
The System of National Finance

Kennett Edward Hilton

Title: The System of National Finance

Author: Kennett Edward Hilton

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.



**THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL
FINANCE**

THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL FINANCE

BY
E. HILTON YOUNG, M.P.

Kennet
"

"Mr. Micawber conjured me to observe that if a man had twenty pounds a year for his income and spent nineteen shillings and sixpence he would be happy, but that if he spent twenty pounds one, he would be miserable. After which he borrowed a shilling of me for porter and cheered up."—DAVID COPPERFIELD.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

LONDON
SMITH, ELDER & CO., 15, WATERLOO PLACE

1915

[All rights reserved]

HJ 1036
K4

PRINTED BY
WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED
LONDON AND BECCLES

TO WHOM
ADDRESS

PREFACE

BITTER and unavailing are the regrets of a reader who has read through a book, and wakes on the last page to the discovery that it is all about something other than he supposed. To save an intending reader from that disappointment, it will be as well to set down here what this book is not about. It is not about public finance in the abstract; that ground is well covered by Professor Bastable's "Public Finance," and other works on the same subject. It is not a history of British public finance in modern times. We are now fortunate enough to have that story admirably told in three books, Lord Iddesleigh's "Twenty Years of Financial Policy" (1842-62), Lord Buxton's "Finance and Politics" (1862-87), and Mr. Bernard Mallet's "British Budgets" (1887-1913), which taken together provide us with a detailed record of the subject and a commentary upon its developments during the last seventy years. It is not a history of taxation: for that we have Stephen Dowell's big work. Nor does it seek to be a compendious work of reference in which may be found all the laws, rules, principles, authorities, and precedents relating to the nation's financial business. That has yet to be compiled.

Its ambition is to be a primer of the system on

which the financial business of the nation is conducted at the present time. It is intended as a first aid to those who need to understand something about the manner in which the nation gets and spends its revenue, borrows money, and keeps its accounts. With that end before it, it avoids history, and does without figures as far as possible.

Much that is not readily intelligible in our financial system is made clear by a word of explanation from those actually engaged in working it; and for explanations of the sort most kindly and helpfully given, I am in debt to many creditors. My thanks are specially due to Mr. F. D. Acland, M.P., formerly Financial Secretary of the War Office, and now Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office; Sir Charles Harris, K.C.B., Assistant Financial Secretary of the War Office; Mr. F. W. A. Clarke, Accountant and Comptroller General of the Board of Customs and Excise; Mr. W. G. Turpin, Comptroller-General of the National Debt Office; Mr. C. L. Davies, Assistant Paymaster General; Mr. V. W. Baddeley, C.B., Assistant Secretary to the Admiralty for Financial Duties; Mr. H. V. Reade, C.B., Principal of the Statistical Office at the Board of Customs and Excise; and Mr. F. W. Bartlett, Principal Clerk in the Pay Office. To the Officials of the Bank of England I owe a debt in this respect that grows daily.

What I have learnt from these is as much as it is good for a taxpayer to know and no more; and the explanations which I have received, given with the unflinching courtesy of the Civil Service, would,

PREFACE

vii

no doubt, have been equally at the disposal of anybody else who was concerned to inquire into these matters. But that does not affect the warmth of my gratitude. Needless to say, none of those to whom I here render my thanks is in any way responsible for any statement of fact made in this book, still less for any expression of opinion.

E. H. Y.

Jan., 1915