

possessing wealth—generally the aged. Then it was the young man's turn to sacrifice himself for his country; now it is the turn of the elderly—like myself—and the old, and we must not shrink from our sacrifice when our country calls. We sent the boys to fight their fathers' battles; it is now for us fathers to foot the bill and free our sons from crushing taxation. Even if we would, we cannot leave the burden to posterity. The money for interest payments must, as shown earlier, be found by taxation within the Nation. Leaving the burden to posterity is a comforting phrase which means in reality shifting the burden from the shoulders of the wealthy on to those of the struggling, over-taxed middle classes and the poor. To see this clearly refer back to the case of Mr. Brown and Mr. Jones, the bachelors with £200 a year apiece.

If it be argued that the Levy be unfair as between the citizen possessed of capital and him not possessed of capital, it must be remembered that it is the citizen who spends every penny of his income who contributes most heavily to the annual taxation of his country.

A Dissertation on Capital.

Further, when we come to discuss the equity of a Capital Levy, consider a difficulty besetting the question as to what is Income and what is Capital. Unless we first establish a recognised Unit of Time it is impossible to distinguish what is Income and what is Capital, an obvious fact, but one important to bear in mind. To make my meaning plainer:

During the year One of the decade Brown has earned £1,000, and finds on the 31st of December that he has £100 in hand against which there is no outstanding claim.

A tax of £5 on this £100, payable on the 31st of December, is clearly a tax on Income. But on the 1st of January