

The American Economic Review

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February 2011

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Centenary Symposium

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The first issue of the *American Economic Review* appeared in 1911. To celebrate the Centenary of the *Review*, this issue contains six special articles. The first is a report which selects the top 20 articles in the history of the journal, selected by a committee composed of Kenneth J. Arrow, B. Douglas Bernheim, Martin S. Feldstein, Daniel L. McFadden, James M. Poterba, and Robert M. Solow (chair). The second is a history of the *Review* by Robert A. Margo. The third is a reprint of the first article in the *AER*, by Katharine Coman on problems of irrigation (a special case of the commons problem), followed by commentaries by Gary D. Libecap, Elinor Ostrom, and Robert N. Stavins.

I would like to thank the members of the Top 20 committee and the authors of the other papers for their work in preparing their materials. In addition, I would like to thank Avinash Dixit for the inspiration for the Top 20 concept, Regina Montgomery for the idea of reprinting the first paper in the *Review* with commentaries, and John Siegfried for his customary wise counsel and sage advice throughout the planning process.

ROBERT A. MOFFITT, *Editor*,
2004–2010

