

CHAPTER VII

REVOLUTIONS OF INCOME

WE saw in the fifth chapter that in every form of the coercive association of labour, or of the income which emanates therefrom, the productivity of labour describes a parabola. In fact, in the ascendent phase of the income, wherein the positive influences of the coercive association of labour are predominant, in the phase, that is to say, characterised by the increasing efficiency of labour, the productivity of this last exhibits a progressive increase ; whereas in the declining phase of the income, wherein the negative influences of the coercive association of labour are predominant, in the phase, that is to say, wherein are most potent the restrictions which the coercion imposes upon the efficiency of labour, the productivity of labour exhibits a progressive diminution. Further, in the sixth chapter it was shown that this decline in the productivity of coercively associated labour is, in addition, accentuated in consequence of the limits imposed upon production by the struggle between incomes and by the pyramidal distribution of the recipients of income. Now the diminution which thus manifests itself in the productivity of coercively associated labour, does not take the form of a diminution of subsistence, which is commensurate to the product of isolated labour (or, if inferior to this, is not easily reducible), but appears as a diminution of income ; income, therefore, during the declining period of every economic form, is subject to an inevitable regression.

The decline thus arising in the productivity of coercively associated labour weakens the income that is founded upon associated labour, and therefore diminishes its power of attack upon the income that is founded upon isolated labour. The consequence is that a part of the income founded upon isolated labour, which, in the normal conditions of the coercive association of labour, cannot persist, or can nowise flourish, because