

**PROPERTY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649292349

Property by Arthur Jerome Eddy

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**ARTHUR JEROME EDDY**

# **PROPERTY**



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Arthur Jerome Eddy

1859 --- 1920

*"Qu'est-ce que la propriété?  
La propriété, c'est le vol."*

—PROUDHON

# PROPERTY

By

**ARTHUR JEROME EDDY**

Author of "The Law of Combinations," "The  
New Competition," Etc., Etc.



CHICAGO  
A. C. McCLURG & CO.

1921

U. S. PAT. OFF. 1921

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**By Arthur Jerome Eddy**

“The Law of Combinations.”

“Two Thousand Miles on an Automobile.”

“Delight, the Soul of Art.”

“Recollections and Impressions  
of James A. McNeill Whistler.”

“Ganton & Co.”

“Tales of a Small Town.”

“The New Competition.”

“Cubists and Post-Impressionism.”

## PREFACE

The manuscript of the following pages was completed and prepared for publication just before the death of the author, which occurred in New York on July 21, 1920.

Any man who is concerned with the fundamentals of thought in any department—whether in philosophy, morals, politics, religion, the physical sciences, or art—grows weary of the multitude of books which only thresh over again the straw of old ideas, and contribute nothing of vitally new suggestion toward solving the problems of our life. But now and again it happens that one comes upon a book which bears the impress of really independent vision and original thought. Then one knows that one has found a teacher, a leader.

Such a teacher and intellectual leader was Arthur Jerome Eddy. The originality of his ideas is as surprising as the ease and clearness with which he expressed them, and the number of fields in which he was a master.

His leading quality was a certain alert openness of soul, a youthful responsiveness to the challenge of new ideas, new experiments, new

## *Preface*

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valuations. His writings are full of this spirit of generous acceptance, balanced by a splendid sanity, which never allowed the enthusiasm of welcome to overbear a sound critical judgment.

So intensely individual is his method of analysis that the reader feels as though he were seeing for the first time the subject of which the author treats. His books on economic and social problems, and their ethical implications, carry to the mind of every instructed reader the conviction of their large and lasting significance.

In *The New Competition*, and in this book on *Property*, Mr. Eddy recognizes many evils that the conservative is usually unwilling to admit. He condemns many existing practices in business as being immoral, inhuman, and at the same time uneconomic, inefficient, and unnecessary. He would probe the conscience of the man of business. He will not tolerate the perpetuation of the standards of the jungle, nor permit men to defend them by the parrotcry that struggle is the law of life. But instead of counselling the destruction of the entire competitive system and the substitution of some new and inherently unworkable