

Deméter, there will you know.

LATONA. Piously will I bear my growing burden. Willingly will I undergo increasing hardship. But how shall I know the crossways?

ORACLE. A shepherd boy will lead you.

LATONA. And shall I in truth there learn the ways of men and teach them wisdom?

ORACLE. You will also encounter those who will test your strength.

LATONA. Oh, if I fail?

ORACLE. Not so. But first you will encounter the baseness of man.

LATONA. Only Tityos the giant was false.

ORACLE. Not every man is false. The breast of the fruitful Earth is for all—yet some will deny you.

LATONA. What, is there not food in plenty and for all? Oh, may never I nor my unborn babe want for succor.

ORACLE. Yet succor will be denied you. Fainting with thirst a draught of water will be refused you.

LATONA. Woe is me!

ORACLE. Your story will be a lesson to man. After many, many days goodness will cast out evil.

LATONA. And is always the wrong-doer punished?

ORACLE. In mysterious ways. Nemesis is almighty.

LATONA. And do the mighty fall?

ORACLE. When they do overreach their power.

LATONA. Alas, that I, a feeble woman, should be fated for so dangerous a task as awaits me.

ORACLE. You will prove yourself worthy of restoration to your longed-for home.

LATONA. And the babe I bear?

ORACLE. Your offspring will be the double lights of Heaven. In the skies will they dwell forever.

LATONA. Will my lord Zeus receive both them and me?

ORACLE. So has destiny decreed.

LATONA. And where shall I find rest and give them birth?

ORACLE. Cruelly will many turn you away. Weary wanderings await you.

LATONA. Oh, churlish men! Oh, me unhappy!

ORACLE. The islands of the sea will refuse you.

LATONA. O gods of Heaven!

ORACLE. Till reaching Delos, more hospitable than the others, your prayers will be heard and there refuge will be given.

LATONA. Oh, kind after all is the nature of man—

ORACLE. But long will these folk hesitate, consenting to receive you only on condition that you swear by the Styx.

LATONA. I will swear even that oath—

ORACLE. That your son's first shrine shall be erected there and that abundantly he will honor and not despise so barren and unproductive a spot.

LATONA. I will swear it.

ORACLE. But terrible will be the birth-pangs, endur-

ing for nine days and nine nights.

LATONA. Oh, oh, oh.

ORACLE. Yet Themis and Amphitrite will assist. Eileithyia, hastening to Delos, will aid you. The attending goddesses will care for the new-born, wrapping them in fine linen, and Themis will give them nectar and ambrosia.

LATONA. Praise to the Gods!

ORACLE. And Delos will gleam with a golden light.

LATONA. Now all ye deities, give me strength to bear my burdens and my joys to come. O Love, restore me to my lord, the sovereign of the skies.

ORACLE. Restoration awaits you.

LATONA. Oh, may those words be fulfilled.

ORACLE. Doubt not. The good will triumph and the evil-doers be punished.

LATONA. Farewell, O Divine Oracle, farewell.

ORACLE. My daughter, farewell.

The curtain falls.

(To be Continued)

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## Why I am a Member of the Commonwealth Land Party

VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LINCOLN  
GIVES THE REASONS

IT is because this party is the only one that has a scientific programme for the just distribution of wealth. Take a large look at the world and what do we see?

The Creator has supplied the sunlight and air and rain and land that are necessary to the lives of his children.

The mere fact that we are alive gives to each of us an equal right to those things that the Creator has provided for all of us.

The common right of all of us to the sunlight and air is generally recognized. The common right of all of us to the land and such of the rain as now falls on privately owned land is denied. When we remember that all the food we eat and the clothes we wear and the houses we live in must come from the land, it is clear that the denial of the common right to land is the denial of a fundamental right. The Commonwealth Land Party proposes to reassert the right of all of us to what the Creator has provided for all of us. Is it not evident that the hard coal in Eastern Pennsylvania was put there for the use of all of us and not for the benefit of the owners of the legal titles to the ground under which the coal lies? Do any of us doubt that the iron ore and copper in Minnesota and upper Michigan were put there for the benefit of all of us and not for the benefit of the steel companies that hold the titles to the land on which most of the ore lies, or for the benefit of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company that owns the title to the land under which the copper lies? Is it not evident that Niagara Falls belongs to the people of the

U. S. rather than to the individuals that happen to hold title to the land that borders on the falls?

#### PRIVATE, EXCLUSIVE AND CONTINUOUS POSSESSION OF LAND NECESSARY

It is clear that from a practical standpoint, it is impossible to equally divide the land once a day or once a month or once a year.

