

lay down in exchange for it. The purchaser then cuts it up into numberless small pieces at his pleasure, down to a few rods' measure, and renders it impossible to use it to good advantage.

Now, I ask all my readers, should not all these men be called upon to give an account of their stewardship?

What lion is in the pathway which is so much feared? Are the Land Monopolists that lion? and, if so, are they too terrible for an attack upon them? Doubtless not, for all classes who desire to obtain their living out of the land, and all connected with commerce; yes, and every one who wishes legitimate industries to prosper is anxious to battle with this monopolistic adversary—and why? Because it is the very thing which is hurtful to society at large, and the stumbling block in the way of commercial enterprise and freedom.

But this British Columbian style of ownership (which we are specially dealing with) under which the land is bought and sold and retailed out, the monopolist rolls as a sweet morsel on his tongue, yet sycophantic jackals who have been in constant attendance on the dividing up of the land, and whose morbid rapacity for land nothing has or can satisfy, are like the daughter of the horseleech, constantly saying "Give, Give."

By this state of things having prevailed, and still prevailing, a vast quantity of the land of the province has got into private hands, who give deeds, sublet and mortgage and in fact ignore the existence of any right or power above them, and treat the Earth and all else connected with it, as though they had been the absolute owners in the past and the perpetual owners for all time to come. Their greed is such that they would if they could, abrogate every customary law or precedent, which has been fixed from time immemorial in the hearts and minds of the people, who have always held as an axiom, and is in itself an established truth, that there can be no absolute property or ownership in the land or soil. As further proof of the validity of this established fact and axiom, the land has always existed, but the owner or original owner—who and where is he?

That there is no absolute property in land is furthermore sustained by the Common Law of the British Realm and is one of the grand institutions and substantial binding chains of the Empire which cannot be abrogated or revoked, and being an unwritten Law is not subject to any variation or change whatsoever.