Budget	36
C. Marginal Utility and the Budget	38
Engelian Hypotheses	39
Le Playist Hypotheses	43
Summary of Laws	51
Food Budget	51
Clothing Budget	52
Rent, Fuel, Light and Housing Budget	52
Budget of Sundry Items	53
Investment Expenditures	54
IV. THE RÔLE OF FOOD	56
What is the Meaning of the Concept of Food?	57
What Proportion of Man's Attention is Given to the Problem of Food?	59
The Upper Limit: Factors Limiting the Increase of Energy Expended on Food	61
The Lower Limit: Factors Limiting the Decrease of Energy Expended on Food	64
The Ability to Consume Food and Differentiation by Social Class	72
Social Class	74
Sex and Age	75
Rural and Urban Food	77
Food and the Economic Ladder	84
The Proletariat	89
The Upper Laboring Class	91
The Sedentary Classes	92

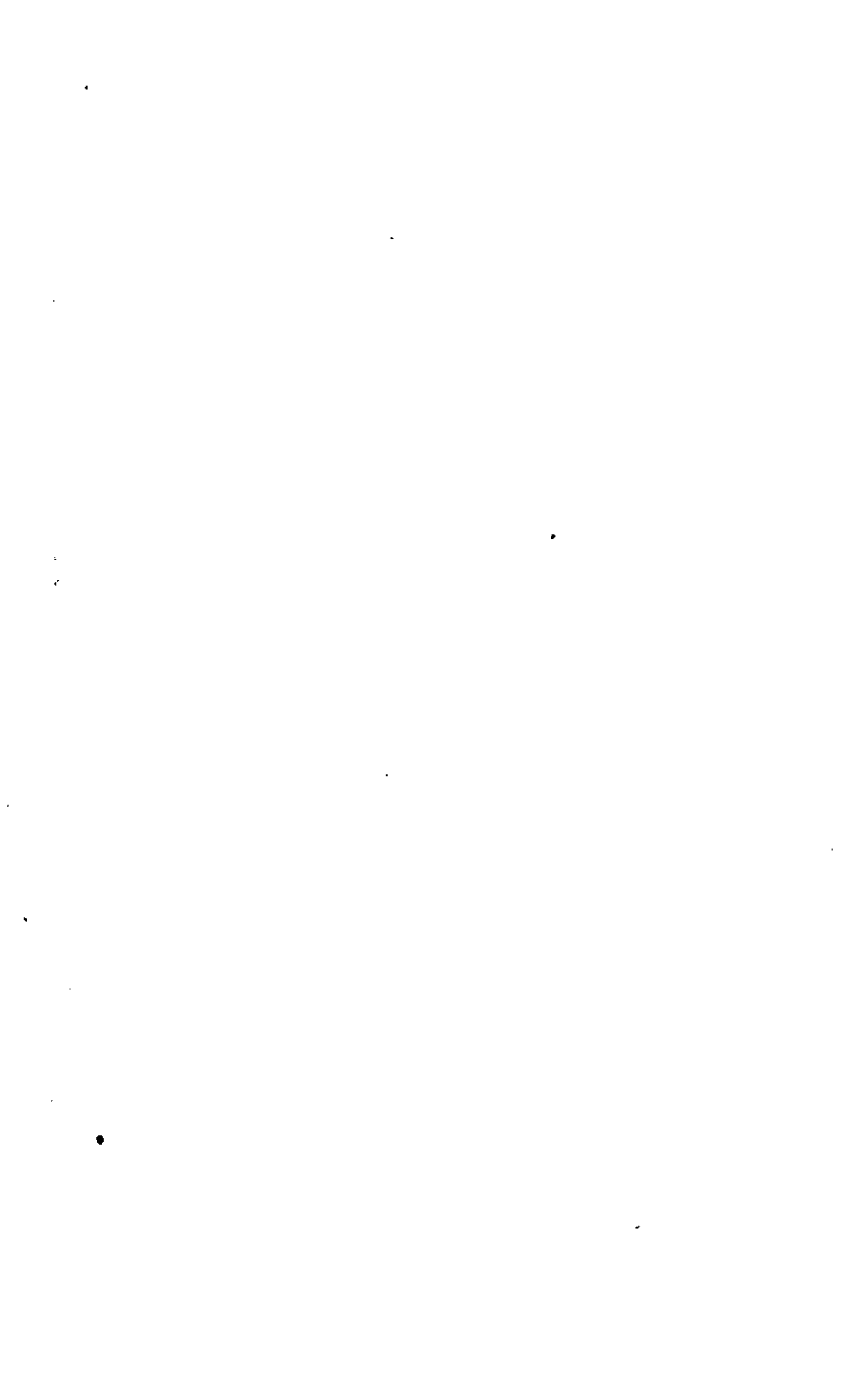
	PAGE
V. THE LAWS OF FOOD	96
Engel's First Law	99
The Validity of Engel's Law	103
Explanation of Engel's Law	110
Increasing and Diminishing Utility in Food Expenditures	113
VI. FOOD BEHAVIOR UNDER MINIMUM CONDITIONS	117
The Families Studied	118
Diet Conditions of the Poverty Families	128
The Influence of Extreme Poverty	132
VII. THE RÔLE OF HOUSING	135
Distinction Between House and Home	137
Influence of Housing	142
Housing or Family and Character	148
Will New Houses Alone Change Character?	156
Conclusions on the Influence of Housing	160
Family Strength and Housing	164
Permanent Attachment Between House and Family ..	166
Summary	168
VIII. LAWS OF HOUSING EXPENSE	171
What is Rent?	174
Factors in Rent	181
Non-Economic Persons	181
The Rents of Economic Persons	186
Demand for and Supply of Housing	187
Expenditures for Rent	189
Comparisons of the Economic Classes	191
Conclusions	194
IX. HOUSING AND THE FAMILY	199
Malthusian Theory	203
Population	207
Family Size and Living	215
The Family and Standards of Living	226
X. THE RÔLE OF CLOTHING	232
Theories as to the Origin and Evolution of Clothing	
Behavior	233
Types of Clothing	238
Clothing and Personality	241
Fixation of Sex Patterns	241
Fixation of Age Patterns	243

