

# SUNSHINE

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## What is a Man Worth ?

We do not mean by this query "What are a man's assets?" or "What wealth does a man possess?" We mean exactly what is said, "What is the value of a man?"

In every civilized land the people set apart a large part of the common wealth for the building and upkeep of schools and colleges for the education and training of the young. Even when the youth has had his schooling and has entered his trade or business life there are technical schools and night schools open to him for further instruction. The intent of all this is to make him a better workman or business man than he would otherwise have been, that is to make him a better producer or creator of new wealth.

Anything devoted to the production of wealth has been defined as capital, and inasmuch as a man produces wealth he is himself capital. This fact is well understood. It is only when we attempt to solve the question, "How much capital does a man represent?" these difficulties arise.

Let us suppose for instance that a man by his labours earns \$1,000 a year. A capital of \$20,000 invested at 5 per cent. would produce an income of the same amount. Therefore, we may say the value of the man, judged as capital, would be something less than \$20,000, because his earning power of \$1,000 a year is limited. He may live twenty years or may die within that time.

At any rate we see that the man represents a definite fixed amount of capital, which amount (judged by a money standard) we could learn if we knew how long he would be able to use his earning power of \$1,000 a year.

A few figures will help us to form some idea of the amount of capital a man represents.

	40 years		\$17,159	
A man	35	represents	16,374	at the
earning	30	a	15,372	outset of
\$1,000 a	25	capital	14,094	the time,
year for	20	of	12,462	interest
	15		10,380	rate being
	10		7,722	5%