It is also evident that continuous, exclusive and private possession of land is necessary to many forms of private property and to the best use of land. No one is going to build a house on a piece of land, unless he is sure that he is going to have undisturbed and undisputed possession of that piece of land. No farmer is going to underdrain his land and rotate his crops and fertilize it so as to make it produce the most in the long run, unless he is sure of exclusive and continuous possession of the land. The difficulty with much of our farming at the present time is that it is done by tenant farmers who do not have continuous possession of the land they are using and so do not get nearly as much out of the land as it is capable of producing.

No one is going to provide the capital necessary to open a mine in the hard coal regions or in the iron region of Minnesota, or the copper bearing lands in upper Michigan, unless those who provide the capital can be sure of undisputed continuous private possession of the land. No one can be expected to invest the millions of dollars required to build power houses and distributing lines at Niagara Falls unless they can be sure of undisturbed possession of the ground they occupy and the water they use.

Private property in land gives the continuous exclusive possession of land necessary to its best use and the programme of the Commonwealth Land Party does not propose to interfere in any way with any land title anywhere. The title of the Stephen Girard Estate to the coal lands of Eastern Pennsylvania would not be questioned. The titles of the steel companies to the lands of Minnesota would stand as they now are.

#### THE INJUSTICE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY IN LAND

The Commonwealth Land Party insists that private continuous possession of land is necessary to modern civilization, but it also calls attention to the injustice involved in private property in land. The writer happened to be a director in a bank in Cleveland that bought a lease of a piece of land on Euclid Ave. on which to locate the bank. This land is about half as valuable as the most expensive Euclid Avenue land. The lease taken by the bank calls for the payment of nearly \$1,000.00 a foot per year to the owner of the fee. The actual value of the land is much greater than is indicated by the payment of \$1,000.00 per year per foot, for the lease is appraised at over \$100,000.00.

Is it not clear that the owner of this fee did no more than any of the rest of the 1,000,000 people that live in Cleveland and vicinity to produce this land value? Is it not clear that this \$1,000.00 per foot per year is a payment

for which nothing is received in return? The value of \$1,000.00 per foot per year is created by the people of Cleveland and when it is paid to the owner of the fee, the people of Cleveland who created the value are defrauded to that extent. It will be instructive to follow the history of this piece of ground, for it is typical of what happens to land values in all cities.

When this ground was first used by white people a hundred and twenty years ago, there was no very great injustice involved in making it private property, for there was plenty of unused land. The owner of this piece of ground could not therefore get something for nothing because he held the title to this piece of land. This was part of a farm when it was first settled, and while the land produced bountifully because it was virgin soil, the value of the crop was very small because there was no market for the products.

The number of people in the settlement increased and all the land in the vicinity was taken up and then the presence of the greater number of people created a market for the products of this farm, so that while the farm produced less or no more than when first settled, the value of the products was increased, due to the increased market that in turn was due to the increased population. This increase in the value of the products due to the presence of a greater number of people was reflected in an increased value of the farm as farm land.

#### ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION

The farm on which I was born thirty miles from Cleveland has experienced this increase in the last 12 or 15 years, the selling value increasing from \$100.00 an acre to \$500.00. As Cleveland grew, the village that at first was located at the mouth of the river two-thirds of a mile away, extended its limits, and this farm came into the market as suitable for sub-division into town lots. The demand for this land for town lots was due solely to the increase in population of the town and the value of about \$100.00 an acre for farm land near a village was increased to about \$1,000.00 an acre by the increase of population when the town had grown large enough to make it possible to use the land for town lots.

As Cleveland grew, the business section which at first was confined to the land near the river, spread uptown and the next big increase in value came when it was evident that the business section was going to grow out Euclid Avenue instead of in some other direction. The growth in this direction enabled the owner of this fee to capitalize the habits of the people of Cleveland and enabled him to obtain \$1,000.00 a foot per year which capitalized at 6 per cent, is over three and a half million dollars an acre.

It is clear that the owners of the fee during the 102 years that have elapsed since Cleveland was settled have not produced this increase from practically nothing to three and a half million per acre, but that this increase was produced by the presence of this increased population. This

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.