

We must look for the cause of the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few in other directions than we have so far looked for it. Before proceeding I will take the opportunity to recall to your mind what was said at the opening of my lecture as to Wealth, Capital, Wages and Labour. Wealth was shown to consist of the products of labour. Capital is that part of wealth which is being used with labour in producing more wealth. Labour embraces all human exertion of every kind put forth in producing wealth. And wages in their simplest form is the direct product of labour, and in the complicated form of modern civilization wages are paid from the products of labour through capital.

So far we have not yet spoken of land, the necessary element in the production of any and all kinds of wealth, but land itself is in no sense the product of labour. By land, in the language of political economy, is meant all that which nature furnishes as the ground-work of human exertion, such as arable soil, building lots, mineral lands, streams and forests and forces of nature. No wealth of any kind, either of the necessities or of the luxuries of life, can be produced without the use of land in some form. Land is as necessary for the production of any and every form of wealth as is the air we breathe necessary to our existence. Land is that from which all wealth is evolved. (It must be remembered that when speaking of land we mean land itself alone, that is all which nature furnishes to the exclusion of everything whatever which man has done to it. And the attention must not be directed exclusively, as most political economists do, to arable land, but to all land, mineral land, wood land, and forces connected with land, and particularly to land in large cities and towns where it has not only the highest speculative value, but also the highest economic value. Also, when we speak of the value of land, it is a value unconnected entirely with any improvement on that particular land. And when we speak of rent we mean simply a rate on this value