

he is nothing more. And amid the superficial utterances of this well-intentioned gathering a note was struck that if not quite clear will echo with more familiar resonance in future conclaves.

Present at this gathering were Rabbi Wise and Carrie Chapman Catt. The former is reputed to be a Single Taxer; the latter was a member of the Fels Fund Commission, and so presumably of the faith. An opportunity was presented for either of these forward looking persons to come forward in support of the Miami professor. They had nothing to say in defence or elaboration of his contention, the nearest approach to anything fundamental in all the "blatherings" of the Conference.

To The Landlord— The Processes of Petrification

TO the landlord belongs, not only the land, but the slow processes of petrification through uncounted centuries. Mark Twain tells the story of the man who collected echoes; future generations may tell the tale of those whose newest "fads" will be the amassing of petrified forests.

The *Dearborn Independent* tells interestingly of Ollie Bocker, a lady who owns the only petrified forest in California which she bought of a "realtor" for \$16,000. California is the Mecca of landlordism, and it is appropriate that the newest development of landlordism should be found in that state. To own a petrified forest sets one aside from the common run of mankind as a unique personage.

Organizer Robinson Permanently In The Field

IT is good news that James A. Robinson, National Organizer of the Commonwealth Land Party, is now permanently engaged as lecturer and organizer for the party.

Mr. Robinson has left California and will proceed direct to Cleveland. From this point he will begin his work, filling lecture dates and organizing party groups wherever possible. Those wishing to secure him for addresses before labor unions, church associations, chambers of commerce, etc., in Ohio, will communicate with J. B. Lindsay, 7410 Franklin Avenue, Cleveland.

From Ohio Mr. Robinson will proceed to other states, where his lecture engagements will be in other hands. Financial support for this work should be forthcoming, for there is no man in the movement whose services are more valuable. Mr. Robinson is an eloquent expounder of the economic gospel as it is in George, a ready debater, and a real power on the platform. We shall furnish from issue to issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM* full reports of his work as it proceeds.

The Stolen Lands of England

THE Right Hon. Stephen Walsh, M. P., Secretary for War in the late Labor Government, has succeeded in arousing the Landlords of Britain to attempt a "Reply" to his charges of "Stolen Lands." Mr. Walsh has been making very good use of the historical information published by the C. L. P. in their weekly journal, *The Commonwealth*, and, of course, the press has had to take notice of the utterances of a Cabinet Minister. So it comes about that the Central Landowners' Association, alarmed at the unusual publicity given to their monopoly, have rushed into print with an "Official Reply," published in *The Times*, for December 16th last. The article is a piece special pleading which, so far from "refuting the charges," as was hoped, confirms them. If this is the best defence that the Landlords can put up, then the oftener they do it the better. Readers of *LAND AND FREEDOM* will be interested to read the "reply" for themselves and accordingly it is reprinted in full hereunder.

"Land and The People." "Socialist Charges Refuted." "A Page of History." These are the captions under which the article appears in *The Times*.

"A speech made by the Right Hon. Stephen Walsh, then Minister for War, at Radcliffe, Manchester, was reported in *The Times* of October 27, 1924. In that speech Mr. Walsh is reported to have spoken of 'the restitution of the stolen lands to the people' and of 'the awful robbery' of land by landlords in the 18th and 19th centuries. 'No more infamous records,' he is reported to have added, 'had been established in England,' and 'no more infamous robbery.'

"The insistence on the recurrent phrases of 'stolen lands,' 'awful robbery,' 'infamous robbery,' constitutes a serious charge against the landowners of this country. It is unthinkable that Mr. Walsh would have given the weight of his public services and the authority of a Minister of the Crown to so grave an accusation, unless he had believed it to be true. We therefore desire to put on record some historical facts which, in our opinion, show the charge to be unfounded.

"The restitution of the stolen lands to the people' necessarily implies that the land of this country was at one time owned by the people. In the earliest records of Saxon times there is no trace of such ownership; but there is abundant evidence that land was owned by individuals. For more than 13 centuries, therefore, the State has sanctioned private ownership.

"But Mr. Walsh specifies the particular period—the 18th and 19th centuries—at which, as he alleges, landlords robbed the people of the land. Apparently he refers to the operation of the Enclosure Acts, which broke up the village farms by redistributing their common-fields and common-pastures in compact freehold blocks. It is, of course, true that in 1760 one-half or one-third of the cultivated land of England was occupied by groups of occupiers who tilled and grazed it in common, and that, by 1875, practically the whole of the land was occupied by individuals who cultivated it with the aid of wage-earning workers. This transformation was part of the industrial movement which within the same period changed