

SOCIAL ECONOMICS

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Social economics by J. Harry Jones

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J. HARRY JONES

**SOCIAL
ECONOMICS**



First Published in 1920

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TO
MY FRIEND
L. L. PRICE

PREFACE

THIS book is "full of omissions." It became necessary to make a choice between the early publication of a brief survey of the most important and urgent problems of economic reorganisation and the later publication of a lengthy treatment of such problems, the latter to include closer discussions of suggested solutions. The interest shown by Glasgow audiences at public lectures in the winter and spring (when I was lecturer in Social Economics in the University of Glasgow) seemed to me to suggest that the former might prove of greater value. The chief difficulty thus lay not in writing, but afterwards in reducing the size of a book which quickly grew too large to make any appeal to the general reader. This must be my apology for the omissions, and also for the absence of any attempt to justify the choice of title.

I have endeavoured to emphasise the interrelations of individual economic and social problems in such a way as to bring out the central economic problem, which may be crudely described as the reconciliation

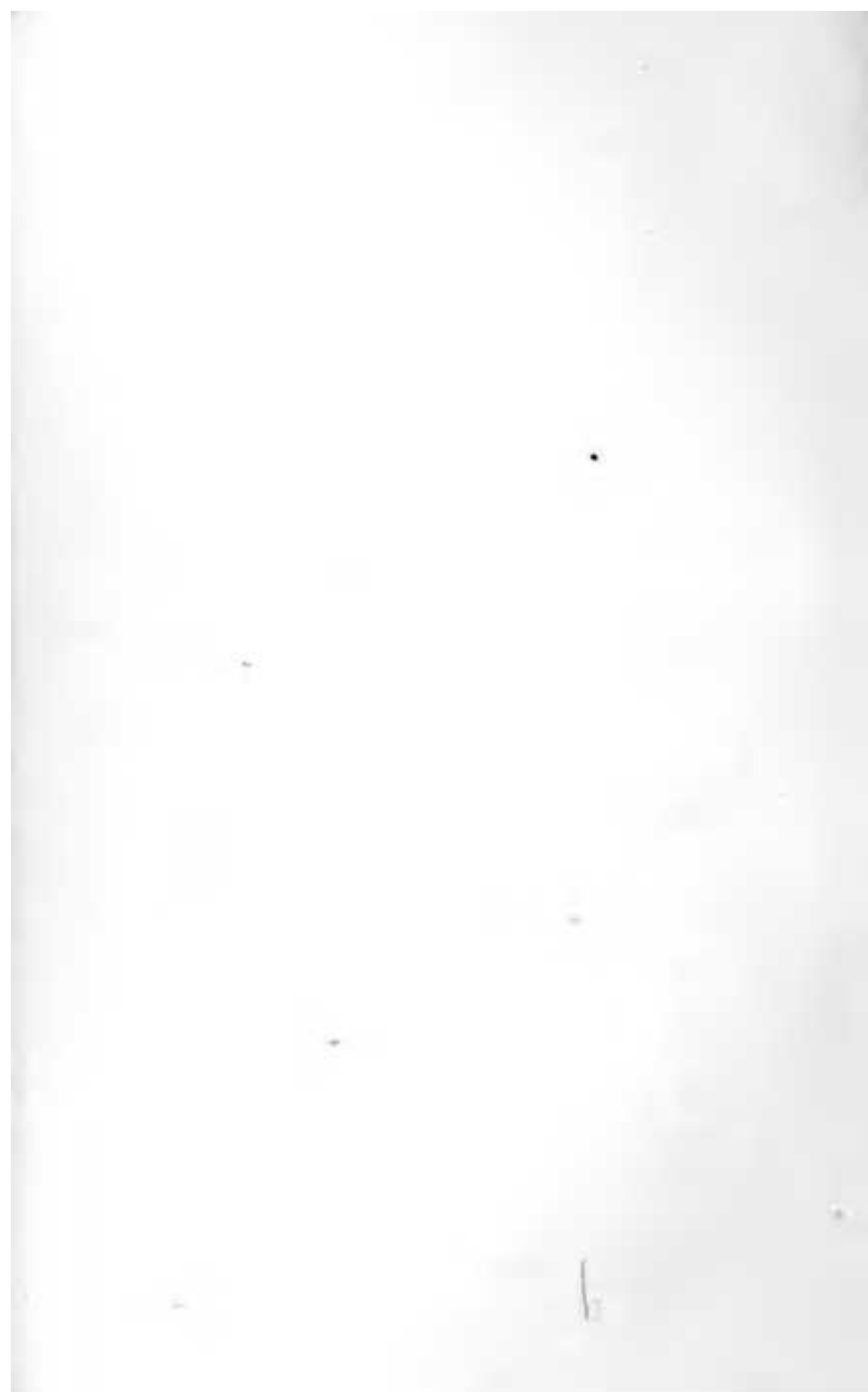
of individual ambition and social welfare. That it is of the first importance, for example, to discuss financial problems in terms of labour and labour problems in terms of currency is clearly shown in the two strikes which have been declared since the last chapter of the book was written—first the moulders' strike and now the railwaymen's strike.

I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to my friend Mrs. G. Power, who read most of the chapters in manuscript and offered suggestions which were in all cases adopted.

J. H. JONES

OXFORD, *September 1919*

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CHAPTER I

GROWTH OF THE MODERN INDUSTRIAL PROBLEM

THE organisation of economic society is based upon co-operation. Co-operation is anterior to and more fundamental than competition. Competition is not the negation of co-operation; it is the form of expression which the co-operative principle assumes at a certain stage of economic development. Economic development, again, may be thought of as the increase of complexity in the forms which co-operation takes, with the consequent emergence of new economic functions. Many social problems simply mirror the problems which every organisation—be it church, army, or political government—creates as it becomes more complex. And the heart of a social problem resides not in difficulty of function so much as in the responsibility of every part for the welfare of the organic whole.

Co-operation may be a temporary and simple supplement to individual economy, as in the case of two men rowing a boat, or several men working in a hayfield. But, had it never passed this stage, co-operation would have proved a poor handmaiden of progress. Even in its earliest development it took a more complex form, supplanting rather than