

ground rent of \$1,000.00. per foot per year produced by the community the Commonwealth Land Party proposes to take for the use of the community.

If land or ground value is land or ground rent capitalized, is it not clear that taking the ground rent will destroy speculative land value? Land values are due to legally created privileges granted to the owner of the land to take for himself ground rent produced by the presence and activity of the community.

If this legal privilege was removed and the ground rent created by the community was taken by the community, there would be no increase in selling value following increase in the population or activities of the community. Therefore, it would not pay to hold land for an increase in value, for there would be no increase.

Moreover, as the community took a greater proportion of the ground rent produced by the community, the amount left for the owner of the fee would decrease.

When all the ground rent produced by the community was taken by the community, there would be no selling value attaching to land. Ground rent and therefore land value is community produced and is therefore common wealth. Therefore, the name Commonwealth Land Party.

WE COULD GET RID OF ALL TAXES

If the community by this system took the ground rent produced by the community, it would not have to take from individuals wealth produced by them individually. This would make possible the abolition of all taxes that are now levied on wealth. To put the matter in a sentence, the Commonwealth Land Party believes that what the community creates as a community should be taken by the community and what the individual produces should belong to the individual.

It is evident that this system would not interfere with the continuous exclusive and private possession of land which is necessary to its best use. On the other hand, it would compel the best use of land, for no one could afford to hold land out of use in any very great amount.

If all land was put to its best use, as it would have to be under this system, the amount of wealth produced would be vastly increased and its distribution would be free from the great injustice involved in the present system of the appropriation by private persons of ground rent produced by the community. Some idea of how great is the injustice of the private appropriation of ground rents may be gained by remembering that land values are at the present time at least equal and are probably greater than the values of all the houses and furniture and manufacturing machinery and railroads and steamships and paved roads and automobiles, or in a word greater than the real wealth of the community.

The injustice of the private appropriation of the community created values involved in our present land system, is the chief cause of the unjust distribution of wealth.

The programme of the Commonwealth Land Party is the only just and scientific solution of the problem.

Therefore—I am a Member of the Commonwealth Land Party.

J. C. LINCOLN.

J. C. Lincoln

NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT COMMONWEALTH LAND PARTY

J. C. LINCOLN was born in Painesville, Ohio, on July 17th, 1866. His father was a Congregational Preacher. His boyhood was spent in a number of states, Michigan, Ohio, New York and Illinois. He entered High School in Painesville, Ohio, in 1881, and 1884 went to Columbus and finished High School there and spent three years at the Ohio State University, taking up a mechanical engineering course with as much electricity in it as he could get, because at this date there was no electrical engineering course as such.

In the Spring of 1888 he entered the employ of the Brush Electric Company in Cleveland and was with them until March of the following year, when he accepted a position in the Shore Electric Railway Company, until the Summer of 1892. At that time The Elliott-Lincoln Electric Company was formed, which had a rather checkered career and passed out of existence in 1894.

In 1895, he started operations under the name of The Lincoln Electric Company, with practically no capital, and the present Lincoln Electric Company has grown in the last 30 years from this beginning. Naturally, his attention has been devoted to electrical and engineering subjects. He is a director of the American Welding Society, a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineering and a member of the Cleveland Engineering Society.

About the year 1898 or 9, he read for the second or third time—Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" and got the message which it contained. Since then, he has been unceasingly active in the movement.

Mention has been made of Mr. Lincoln's relationship to the martyred president. It is said that General Lincoln of Revolutionary fame and Abraham Lincoln were related. General Lincoln and J. C. Lincoln's grandfather were cousins.

Mr. Lincoln writes us in a recent communication: "Some Single Taxers believe the party movement unwise, but the experience of the last fifty years would indicate that little progress is being made on the lines pursued by the Single Taxers for that period. I hope that the same period that lies ahead of us will show a different record for the activities of the Commonwealth Land Party."

THE party is to be congratulated in securing as its vice-presidential nominee, a Single Taxer so prominently and favorably known as Mr. Lincoln.