

CHAPTER V

THE QUANTITY OF INCOME

§ 1. ABSOLUTE QUANTITY OF INCOME

1. *The Product of Associated Labour.*

Income being the specific product of the coercive association of labour, the quantity of income is in the first place determined by the quantity of the product of associated labour. In its turn, this quantity is a function of two factors, the quantity and the productivity of associated labour.

a. The Quantity of Associated Labour.

In the first place, the quantity of associated labour is more or less considerable according as the duration and the intensity of that labour are greater or less. The duration of the labour depends, it may be upon physiological reasons (the physical endurance of the labourer), it may be upon psychological reasons (the inclination of the labourer to work), it may be upon technical reasons (for example, the greater or less possibility of artificial illumination), it may be upon legislative reasons (the existence of legal restrictions upon the hours of labour, and the strictness with which these limitations are enforced). The intensity of the labour depends, it may be upon the spontaneous energy of the labourer, it may be upon the irresistible pressure exercised by the mechanical instruments to which he is subordinated, and finally it may be by the composition of the labouring population in the matters of sex and of age—for it is evident that of two numerically equal groups of labourers, that group in which women and children prevail to a greater extent will present a lesser total intensity of labour than is presented by the group in which adult males are more numerous.—Now the composition of the labouring population in the matter of sex and age depends upon a demographic factor, the composition of the total population