

cause calculated to produce a difference in the value of present and future goods is to be found in the difference between the relations of demand and 'covering' at various periods." (Böhm-Bawerk: *Positive Theorie*, p. 440.) This "cause" for the higher evaluation of present goods is represented as occurring in two typical cases: first, in all the cases in which persons find themselves in a difficult situation; second, in the evaluations of all persons, who count on a secure position in the future (young physicians, lawyers, etc.). For both these categories the "present" one hundred florins are far more important than the "future" florins, as the future "relation of demand and covering" may involve far more favourable opportunities for both categories. But there are a number of persons for whom precisely the reverse relation exists between demand and "covering", namely, a comparatively favourable situation at present and a poorer one in the future. In this case, Böhm-Bawerk says, the following must be considered: The present goods, a florin for instance, may be consumed either in the present or in the future. This is true particularly of money, which is capable of easy preservation. The relation between present and future goods may cover *only* future needs, while the present goods may cover *these future needs and also* such present needs as are situated in a more proximate epoch. Again, two cases may be distinguished: (1) *the present and more proximate future needs are less important* than future needs; in this case, the present goods are set aside to cover the future needs; the value of these goods is determined by the importance of the latter; the present goods will be equivalent to the future goods in value; ¹⁸⁵ (2) *the present goods are more important*; in this case the value of the present goods surpasses that of the future goods, since the latter obtain their value only from the future needs, not at all from the present. It follows that the *present goods may be equal to the value of the future goods, but may in no case have less than that value*. But this equality is further weakened by Böhm-Bawerk with the assertion that the possibility of a relative worsening of the material situation in the *near* future is always present; this possibility adds to present goods further opportunities of more advantageous use, which cannot apply to