

The laws which regulate taxation, currency, ex-
change are immediately and evidently a
part of the prosperity of producer and con-
sumer, merchant farmer and laborer, be-
cause they are part and parcel of every pro-
ducer and consumer's expenditure and repre-
sent one of the burdens that industry and
commerce are compelled to bear. ~~They are~~ So, in even
a greater degree are the laws which protect indi-
vidual rights and privilege. There can be no
prosperity where there is no security and the
cost of individual protection is one of the
most serious charges upon private property.
Where the law affords no protection to life; or
the goods of the merchant are liable to pillage
the risks becomes a prime element of
cost to the consumer. So, too, the cost of enforce-

This ^{hardly seems} ~~is~~ strange when we
reflect ~~consider~~ the fact that political economists
must at least deal with the material
and economic ~~conditions~~ ^{status, conditions} of the indi-
vidual as affected by governmental
regulation and control, or lack of regula-
tion and control, of certain general
forces, ^{and} instrumentalities on the sta-
ble and regular ^{operation} ~~action~~ of which such
individual conditions in great meas-
ure depend. Whether a man is rich or poor,
prosperous or dependent; well-fed or
starved; law-abiding or criminal may
depend on his individual qualities or
may be the result of forces and ten-
dencies, wholly or partially ~~as~~ within

dition of prosperity and aggregated wealth is very far from being a guaranty of collective power or individual comfort. The wealth of a nation is no more ~~an~~ essential an element of its ^{the} economic policy which should ~~control~~ prevail in it, than its peace and neither of these more important than the individual character of its people or the natural advantages of soil, climate or situation. Even wealth considered as an ~~alone~~ subject of scientific investigation is no more essential to be considered in ^{its origin or} ~~the~~ aggregate than in its distribution. The richest nation in the world estimating aggregated values may be the poorest when we come to consider its aggregated population. A thousand millionaires would make a very rich community, but if they were linked with ten thousand ~~poor~~ dependent paupers wholly dependent on taxation or charity, it would be so poor and weak that all the world would point to it in pity. Millionaires

suiting to one character of population would be absolutely destructive to the prosperity of another.

Again, we see at once that natural environment, becomes a most important factor both in the character of the individual, ~~and~~ the public policy and the ~~political~~ ~~theories~~ economic ^{theories} ~~theories~~ best adapted to both. The economic ^{theories} that would secure prosperity in England or the United States, might be hurtful or destructive ~~to~~ if applied to Australia or Labrador. Individual or national prosperity, can never be deduced, however, either from individual character, antecedent condition, public policy or natural environment. Barrenness is often a prime con-

and paupers are both political and ~~moral~~ economic monstrosities. Both may be innocuous in purpose, but they represent tendencies which cannot fail to weaken. They are always found in juxtaposition and where they are found crime also abounds. Great individual wealth is a temptation to luxury, extravagance, dissipation, defiance of law and disregard of the common welfare. It corrupts the tribunals of justice, destroys confidence in government, weakens the sense of individual duty, ~~and~~ saps the stability of public institutions and exalts the rights of property above the rights and needs of the individual. It exalts wealth above justice and money above manhood.

In like manner, ^{individual} poverty is the nurse of crime and the sure precursor of national

II

Extent and Scope of Political Economy

The gravity of the error into which the author of the "Wealth of Nations" and after him, practically the whole body of ~~the~~ writers upon this subject, have fallen, will appear if we consider carefully the essential purpose and scope of any such ~~science~~ ~~course~~ of scientific inquiry as that supposed to be included under the term "Political Economy."

conditions of national prosperity. Peace or turbulence, industry or idleness, thrift or lavishness, independence or dependence, self-employment or wage-earning, intelligence or ignorance, agriculture, ~~or~~ manufacture or commercial employment, — all these not only may be but must be most essential ^{considerations} ~~elements~~ in determining the rate of taxation ^{and} the conditions of prosperity. They are therefore, elements which must always be taken into consideration both in determining the public policy of a nation and the economical conditions which should there prevail.

In other words, we see at once that a political economy which would be exactly adapted to the wants and conditions of one people would be absolutely destructive to the prosperity of another and a public policy

ing contracts, becomes a part of the value of contracts, just as transportation enters into the cost of an article produced at a distance from market, or an unreliable currency becomes an element affecting all liquid^{exchange} exchanges. The number and proportion of criminals and dependent poor in the population of a country become most important elements of its political economy because they indicate the taxation that must be imposed to the conviction, punishment and repression of crime and to satisfy the wants of the impoverished.

On the other hand, the character of the individual may become the most important of all elements of political economy since ~~it may~~ ^{it} depends in ~~many~~ large degree ~~two~~ of the most important

to assimilate the individual to a particular
class type. Physically, the human
being is subject to natural laws of the
same general character as any other
animal. As the intelligent breeder of
horses or other animals varies the regi-
men he applies to each species with
special reference to the use to which
it is to be applied, so the popular ideal of
manhood will naturally control to
a great extent, the influences which
shape the individual life. If more physi-
cal perfection is desired, of course, less
~~all~~ prominence will be given to
force and influences which produce

mental and moral results. In like manner, when mental and moral qualities are esteemed above the physical, though the physical regimen cannot be neglected, so far as it may be necessary to secure health and vigor, it will not be ~~extended~~ allowed to exceed that limit and consume the vital forces in the mere acquisition of ^{physical} ~~unnecessary~~ ^{excellence} skill or ~~activity~~.

It is evident, therefore,