CHAPTER	PAGE
	Fixation of Institutional and Occupational Patterns 245
	Fixation of Regional Patterns 248
	Fixation of Group Patterns 250
	Fashionable Clothing 252
	Conclusions 257
XI. THE LAWS OF CLOTHING EXPENSE	260
	Hypotheses of Clothing Expenditure 261
	The Facts of Clothing Expenditures 262
	Why There are No Universal Principles Governing Clothing Expenditures 270
XII. SUNDRIES AND ADVANCEMENT	276
	Progress in Theories about Advancement 278
	What is Advancement? 282
	Advancement is Not Always Improvement 290
	Improvement of the Present Standards of Living 300
XIII. SPENDING OR SAVING	306
	Historical Survey of Saving and Spending by Rural People 308
	Historical Survey of Spending and Saving by Urban Groups 315
	Spending or Saving in Budget Studies 317
	Sample Studies of Saving and Spending Behavior 321
	A. Farm Families 321
	B. Village and Town Families 325
	C. City Families 333
XIV. SPENDING FOR PROSPERITY	337
	Spending or Saving 339
	The "Nth" Consequences of Spending or Saving 342
	Individual Consequences of Saving or Spending 344
	Saving or Spending in a Capitalistic Society 347
XV. EARLY STUDIES	354
	Individual Budgets from the Earliest Middle Ages to the Middle of the Eighteenth Century 355
	Studies of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.. 359
	From the Political Arithmeticians to Ducpétiaux, Le Play, and Engel 368
	The Founders of the Modern Period 371
	Edouard Ducpétiaux 371
	Frédéric Le Play 372
	Christian Lorenz Ernst Engel 374

CHAPTER

XVI.	MODERN STUDIES .....	.....
	Great Britain .....	.....
	France .....	.....
	Germany .....	.....
	The Creative Period .....	.....
	The Adult Period .....	.....
	The Post-War Period .....	.....
	Italy .....	.....
	Other European Countries .....	.....
	Japan .....	.....
	India .....	.....
	China .....	.....
	Latin America .....	.....
	Other Countries .....	.....
XVII.	THE LE PLAY SCHOOL .....	.....
	Purpose of the Studies .....	.....
	Method of the Studies .....	.....
	Description of Results .....	.....
	Criticisms of the Le Play School .....	.....
XVIII.	THE RUSSIAN SCHOOL .....	.....
	Studies at the End of the Nineteenth Century .....	.....
	Studies of the Early Twentieth Century .....	.....
	The Emphasis on Production Analysis .....	.....
	Studies in Which Records were Kept .....	.....
	Methodological Developments Preceding the War ...	.....
	Methodological Conclusions of the Tschuprow Society	.....
	1. Selection of Households Described .....	.....
	2. Criticism of the Materials .....	.....
	3. Evaluations .....	.....
	4. Methods of Treatment .....	.....
	Studies After the War .....	.....
	Studies of Laborers .....	.....
	Conclusions .....	.....
XIX.	AMERICAN STUDIES—THEN AND NOW .....	.....
	John Rae .....	.....
	H. C. Carey .....	.....
	The Creative Period .....	.....
	F. A. Walker .....	.....
	Henry George .....	.....
	Edward Young .....	.....
	Carroll D. Wright .....	.....
	Wilbur Olin Atwater .....	.....

