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One Class Should Not Collect Tribute

Difference Between Sale of Land and Sale of Goods.

Mundane Sphere?

and to All Peoples.

In the Canadian Methodist Quarterly for July appears a comprehensive paper on a question that has occupied the serious attention of millions of the inhabitants of this continent within the last year or two. The writer, who is known to be a well ersed student of the subject, takes as the foundation of his remarks the text: The Land Shall Not Be Sold Forever.

'The Land Shall Not Be Sold Forever.'

Levificus.xxv. 23,

Was this injunction the declaration of some eternal principle resting on a basis of justice, obligatory on all ages or conditions of society, or was it only a temporary expedient, applicable merely to a certain peculiar condition of the Jewish people?

The question resolves itself into this: Can land be justly treated as an article of commerce, to be bought and sold, just as food, clothing, shelter, or any product of labor, or does land differ from other things, so that justice forbids its sale?

Between the land, the gift of the Creator, and commodities the product of the laborer, the Mosaic economy made the widest distinction. No restriction whatever was placed on the sale of land was strictly forbidden. No one could do more with the land than to give a léase till the jubile year.

This method has been spoken of as an

forbidden. No one could do more with the land than to give a léase till the jubilee year.

This method has been spoken of as an entail, resembling the entail common in Britain. But these two entails differed as widely as two things could differ. The Jewish entail secured land to everyone, the British entail secures it to particular heirs only, and exoludes all others. The one entail insured equality, the other perpetuates and intensifies inequality.

To determine the rightness or wrongness of selling land, we must examine what selling means. How does anyone acquire a right to sell? Evidently a man can sell only what is his. That which he owns absolutely, evidently he can sell absolutely, and that which he owns only limitedly, he can sell only limitedly.

When one man catches fish and another catches game, and they exchange their product, this constitutes buying and selling. The one sells fish and buys game, the other sells game and buys fish. We call this selling fish or selling game; in reality it is exchanging services. Each renders a service; each confers a henefit; each is enriched only on condition that he enriches.

After a man has toiled to catch

enriched only on condition that he enriches.

After a man has toiled to catch fish or game, to raise a crop or build a house, on what condition can I justly demand any of these commodities from him? Should I attempt to take them without offering some equivalent product or service, would he not immediately and intuitively recognize that I was subjecting him to an injustice, and would he not feel that he was justified in resisting my efforts? Undoubtedly he would. It requires no demonstration to prove to a man that he is defrauded when he is compelled to render or surrender service without receiving an equivalent service in return.

Are we not quite safe in assuming this as one of the basal principles of ethics, that honesty demands that services should be reciprocal—service for service, product for product, benefit for benefit? Suppose we deny this doctrine, and assert that one part of humanity has the right to claim service without rendering service, do we not at once proclaim the doctrine of slavery, fraud and thet?

When a man toils, raises a crop, provides a house, cures a disease, clucidates a philosophy, invents a machine, organizes an industry, or charms our souls with the beauties of song or oratory, then he establishes a right to sell. The right to make a charge rests on a service rendered or a product furnished. Can anyone, on any other condition, justly claim the right to demand product or service from his fellowman? Unquestionably he can not.

Can any man, any combination of men, any Government, furnish land? Is land a product of industry? Do land speculators questions at once call the attention to the essential distinction between land, which no man furnishes, and the product of lone and the product of no not and the product of no no man furnishes, and the product of no no man furnishes, and the product of no no not no no man furnishes, and the product of no no man furnishes, and t shes.
After a man has toiled to catch

place of the control of the control

15c to 25c EACH

him a home, a crop, a quantity of clothing, but that he may extort, that he may get a lien on the produce without producing. The Mosaic economy prevented this so far, at any rate, as the rural districts were concerned. It thus secured to every man the freedom to enjoy the product of his industry, free from the exactions of a non-producing class of landlords and land speculators.

best judgment dictates, and laws imposed to drive people from fertility, that make it a crime to resort to abundance, should never find a place on the statute-book of a nation. And this condition the Mosaic economy strictly observed. No line of pickets surrounded Palestine to prevent the dew going to Egypt for corn, or to Phonicia for cedar.

According to the teachings of Manver, Main and Lavelleye, there prevailed throughout the world a system of village communities in which the land belonged to the community, and each person in this community enjoyed an equal right to the land. It has been asserted that this was the system prevailing at the time of Moses and that therefore, we are not to attach so much importance to the Mosaic economy as being in any way unique, or that much is to

and that therefore, we are not to attach so much importance to the Mosaic economy as being in any way unique, or that much is to be learned from it for our guidance.

The investigations of Coulanges, published in a book entitled "Origin of Property in Land," throws doubt on the correctness of the theory of village communities. Coulanges maintains that the so-called communal system was not a system of free communities, with ownership of land, but a system of manors, with a baronal landlord and his servite tenants.

To the Mosiac system we are in debted for a picture perhaps unparalleled inhistory for its purely democratic character, its absence of those vicious extremes only too smailest in other countries, an aristocracy reveling in excessive, unmerited wealth at one end, and its natural complement, a mass of degraded toliers, steeped in unmerited poverty at the other ond—the baron and the villain, the millionaire and the tramp.

the baron and the villain, the millionaire and the tramp.

Plate drew on his imagination for his "Republic," in which he still deemed slavery an essential factor. More saw his "Utopia" only in his "mind's eye," To Moses alone is reserved the honor of founding a nation on laws that stand unparalleled in the history of the world-for their complete recognition of the rights of the citizen, and the principles of justice. Where else can we find the clear recognition of the rights of the citizen, and the principles of justice? Where else can we find the clear recognition of every child of God to the gift of God—the land? Where else the distinction between the gifts of else the distinction between the gifts of

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