

## PREFACE.

---

Economics have so close a relation to continuous prosperity that employers and employed are equally interested in comprehending the laws governing the production and distribution of wealth. These are not difficult to understand. Like the figures in the multiplication table there is a certain relation between land, labor, capital and wealth, and once the student learns the value of each of these elements in the world of industry, he is able to grapple with seemingly inextricable problems which might otherwise lead him astray. There are many byways in economics, however, which look at times so broad and substantial, and are trodden by so vast a multitude, that the wisest are apt to be misled into taking the false for the true. Still, when the real value and dependence of each of the factors in trade and commerce are once realized, it is not so very hard to differentiate the thoroughfares that lead to the equitable distribution among wealth producers of their products, from those that tend to concentration and unjust apportionment.

Passing events in the knowledge of general readers of daily papers have in the main been the basis of the articles appearing under my name in the News-Tribune, and which with other material are reproduced in this volume. They do not profess to be either profound or exhaustive, for other duties, as well as space, have prevented any minute discussion, even had it been advisable. What has been attempted is to show as

clearly and in as few words as possible the relation between these events and the truths of political economy, and to point out the defects, if any, that may have caused good intentions to go astray. At the same time the reader has been warned against giving heed to schemes that are contrary to the best interests of society.

No person is allwise. The most erudite stumble when traveling those areas of knowledge outside of their immediate field of observation. Often, too, the specialist has a very distorted perspective of his "hobby," because of familiarity and nearness. These articles are not written by a scientist nor a specialist. They are simple explanations, from the viewpoint of an unprejudiced observer—in so far as one can clear himself of the influence of his environments—of what has come under the writer's own observation, united with the experiences of others, and are not intended to either commend or condemn the utterances and acts of organized labor, or the decisions and doings of organized capitalists, only in so far as they agree with, or are in opposition to, correct thinking and right action.

The definitions of economic terms, also incorporated in this little volume, are those commonly accepted by writers on political economy. I have endeavored to use these words in the sense given in the definitions, or where an exception occurs, to make the explanation then and there. If there are omissions in this respect—and such mistakes are not uncommon in works on political economy—they are due to oversight and the confounding of popular terms with the more scientific ones. In such cases the words are to be interpreted in the sense that conforms to the general intent of the article.

"Economic Tangles" is printed with no expectation that there is any widespread demand for the book, but because many friends and acquaintances interested in these subjects have suggested the possibility of its being a help to lucid thinking on economic subjects. If it does this in ever so small a measure, it will not have been issued in vain.

JUDSON GRESELL.

Detroit, Mich., May 1, 1902.

---

COMMENDATION.

FROM ORGANIZED LABOR.

To the Editor of The News-Tribune: At the regular meeting of the Trades Council, held on Wednesday evening last, I was instructed to inform you that the articles written by Judson Gressell under "Labor and Capital" in the Sunday edition are greatly appreciated by the delegates, the one of last Sunday on "A Step Backward," being especially commended. I was also instructed to express to Mr. Gressell a vote of thanks.

GEO. W. DUNCAN,

Secretary Council of Trades and Labor Unions.  
Detroit, Oct. 26, 1901.

---

A MONOPOLIST'S OPINION.

The City of Cleveland, Mayor's Office.

Mr. Judson Gressell, Detroit, Mich.:

Dear Sir—Learning that you are about to publish in book form a number of your economic articles that have from time to time appeared in the News-Tribune, permit me to indorse heartily your plan. I am familiar with your writings and believe the book will do much good. You treat this subject in a way that presents a complicated question clearly.

Having, as you know, had some experience as a beneficiary of an unjust system of taxation, I am in a position to know that the greatest privilege that monopoly possesses is the privilege of making other men pay the share of taxes that should justly fall upon monopoly.

Your writings will do much to educate the people along this line, and I wish you every success in your undertaking. Yours very truly,

TOM L. JOHNSON.

---

MANUFACTURERS' VIEWPOINT.

PINGREE & SMITH, SHOE MANUFACTURERS.

Dear Mr. Gressell: I have been very much impressed with the soundness, forcibleness and clearness of your articles on economic questions, as published in the Sunday News-Tribune from time to time, and would be much pleased to see them published in book form. Yours sincerely,  
JOHN B. HOWARTH.

## ECONOMIC TANGLES.

FREDERICK F. INGRAM & CO., PERFUMERS, MANUFACTURING PHARMACISTS.

Mr. Judson Grenell, care News-Tribune, City:

Dear Sir: I have just heard that a number of people are trying to persuade you to publish in book form selections from your articles on economic topics that have appeared in your department of the News-Tribune.

Hope you will do so. The articles are sound, are written interestingly, and are more instructive because more easily understood than much of the literature that appears on such important, though to some very dry, subjects.

Put me down for a half dozen copies of the book. Yours respectfully,  
F. F. INGRAM.

## WHAT A LAWYER THINKS.

Hon. Judson Grenell: I understand you are thinking of printing in book form a collection of articles written by you upon economic subjects and printed from time to time upon the labor page of the News-Tribune, and I take the liberty of urging you to do so if possible.

You already know how thoroughly I appreciate your writings, although not always agreeing with you, and while I have clipped out and filed many of the articles, I would be glad to have them all in convenient form. I believe that such a collection would be a very valuable reference book for all who are interested in social and industrial questions, and would help to dissipate the fog of ignorance which, even in the minds of those who are considered educated, surrounds the great problems upon whose solution so much depends.

I realize that there is no chance of pecuniary returns, but I think enough books might be ordered in advance to warrant the expense, and I shall be glad to subscribe for and circulate a number of copies in case you decide to get out the book. Very truly yours,

CHARLES S. HAMPTON.

## WILL BE OF VALUE TO STUDENTS.

Mr. Judson Grenell: I know your book will be of value to students and observers of industrial conditions. I have saved many of the short essays or complete articles, but newspapers are unsatisfactory material for permanency, and therefore I am gratified to learn that you propose preserving the "Labor and Capital" articles in book form. Please put me down for two copies, and accept my hearty wishes for greater remuneration than mere covering of expenses. \* \* \* Just now, it seems to me, when the whole country is restlessly asking "Why?" and beginning to appreciate the manifold injustices of life, is the fitting time for your book to make a marked success.

CLARA B. ARTHUR.

## APPROVES THE PLAN.

Judson Grenell: I once heard the colored orator, Douglass, say to an audience largely composed of members of his own race, that the reason they did not advance was that a poor people was a despised people. I have since been reluctantly forced to the conclusion that what he said was more than half truth.

So your attempts to show the reason why, and point the way to, a more equitable division of this world's goods meets with my entire approval.

You may put me down for twenty-five copies, and I will mail them to some interested friends when they are published and delivered.

Very respectfully, HAMILTON CARHARTT.