

**BORN-ROBBED IN A LAND OF PLENTY**

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*(For the Review.)*

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**BY W. B. NORTHROP**

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How many citizens of our glorious Timocracy realize that they are born robbed? When our patriotic forefathers founded our more or less glorious Republic, the country was hailed as "the land of the free and the home of the brave" and, up to a certain period of our history, the elements of freedom actually existed. This brief period was covered by the time during which the lands of the country were open to access by the people. When our lands were seized upon and monopolized by "Big Business," then the Republic disappeared and gave away to an oligarchy of the rich, and the present Timocracy was established. The freedom of the people passed away. Today, every child that comes into the light of day in this country is literally born robbed.

What has become of the land of our country, for which our forefathers fought and died? Where is that vast public domain about which Government officials boasted so glibly in the early seventies? In the words of a famous crook-politician, "it has gone where the woodbine twineth." Our public lands today—with the exception of certain grants to public schools, are in the hands of railroads, oil kings, timber kings, coal barons, steel magnates and the rest of the captains of industry who go to make up our government; and whose mandates are obeyed by a sufficient number of Cabinet officers to keep the business of the country along "safe and sane" lines.

But let us get down to "brass tacks," and put our glittering generalities aside for a moment. Let the born-robbed examine this matter of their heritage which has passed away. Let Esau figure out how much more he would have had if he had stuck tight to his mess of pottage, and not considered the blandishments of his brother Jacob.

In 1870—only 45 years ago—the public lands of this country, to which you, gentle reader, had a right, amounted to 1,387,732,209 acres. This, if divided up, would make 13,000,000 good sized farms; or 200,000,000 farms such as the peasants of France and Belgium are satisfied with. Counting the lands as worth only \$2. an acre, this would amount to a cash value of \$2,775,464,418—quite a tidy little sum; sufficient to give each man, woman and child in this country a little over 15 acres. Taking our farming population alone as approximately 8,000,000 persons, each farmer could have about 173 acres. Each member of the working class population—supposing we left the farmers to be contented with the lands they had—would have 69 acres.

Of course, everyone would not care to be a farmer, to be sure. But, at the same time, no one would refuse 69 acres of land if it were offered to him; and, furthermore, everyone would like the option of taking it or leaving it.

Today, the public domain of surveyed land has dwindled to 188,889,136

acres—not sufficient to give our population 2 acres per capita. Our considerate Government has “disposed of” the patrimony of the people—yours and mine—to the extent of a thousand million acres.

To whom has it been given?

Here are some of the recipients:

Union Pacific Railroad.....	41,500,000	acres
Northern Pacific Railroad. ....	58,000,000	“
Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. ....	52,000,000	“
Southern Pacific Railroad .....	12,000,000	“
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Total to four railroads.....	163,500,000	“
Other roads .....	37,000,000	“
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Total free gifts to railroads .....	200,500,000	“

Most of the railroads paid not one cent for their lands; but “held them for a raise” and managed to obtain from settlers prices ranging from \$5. to \$20. per acre. Encouragement was given to these railroad companies in the early days by the Government under the delusion that it accelerated “railroad enterprise.” Strange to say, however, those railroad companies that had no free grants of land, built their roads even more rapidly than roads which were given grants of land. The average grant of land to the railroads was 12,500 acres—free from taxation, and without cost—for every mile of track. Many of the lines got 25,000 acres per mile of track.

The railroads, in order to obtain these grants of land from an acquiescent Government, offered to carry the mails for “nothing.” Let us see what this “nothing” amounted to:

In 1880, railroads holding land grants sold 14,310,204 acres, receiving therefor the neat sum of \$68,905,479. The average price per acre in most cases came to about \$10. This, mind you, for land for which the roads had paid nothing whatever. In certain cases, lands were sold by the roads at a nominal figure; even as low as 35c. an acre: but it was to stockholders of the respective roads; and the sales were concealed in fraudulent “expense accounts.”

Carrying the mails “for nothing” worked out very prettily in many instances. Thus, the small line of road running from Chicago, Ill. to Cairo, Ill., — distance of 705 miles—received a land grant of 2,595,053 acres; of which it sold 2,215,789 acres at a cost of \$10 per acre; netting \$22,157,890—or half the total cost of the road.

The LaCrosse & Milwaukee Railroad gave 13 senators and 59 assemblymen stock valued at from \$5,000 to \$25,000 each to obtain land grants for the railroads which practically paid the entire cost of construction.

The Great Northern Railroad—“Jim Hill’s”—which received from a willing Government upwards of 2,000,000 acres, sold 458,000 acres for \$8,242,583.

