

"property." If the individual cannot rightfully hold any property until the community confers the right upon him, what right has the individual to produce property without a permit from the community? If all property is a trust for the benefit of the community, isn't it unwise to permit an individual to hold it without bond, and to control and enjoy it until starvation threatens the beneficiaries of the trust? If the individual produces property, by his own exertion, for what social service is he indebted to the community to the extent of that property? How can it be said that the exclusive ownership of a house, a barn, a horse, chickens, a cow, and furniture bears any relation to the deterioration of human life? The Episcopal Joint Commission is probably confused by the custom of regarding one's earnings and one's privileges as equally property. Though the producer cannot fairly be said to hold his product in trust, this may be fairly said of a mere legal privilege. But why not discriminate?

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A Ballingerial Compromise.

There seems to be doubt as to whether President Taft's Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Ballinger, has been "vindicated" or "whitewashed." Why not compromise on "vindicquashed"?

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AN OBJECT LESSON IN LAND MONOPOLY.

It is matter of court record, that there is held in California a single landed estate of 14,500,000 acres. As that acreage amounts to 22,656 square miles, the area of this one holding equals one-seventh of the entire State of California.

Although held in California, the land is not all within the boundaries of that State. Lying partly in Nevada, it extends through California and far up into Oregon. It is known as the "Miller and Lux" estate. Miller is the man of whom it is told that an old acquaintance, meeting him in a Western barroom, exclaimed: "Why, hello, Miller! I used to know you in San Francisco when you had to peddle sausages for a living, didn't I?" "Yes," said Miller, "and if I had been such a fool as you are I would be peddling sausages yet."

Fifteen years ago, more or less, Lux died, and the probating of his estate established by court record the magnitude of this holding. Reputable persons assert, moreover, that semi-legal holdings of the same estate comprise three million more acres from which the public is excluded. So we have an estate of over seventeen million acres.

I could tell fascinating things about that great holding, for I have traveled over thousands of miles of it. For hours I have sat in the fast moving train speeding through strips of it said to be fifty and seventy miles long, and twenty and thirty miles wide. Far as the eye could reach have I looked at some of the richest land made by God for His children—hours and hours of it in the great San Joaquin valley—with nothing on it but cattle, distant barns, pump houses, and herded tramp-men to reap the alfalfa fields.

It is the proud boast of this company that it can drive cattle from Nevada to Oregon through the great State of California, without ever stopping over night on any land but their own; that nowhere in the Golden State, some eight hundred miles long, is there a break in their land-strips more than a day's cattle journey between the ends.

As Rockefeller and Morgan are emphasized because they are at the apex of their particular forms of public plunder, and not because they are necessarily the greatest or worst, so this great estate should be emphasized. Its value as an object lesson is its hugeness.

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And there are other big estates on this Pacific slope.

Besides this one of 14,500,000 acres with its 3,000,000 acre fringe, there are those that range from 10,000 to 40,000, 100,000, and many more thousand acres. The totals would startle thinking people.

Some of these I have been investigating. There are many difficulties in the way of getting exact information, but the facts are coming.

EDMUND NORTON.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PROGRESSIVE CANADA.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Calgary, Alberta, is a rapidly growing city of 40,000 population. Three years ago the municipality decided to build a street railway system. This has been in operation a little more than a year. Last month the net profits were \$5,766.61. This brings the city's profit for the year 1910 up to the handsome sum of \$57,539.97. Question: Since this profit can be made under municipal ownership in a city of 40,000 population what is the value of a franchise in the ordinary city of 200,000 population? What of a city of half a million?

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With a view to the adoption of the municipal single-tax the City Council of Regina (population