

New Zealand a transient attempt was made to retain the fee simple of the land in the hands of the State granting only leases to the settlers. But it was soon found that freehold ownership was the life of husbandry, and as mechanics and the people generally became owners of their holdings they went over to the side of property. Long leases could not be granted without violating Mr. George's canon that all private ownership is wrong. The Torrens System wherever it has prevailed, by facilitating the acquisition of land, has been the death of confiscation. On this as well as on the economical ground we are glad to see that an advance toward the better application of the system in this Province has been made by the Premier of Ontario, though he still drives his chariot somewhat heavily.

A stimulus has been given by Mr. George's book among the revolutionary masses of Great Britain to hatred of great landowners and to the general craving for confiscation. On this continent, the realm of freehold farmers, the movement never made the slightest way. Instead of "Nationalization of Land" is now inscribed upon the banner of the party "The Single Tax," a totally different proposal and indeed one contradictory of the original device, since in taxing a man on anything you imply that it is his own. The single tax is not new, but when proposed before it was with reference to countries in which almost all of the wealth was in land. What reason or justice would there be in taxing a farmer and letting a Rothschild or a Jay Gould go free? The consequence of throwing the whole burden of taxation on land would almost certainly be the discouragement of farming and the scarcity, or at all events the dearness, of bread.

—We have never said that great inequalities of property were not an evil. What we say is that the desire of property is the only known motive power of production and that you must take it with its evils. It is however difficult to see how, without certain gradations of wealth and a class lifted above