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The Study of Political Economy and Social Policy Association in the Pre-War Period of Japan (3)

—Iwasaburo Takano and the Study of Family Expenditure Research

by Kanae Iida

Iwasaburo Takano who was a brother of Fusataro, a pioneer of the labour movement in Japan that emerged as the Rodō-Kumiai Kiseikai in 1900 is distinguished as the statistician who promoted the family expenditure research in the Taisho Era. The tendencies of study in the Social Policy Association from 1900 to 1920 was to be divergent into many spheres of economics, that is Marxian Economics, Marginal Utility School and Classical School.

Being dominantly influenced by Fusataro's activities in the trade union movement, Takano endeavoured to perform the research study of the working classes which his brother had contemplated but never accomplished.

In the first part of this essay, the writer mentions about the earliest stage in his study as the student of Tokyo Imperial University. At this time, his concern was converged to the researches of London poor by Charles Booth and of York by Seebohm Rowntree. After graduation of the University, he went to Germany for the study of economics of Historical School and learned statistics under the supervision of Karl Knies and introduced it to Japan.

Secondly, his great contribution to Japanese social science was the establishment of the Ohara Institute of Social Problem by which the study of social policy and social problems was tremendously promoted.

Thirdly he was the first and great scholar of the living conditions of the working classes who did through the research of the family expenditure for the first time. The research of the working classes in Tsukishima in 1918 is especially famous and invaluable materials in Japanese economic and social history.

The contents are following.

- 1) Introduction—Iwasaburo Takano and Social Policy Association.
- 2) The Method of Study of Economics and Takano.
- 3) The Study of Statistics and Tsukishima Research.

The Westward Movement and New York Farmers

by Yasuo Okada

The stream of immigrants from New York to the Old Northwest after the opening of the Erie Canal caused much concern among agricultural leaders and politicians in the Empire State. The flood of cheap cereals from virgin soils of the West lowered prices so radically that thousands of families left worn-out soils of New York and turned their footsteps westwards. At the same time, many of the young sons and daughters of New York farmers were deserting agriculture for urban occupations, which prompted farm journals and agricultural societies to praise the farmer and to honor his work.

It is true that the out-migration of farm population of New York was substantial, but the pattern of population movement of the period was more mixed than the one depicted by contemporary observers. The place of the birth statistics in the New York State Census show that there was a considerable intra-state movement of population. Despite the pull of a dominant metropolis, New York City, in the southeast end of the state, the direction of movement was apparently westward. Besides, the source of urban population in burgeoning cities in the state was not rural New York. For the most part, the destination of migrating farmers were the agriculturally oriented counties in the western parts of the state, or rural area near large cities where they could enjoy expanding market for farm products.

Reciprocal Spillover Effect and Political Processes in a System of Local Government

by Iwao Nakajima

There has been a significant amount of discussion in the literature on the effects of spillovers on the provision of public goods by local governments. The discussion has resulted in a number of contradictory conclusion. Confusion has arisen because of the failure to show

precisely the characteristics of an 'optimal' situation and specify clearly in what way local governments are left free to make their own independent decision about the supply of public goods.

Our analysis serves two purposes. First, it clears up some theoretical confusion and reconcile these divergent analyses. Second, it explores the case where reciprocal spillovers take the form of 'inputs' rather than the directly consumable services, in a two-community general equilibrium setting.

Combining voting with one's feet (suggested by Tiebout) and the principle of fiscal profitability (suggested by Margolis), we can expect that industries in both communities will exert the taxpayer's political influence on the local governments so that the joint net profit or income is maximized through the supply of the public inputs.

We conclude that such joint maximization will internalize the reciprocal spillovers, which leads to a Pareto optimal allocation of resources.

Symposium: New Approaches to Tokugawa Monetary History

Edited by *Osamu Saito*

This symposium re-examines the monetary history of the Tokugawa period in the light of Hiroshi Shimbo's recent book, *Kinsei no bukka to keizai hatten* (Prices and Economic Development in Early Modern Japan) which has already been regarded as a landmark in this field, and Masaru Iwahashi's challenging thesis on the Tokugawa currency system, which, originally presented to the Quantitative Economic History conference last year, is included with slight modifications in this issue.

The first paper, Osamu Saito's, is a critical examination of the thesis of inflationary growth in the post-1818 period, which is one of the central issues in Shimbo's book, and suggests that some monetary elements should be taken into account as a link between an increase in the *bakufu* government expenditure and economic expansion which is supposed to have taken place after the Bunsei debasement. Next comes the Iwahashi article. For the Tokugawa currency system, there has so far been an agreement that there were two different currency zones, i.e.

the *kin-zukai* economy (gold currency) located in Kanto and Tohoku, and the *gin-zukai* economy (silver currency), west of Kinai, with *zeni* (copper currency) for petty trade in both zones. Against this background, Iwahashi argues that there was a third currency zone, i.e. the *zeni-zukai* economy in south-west Japan. However, Shimbo is sceptical about this. His criticism of Iwahashi's hypothesis is stated at length in the fourth paper in this symposium. The third contribution is Shunsaku Nishikawa and Kenji Tanimura's paper on *hansatsu* (i.e. paper money). Their work, based on econometric analysis, casts doubts on the conventional view that the major reason why *hansatsu* was issued by *daimyo* is *han's* deteriorating financial position. Shimbo, too, touches on the problem of *hansatsu*. His paper also examines Edo-Osaka wholesale price disparities in the late Tokugawa period, both topics being not fully discussed in his earlier book.