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L'ammontare e la composizione Della Ricchezza Delle Nazioni. by C. Gini

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that most existing taxes should be replaced by "a fundamental tax on income, inversely proportional to the social function of the good and to the social cost of production considered in space-time."

It is only in his fourth volume that he does come to grips in some measure with the real world; for there he is concerned to show that historical changes, such as planned economic development, social security measures, the Marshall Plan (attributed in the index of names to Alfred Marshall), the International Monetary Fund, etc., are moving in a direction that is an improvement on "the law of the jungle," as represented by the working of the competitive system.

Professor Menegazzi's heart is in the right place; but *quid* economist he seems to be living in a strange ivory tower of his own construction.

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L'ammontare e la composizione della ricchezza delle nazioni. By C. GINI. 2nd Edition. (Turin: Unione Tipographico-Editrice Torinese, 1962. Pp. 828. L. 8,500.)

PROFESSOR GINI, who may fittingly be described as the Grand Old Man of Italian statistics, published in 1913 (when he was still quite young) a large volume dealing with the statistical measurement of national wealth; primarily with reference to Italy, but also comprising a good many international comparisons.

In its present form this volume reproduces the whole of the text of the 1913 edition, without any substantial change except for one additional appendix. What is new, however, is that there is appended to most of the original chapters a supplementary section bringing the relevant information as far as possible up to date. Each of these sections is the work of one, or in some cases two, of the younger generation of Italian statisticians, under the general guidance of Professor Giannone.

The new sections are as follows: "Recent Methods of Valuation of National Wealth," by A. Agostinelli; "The Valuation of Italian Wealth from 1908 to the Present Time," by P. Quirino; "Evasion of the Inheritance Tax in Italy from 1908 to the Present Time," by G. Giovannini and F. Diotallevi; "The Territorial Distribution of Italian Wealth from 1908 to the Present Time," by P. Quirino; "The Qualitative Composition of Italian Wealth from 1908 to the Present Time," by P. Quirino; "The Diffusion of Wealth in Certain Countries in the Twentieth Century," by A. Agostinelli and A. Santeusanto; "The Concentration of Wealth in Certain Countries," by A. Santeusanto; "Dynamic Movements in the Wealth of Certain Countries in the Twentieth Century," by V. Siesto; "The Valuation of the Wealth of Certain Countries from 1910 to the Present Time," by A. M. Orsi.

Professor Gini's new Appendix, entitled "Human Labour and Natural Resources in the Formation, Destruction and Reconstruction of Wealth," is a reprint of an article contributed by him to *Stato Sociale* in 1961, in which he makes, *inter alia*, some critical comments on the "perpetual inventory" method of measuring national wealth, associated with the name of R. W. Goldsmith.

In the Preface to his second edition Professor Gini, after emphasising that he had left his contributors complete freedom as to the way in which they carried out their task, goes on to say:

"I have, however, given them one general directive, to which my own book conforms—not to allow themselves to be borne aloft on the wings of induction beyond what the figures themselves say. This is a directive which it may be legitimate and even desirable to ignore in other fields of science . . . as I have not hesitated to do in my own studies in demography, in biometrics, in biology and in sociology. But in the field of economic statistics, where the data are more uncertain and the forces in action often unforeseeable, it is wise to be governed by a stricter rule."

This admonition, coming as it does from a veteran statistician towards the close of his long career, deserves to be kept in mind by others who practise in the field of economic statistics.

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Le Tiers-Monde au carrefour: Centralisation autoritaire ou planification concurrentielle. By M. ALLAIS. 2 vols. Les Cahiers Africains, Nos. 7 and 8. (Paris: Créations de Presse (34 Champs Elysées, 8e), 1963. No. 7: Pp. 152; No. 8: Pp. 147. NF. 5 per vol.)

THE spread of economic sophistication in present-day France (like the dissemination of industrial technology in eighteenth-century Britain) is largely taking place outside the universities. The engineers, who in France form a highly trained and highly rewarded *élite*, have here played a predominant part. Professor Allais, who has worked in the field and taught in the *École des Mines*, has made a considerable name for himself as an economist during the last two decades, particularly for his studies on capital requirements and on Soviet economics.

The author states a trenchant case for the free market even in the "tiers monde," a much neater phrase than the "underdeveloped countries." He believes, with Professor Friedman, that there is a great reserve of enterprise and talent in these countries, ready to develop, on a comparatively small scale, almost every variety of business, once given favourable conditions. In terse and lucid language Professor Allais pours scorn on a whole chain of "myths"; the myth of racial incapacity, of supposed lack of enterprise, of