

heavily taxed in proportion to their means than any other class in the community. Under the new system they will be taxed in just proportion with all others, and they will know exactly what they are paying.

I believe it is only necessary for people to fully understand what is meant by nationalizing the land, for all without exception who have bought land for the purpose of using it, and want only to hold such land as they use, to gladly and heartily fall in with the proposal and urge its adoption, if from no higher motive than selfishness.

They only will lose by the proposed change who are trading in land values and are seeking to appropriate to themselves the value which is being given to land by the labours of others through increase of population and wealth. These are they who most profit by progress while they are at the same time the greatest hindrance and scourge to progress. But even the loss to those persons will not be so great as one would at first imagine, inasmuch as long before its adoption there would be a growing agitation among the people to achieve the change. The shadow of what was coming would lead these people to unload more and more as the speculative value of land kept falling, and so the loss would be spread over a very large number of those best able to bear it and who by their conduct most justly deserve to lose.

It is in large cities and great centres of production that land has the highest value, the landlords there are the wealthiest, but after the rent value of the land on which they grew wealthy has been diverted to the public who made it, as its rightful owner, these men will still have possession of their houses and other improvements, to let, sell or bequeath as they choose, though the greater part of these personal possessions has been acquired by exacting pay for the use of land in the past.

What seems to be another difficulty to many in the way of