

flict between capital and labor. This is not true. The conflict is between labor and capital on the one hand and monopoly on the other hand. It is, therefore, the part of statesmanship to relieve both labor and capital of the onerous taxes which are responsible for the business depression.

The third factor in the production of wealth, land, presents an entirely different problem. Land is the gift of God to mankind. It should be accessible to all and, therefore, as free as possible to everyone. It becomes free in proportion as it is taxed up to its rental value. When untaxed or partially taxed it becomes a monopoly, and through its ownership wealth is diverted into the pockets of those who have done nothing to earn it.

The territory of the United States is easily capable of supporting ten times our present population. The State of Texas with its seven million inhabitants is about the same size of Germany with its seventy million. Professor Switzer of the Iowa State College even goes so far as to assert that the population of the globe, some two billions in all, could subsist by intensive cultivation upon the soil of Texas. Anyone who has traveled across our country knows that it is sparsely settled. In the last century only one man in twenty-five lived in the city, all others living in the country districts. Now, largely because of the increased efficiency of labor-saving farm machinery, fully half of our population reside in cities. But we have the paradox of a country in which there is an artificial scarcity of land. This is due to land monopoly resulting from a wrong system of taxation. By taxing the land up to the limit of economic rent it becomes cheap in price and consequently accessible, and by so doing we would throw open to settlement and use what would amount to a new continent. Meanwhile the government is following the absurd procedure of maintaining irrigating projects in desert lands while paying huge subsidies to farmers for keeping rich lands out of cultivation!

It is a matter of common knowledge that there was little poverty with no unemployment, low taxes and a very decent degree of prosperity prevailing everywhere in the country so long as there was a frontier of arable land where the enterprising settler might go if not satisfied with wages paid. But now there is no frontier and the land of the country is in the grip of monopoly due to our stupid system of taxation. Fully fifty per cent of the land of every American city is held out of use in vacant lots by the speculator. The explanation commonly made in reference to the depression that this is due to mal-distribution is erroneous. Our distributing facilities are excellent. The fault lies entirely with inability of the citizens to buy what he needs, due to the unnatural poverty of the people. The procedure, therefore, for an enlightened government is not to command impossible wages to be paid or impossible conditions to be observed, but to take taxes off of capital and labor as quickly as possible and to shift this

tax upon the rental value of land. This constitutes the perfecting of the democracy of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Henry George.

## Washington News

ON the last Sunday in May, between fifty and sixty Single Taxers and their friends met in Riverdale, Md., for their annual gathering, a custom inaugurated when Colonel H. Martin Williams was appointed Reading Clerk of the House of Representatives in 1912, a position which he held until his opposition to seeing our country involved in a European War led to his dismissal.

For twelve years, the hospitable home of Colonel Williams—better known to his ever widening circle of friends as "Uncle Martin"—and his niece, Mrs. Jessie Lane, was a Mecca for Single Taxers and the scene of their annual reunion on or about the last Sunday in May.

About two months after the passing of Colonel Williams on March 8, 1924, his niece became the wife of the man who had devotedly nursed him to the end, James Hugh Keeley, a loyal and active worker in the fight for economic freedom, as he had been for temperance and for District suffrage, and in an earlier day, for the enfranchisement of women; and for eight years Mr. and Mrs. Keeley entertained Single Taxers and other progressives in the old home, which had grown to be an economic oasis in the midst of a desert of conservatism.

On August 1, 1932, Mr. Keeley joined his old friend "Uncle Martin," and for the last two years, Mrs. Keeley has bravely carried on alone, entertaining the Single Taxers and their friends the last of May.

Following the basket picnic, there was a programme of speakers among whom were George H. Duncan, former State Senator from New Hampshire, now secretary to Representative Fred H. Brown from that State; W. R. Gaylord, former Socialist State Senator from Wisconsin; John Salmon and Francis I. Mooney from Baltimore; George T. Pickett, President of the Llano Co-operative Colony in Louisiana; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips, who recited two poems; Judge Lawrence Becker, Henry W. Selah, and A. L. Colton; Linn A. E. Gale, President of the Washington Open Forum; and Harlan E. Glazier, Secretary of the D. C. Socialist Local.

Western Starr closed the programme with a well-merited tribute to the hostess, to whom, in the name of the Woman's Single Tax Club of Washington, D. C., he presented a pretty and appropriate greeting folder containing a birthday remembrance from members and friends of the society. Mrs. Keeley, taken too completely by surprise to make any extended response, was soon surrounded by her guests, extending best wishes as adjournment brought the end of another perfect day.—GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

"I do but hunt God's ain cattle on God's ain hills."  
CHARLES KINGSLEY'S "Outlaw."