

NEEDED: A NEW FRONTIER

By Emily E. F. Skeel

I have just finished reading the account, popularized for a Sunday newspaper supplement, of the centennial celebration of the settlement of Marietta, Ohio. The various pageants and meetings held this summer throughout "the North Western Territory" must have been in many cases interesting and sometimes inspired.

Yet, for the sake of clear and straight thinking, certain factors should be kept in mind, lest we join, unwittingly, in the grand whoop-la of enthusiasm. Taking into account the origin and the outcome of that first striking trek of our people, the eye of the single taxer must necessarily perceive two points, for the most part ignored.

First: at the meeting in Philadelphia, during the Christmas holidays, of the American Historical Association with many other learned societies, a professor of one of the western state universities, himself a splendid specimen of humanity, described the deals that went on behind closed doors before the Ordinance of 1787 could be put through. It appears that one group of easterners, of whom the most zealous individual was a clergyman, withheld their votes and consents to the plans, in the hope of obtaining at certain low prices hundreds of thousands of acres of the new land for speculative purposes. And they won some concessions for such a program. So much for the beginnings.

When this speaker of the evening had finished, I made my way to him as a stranger, to congratulate him on the great interest and value of his address, adding: "I take a special

delight in your speech, because I am convinced that you must be a single taxer." From his great height he looked down at me and said smilingly, "I have voted for single tax whenever it was possible."

Second: The recent above mentioned write up of the past century of that region says nothing about the injustices and dishonesties practised by both the Federal and local governments toward the red man in our national "appropriation" of the great West, but instead calls the roll of prominent names associated with that movement, and draws to the end of the enthusiastic account with the following:

"Today a physically full-grown and completed nation looks back a century and a half, marvels at what it sees, and learns to know itself anew."

Then, as if conscious that he might have laid himself open to attack, the writer admits that the frontier was a blessing: "for our economic system," as it "absorbed surplus labor and kept everybody reasonably happy; it welcomed the victims of every depression down to the latest and gave them...whereby to earn a livelihood."

Claiming that we are still "an expanding nation full of zip and ambition, with millions out of work which can't flow west into new land" (the emphasis is mine, to call attention to this superb specimen of an Irish bull), he sums up:

"What this country needs, by all thoughtful accounts, is a good, quick, handy substitute for a frontier."

Page the ALL-PROVIDER for a "handy"-sized, fertile and unpossessed continent to be delivered at once to the U. S. A.