CHAPTER	PAGE
The Period of Maturity	471
The Development of Theories and of Plans for Future Studies	474
XX. CLASSICAL ECONOMIC THEORY AND CONSUMPTION	479
The Classical Economists	480
Adam Smith	481
John Stuart Mill	481
The Critics of the Classical Economists	483
Lord Lauderdale	483
The Later Classical Economists	486
W. N. Senior	486
The Neo-Classical School	488
Alfred Marshall	489
Summary and Analysis	495
XXI. INSTITUTIONAL THEORY AND CONSUMPTION	498
The Historical School	499
Wilhelm Roscher	500
Gustav Schmoller	503
Werner Sombart	506
Max Weber	508
The Institutionalists	510
Thorstein Veblen	512
Conclusions	518
XXII. AUSTRIAN HEDONISM AND CONSUMPTION	521
Austrian Theory	522
Karl Menger	523
Frederick von Wieser	523
Eugen von Böhm-Bawerk	524
The Followers of the Austrians	526
Simon N. Patten	527
Conclusions	534
XXIII. MATHEMATICAL HEDONISM AND CONSUMPTION	537
The Demand Curves	540
Correlation Studies of Family Budgets	550
Trends in Consumption	558
Conclusions	564
XXIV. THE NATURE OF A SYSTEM OF LIVING	567
Dominant Characteristics of Systems of Living	571
The American Standard of Living	576



TABLES AND CHARTS

	PAGE
Estimates of How Countries of the Western World Spent Their Incomes About 1895	24
Percentage Distribution of Consumers' Income in Countries of the Western World About 1895	25
Estimated Total Distributing of National Income of the United States of America for 1929	27
Chart of Choice of Goods with Hypothetical Utilities	30
Tabular Statement of Laws of Consumption	51-4
Summary of the Relative Expenditure for Food as Shown by Studies Made in Various Parts of the World	60
Sample Studies of Rural and Urban Food Consumption in the United States	79
Food per Acre of Various Crops (1910-14)	88
Food Expense of a Sample of American Families Studied by Zimmerman During 1925-1928	93
Percentage Distribution of Expenditures for the 1891 Belgian Study Used by Engel	102
Von der Goltz's Study on the Distribution of Expenditures by German Peasants	105
Percentages of Income Spent for Food	107
Percentages of Expenditures for Food by the Families Studied by Eden	108
Percentage Distribution of Expenditures by Income Groups Among the Le Play Families of the Nineteenth Century	109
Average Income of Selected Cuban Families 1933-1934	123
Average Wealth of Selected Cuban Families 1933-34	124
Average Expenditure per Family for Selected Cuban Families 1933-34	125
Average Expenditure per Adult Equivalent for Selected Cuban Families 1933-34	126
Percentage Distribution of Expenditures for Selected Cuban Families 1933-34	127
Distribution of Expenditures Among Families Under Conditions of Semi-Starvation	131
Minimum Food for One Year for an Adult Male Cuban	131
Relation of Food Expenditures to Income Among Cuban Families....	133
Relations Between Housing and Behavior for Paris 1849-1860.....	149
Summary of the Relative Expenditures for House Rent by Groups for Various Parts of the World	191
Crude Birth Rates Per 1000 Population (Excluding Stillborn).....	201

	PAGE
Chinese Studies Arranged into Income Groups Showing Variations in Average Percentages Used for Clothing Within the Same Income Levels	265
Income and a Comparison Between Income Class and Proportional and Actual Expense for Clothing and Laundry per Family by Occupational Groups in Germany 1927-28	267
Percentages Spent for Clothing by 309 Groups of American Wage Earners, Farmers, Professional and Business Families Arranged by Income Groups 1870-1930	268
Percentages Spent for Future Advancement and Necessities According to the Le Play Studies of the Nineteenth Century	291
Percentages of Income Used for Advancement by Groups of American Urban Wage Earners	293
Advancement Expenditure for American Budget	295
Availability of Data on Savings Expenditures in North American Budget Studies	320
Comparison of Rates of Increase of Net Spendable Incomes and Various Sub-Groups of Expenditures for Minnesota Farmers 1925-26.	322
Distribution of Living Expenditure with Increase of Cash Receipts for the 438 Minnesota Farm Families	324
Some Budgetary Characteristics of Social Classes in Minnesota Towns, 1927	326
Percentage per Family Distribution of All Expenditures by Income Groups, Minnesota City Families	334
Table for Reducing Households to Adult Equivalents	382
Character of Russian Studies at the End of the Nineteenth Century..	446
Number of Returns Examined and Average Size of Families. 1922-1927	458
Utility Order of Kinds of Wants (Menger)	525
Utility Order of Degrees of Wants (Menger)	526
Curves in Elasticity of Demand	543