

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

BRITISH INCOMES AND PROPERTY :
The Application of Official Statistics to
Economic Problems. (2nd Ed.).

P. S. King & Son.

WEALTH AND TAXABLE CAPACITY.
(2nd Ed.)

P. S. King & Son.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF TAXA-
TION IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN
DEVELOPMENTS. (2nd Ed.).

Macmillan & Co.

BUSINESS STATISTICS AND FINAN-
CIAL STATEMENTS (With C. Hewetson
Nelson).

Modern Business Institute.

STUDIES IN
CURRENT PROBLEMS
IN
FINANCE AND
GOVERNMENT

AND

"THE WEALTH AND INCOME OF THE CHIEF POWERS"
(1914)

BY

SIR JOSIAH STAMP

G.B.E., D.Sc.

LONDON

P. S. KING & SON, LTD.

ORCHARD HOUSE, 2 & 4 GREAT SMITH STREET
WESTMINSTER

1924

X₂M80
F4
4314

"It was . . . the sense of my conceptions at that time; not an immutable law unto my advancing judgment at all times; and, therefore, there might be many things therein plausible unto my passed apprehension which are not agreeable unto my present self. . . . All that is contained therein is in submission unto maturer discernments; and, as I have declared, shall no further father them than the best and learned judgments shall authorise them: and under favour of which considerations I have . . . committed the truth thereon to every ingenuous reader."

SIR THOMAS BROWNE: *Religio Medici*.

PREFACE.

THE studies included in this volume have, with two exceptions, either been printed in recent reviews or given as lectures and addresses on various occasions, and reproduced from notes or shorthand reports. They have one feature in common—they deal with subjects which remain alive in public interest. Two entirely opposite reasons are responsible for the selection of these particular papers. Some, by which I set little store, have been included because of repeated requests from correspondents ; to these I accede on condition that other studies, whose message I imagine an unobservant public still needs without knowing it, are also accepted by them. In the one case it may be seen that the full utterance is less pontifical and has more reasonable diffidence than the brevity of newspaper reports might have conveyed ; and in the other case, that statements which in bald summaries may have appeared to be without interest or conviction, possess a basis of reason and force. I do not feel at liberty at this stage to include further matter upon the capital levy, in view of my connection with official consideration of the subject. German reparations and Irish finance are omitted for similar reasons.

It is perhaps necessary to warn the general reader that there is very little actual exposition of received or recognised economic doctrine in these pages. The studies represent nothing more than the way in which my own particular experience and mode of economic thinking has reacted towards these problems, and are, therefore, only an individual approach to them. To obtain a complete view, they should be supplemented and, doubtless, often corrected, by the

ideas of others. They were mostly made for general audiences, and technical contributions to scientific societies have been excluded.

A continual sporadic demand exists for my paper to the Royal Statistical Society upon "The Wealth and Income of the Chief Powers" which has been for some time unobtainable in the official journal, and out of print in separate form. It is accordingly reprinted here by permission of the Society.

J. C. S.

July, 1924.

CONTENTS.

STUDIES IN CURRENT PROBLEMS.

ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT.

	PAGE
I. ECONOMICS AS AN EXACT SCIENCE—AN APPEAL TO ACCOUNTANCY	I
II. RECENT TENDENCIES TOWARDS THE DEVOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION	27
III. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS	51
IV. THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF DISARMAMENT	73
V. THE ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE RESTRICTION OF RENTS	99
VI. PROFITS AND WAGES	117
VII. AN INDEX OF PRODUCTION	141

TAXATION.

VIII. A SHIFTING MONEY STANDARD AND FISCAL BURDENS	163
IX. DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE FREEDOM OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT	185
X. THE RELATION BETWEEN DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAXATION	203
XI. THE CAPITAL LEVY	
(1) Practicability	227
(2) Economic Effects	233
(3) The Levy and Deflation	239
(4) Effects upon Future National Revenue	250

THE WEALTH AND INCOME OF THE CHIEF POWERS (1914)	271
INDEX	337