INCOME; AN EXAMINATION OF THE RETURNS FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND FROM PROPERTY OWNED IN THE UNITED STATES

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Income; An Examination of the Returns for Services Rendered and from Property Owned in the United States by Scott Nearing

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BY

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DEDICATED TO THREE MEN WHO GRASP THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SERVICE AND PROPERTY INCOME,—

JOSEPH E. COHEN, J. A. HOBSON, EDWIN CANNAN.

1



PREFACE

Among all of the basic principles of economic life, none is more vital than this—that every able-bodied adult should have a job; that he should work at the thing for which he is best suited and best fitted; and that he should be paid the full value of what he produces. Society is built upon the idea that the people who can shall contribute their time and energy to the advancement of those things in which society has an interest.

Modern economic discussions are being turned toward the conservation of human values. Thinking men realize that the wealth of nations rests upon the fiber of the people; that the progress of civilization is built out of service.

Service is of preëminent importance. In the home, in the street, in the shop, in the mine, on the railroad, the greatest single law of life is the law of service doing for others and sharing with others the burdens and rewards of effort. The work of the world, directed and performed by the hand of man, should have as its final object the greatest service to mankind, or, as Ruskin put it, "the largest number of happy and healthy human beings." Above the rights of property there must be placed the rights of humanity.

The industrial system, like every other social institution, must serve the human race, and serve it efficiently. To-day some of the chief questions of eco-