

So, by right of gift from God, the land was his, and no man questioned it.

John, like his ancestors, had farmed the land, and had also fished the waters of New York harbor many years. He had prospered, and, at the time of this incident, was doing well in the world. Nothing had disturbed his peace of mind for many a decade and he was at ease with all about him. Then the trouble began.

Somebody among the gossips who occasionally dropped in at the old Communipaw Tavern brought the news. A railroad was to be built on the shore of the harbor from Jersey City to the Kill von Kull, and land was to be condemned for this public right of way. The news was disquieting to the mind of John, for it meant that somebody was about to question his right of eminent domain. He made inquiries of a certain lawyer, and found that he was threatened.

After long deliberation of a truly profound and Dutch-like character, he decided that he would have to submit and let the railroad cross his farm. Then he took another turn with his brain and developed a comforting thought.

Next day he set foot down the shore and called on several of his neighbors, with the following suggestion.

"Good mornin' neighbor," said he to each of them in turn. "And say. I got to get a little scrap o' shore front land to haul my shad boats, come winter. Could yer sell me a bit, say 'bout fifty feet? Sech land aint wuth much fer farmin', but I'd pay yer fifty dollars fer a strip."

The neighbors had no objection to parting with a few small strips of mud flat land, so John bought several at different points along the bay shore, and waited. Then the railway surveyors came and laid out the line; but, in doing it, they failed to notice the little holdings that John had secured; nor can you blame them. When men are surveying miles of railway route, they may easily overlook a few yards of soil.

John got his money for the right of way across his farm; and then he played his sleeve card. He notified the company that they could not cross his shad boat strip. And John was right. The lawyers saw the point, and the railway people had to come to terms, for they had not condemned the land, but were become trespassers. No one ever knew precisely what the terms were, but rumor had it that John was not less than \$250,000 richer for the deal. That's the kind of a "Single Taxer" that John became. He taxed the other fellows for their need. It is not on record that John ever made any use of the strips of shore front, nor that he ever added any value to them, but the railway could not be built without them; so there you are.

FREDERIC W. PANGBORN.

Rents for Trenches

IN Belgium one of the odd incidents of the war has been the haggling over rents for occupied territory, or place for trenches. The small landed proprietors figured that armies should pay for the use of their portions of the earth.

Long Branch (N. J.) *Record*

Non-Resistant Single Taxers

Under the above heading the *San Francisco Star*, edited by that old time Single Taxer and friend of Henry George, James H. Barry, comments as follows on the letter signed by Messrs. Kiefer, Garrison, Stephens, et al, printed in the March-April SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

"It isn't necessary for the *Star* to say that it does not share the peculiar views expressed by Kiefer and his 'non-resistant' associates, but it is necessary to say that the only importance of these men to us and to other Single Taxers is the fact that for some years they have been prominent in the Single Tax movement, and that we hope the Single Taxers of America will quickly and effectively relieve them of their prominence in the movement.

"The overwhelming majority of Single Tax men and women of America are loyal to their country, and the stigma of disloyalty should not attach to them because of the attitude and utterances of a few persons. Those Americans who are not for America in this war are against America, and if there is any difference between being against America and being for Germany and Prussianism we don't know what it is. It is distinctly harmful to the Single Tax cause that Daniel Kiefer is chairman of the National Single Tax League."

A Few Pertinent Questions

WHY do you not demand that the initial distribution of minerals and native timber be made on a basis of equality to all and that the possessor, once possessed, be made secure in his possession?

Why do you not demand that land tenants be held accountable to their fellow men for their tenure according to its relative utility value?

Why do you not demand that a clear distinction be made between the collection of taxes and the payment of taxes, recognizing the fact that the tobacco manufacturer and the brewer collect the tax that is deposited in the government treasury as internal revenue, but that the user of the tobacco and drinker of the beer PAY THE TAX, according to the amount of the use or drink, and that this principle applies with equal certainty to all other beverages and foods that are taken into the human mouth, whereas assessments are made on a basis of equality.

M. B. PINKERTON, in *Wisconsin State Journal*

THE new Brooklyn Single Tax League will be launched at a dinner to be given on June 5 at 6:30 o'clock at the Central Y. M. C. A., Hanson Place. Among the speakers will be a representative from the National Party. Other speakers who will talk to the diners will be W. B. Vernam, Joseph Dana Miller and others.

"WOMEN are allowed to look after the defectives and unfortunates, but they want to get back behind the causes of pauperism and insanity; and in nine-tenths of the cases these result from bad laws. It is this wish to help that makes us long for the ballot. MRS. MARY A. LIVERMORE