Archbishop Ireland, acting as the agent of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, in Minnesota, sold vast quantities of railroad lands some years back; netting high figures for vast tracts; the reverend gentleman actuated mainly—though not entirely, perhaps—on behalf of the encouragement of immigration.

The Union Pacific grants amounted to more than 7,000,000 acres altogether. This Company sold 1,568,438 acres for \$6,916,811 in 1880; and has averaged much higher prices even than these figures ever since. Railroad grants in California have well-nigh eaten up the whole of the State. The Western Pacific and Central Pacific received 12,800 acres per mile of track; and the Southern Pacific later received 25,000 acres per mile after the absorption of the first-named roads. Grants extending from 10 to 20 miles on each side of the track were freely made by the bought legislature of the State. Out of a 5,000,000 acre grant made to the Central Pacific, 295,886 acres were sold for \$1,114,999 up to 1886; while up to 1897, 3,000,000 acres had been sold for more than \$10,000,000.

In most of these railroad sales, the roads have flagrantly violated the terms of the grants. Recognizing this fact, some years ago, the roads began protecting themselves by changing the form of the deeds of conveyance so as to guard themselves against future Government litigation. In 1902, the Harriman lines withdrew their lands from sale to the extent of 2,000,000 acres; which was also a violation of the terms of the grants.

Summing up the whole railroad land grant position, it may be said that the lands sold or acquired by the roads have actually paid for more than the construction of the roads. Six sections of land per mile will pay for cost of construction; but our great roads have looted the people to the extent of 40 sections of land per mile in many cases. In actual cash, the roads have received for their lands nearly \$500,000 per mile; whereas average cost of track per mile has only been between \$40,000 and \$75,000.

The average price received by the railroads has been \$10. per acre. Their 200,000,000 acres for "carrying the mails" has, therefore, brought them \$2,000,000,000.—(two billions of dollars).

As long ago as 1848, there was a strong "Nationalist" movement which agitated for the building of the railroads by the people. This party pointed out that the land grants would pay for the building of the roads—as they have done in actuality—and advocated the ownership of the roads by the people who gave up their public domain lands to pay for them. But this movement was killed in its inception. The citizens of the country have been defrauded of two thousand million dollars worth of land, and the railroads are owned by private corporations.

Should a movement be started to "nationalize" the roads today, the said roads would probably raise the cry of "compensation" and wish to have returned to them the money which they (the stockholders) are alleged to have paid for construction.

But let us return to our muttons:

The patient reader will have asked: Where do I personally come in?

The answer is: are you satisfied to remain born-robbed in a land of plenty?

But, you will say, we still have some of our public domain left; it has not all been given away to railroads.

Quite true:

The surveyed public domain, on June 30, 1911, was 188,889,136 acres.

But where is it?

Most of it is in what is known as the "arid belt" and 60,000,000 acres of it could not be used unless it was first irrigated; so the actual acreage of surveyed lands comes down to about 128,000,000 acres. This land lies between western Nebraska and the Pacific Coast and from British Columbia to the Mexican boundary. There is a lot of unsurveyed land, to be sure. Perhaps you would like some of that: Well, you will find it at the bottoms of our lakes; on the tops of the Rocky and other mountains; and in other inaccessible places where surveyors are somewhat chary of going. Go and get some. To paraphrase Mark Twain, "if you like that sort of land, that is the sort of land you will like." We prefer land that can be cultivated, fairly near to markets; with railroad facilities. Try to get some of this land without paying a steep price for it. It is simply out of the question.

This land question, by the way, seems a very complex affair; but, after all, it really is not. The land of a country naturally belongs to the people of that country; but Government—in its usurped authority—bartered the patrimony of the people to the railroads and the "big business" corporations. Thus it is that all our mineral, oil, coal, agricultural, gold, silver and other lands have passed away from the hands of the people. If our public domain still remained in the hands of the citizens of this country, our original independence would never have vanished. In money, we have been defrauded of thousands of millions of dollars worth of land since the year 1880. In that year, the public domain still remaining to the people was 1,387,732,209 acres. Much of this land has brought on an average \$10 per acre when sold by railroad companies. Counting the wealth of mineral lands—gold, iron ore, petroleum, coal, oil—the average per acre would pan out at far more than \$10. per acre; but, supposing, just for the sake of argument, we set the average price per acre at \$10, we would have our public domain worth, in dollars, the colossal sum of \$13,877,322,090.

To be conservative, suppose we admit that out of our thousand million acres of public domain, only half of it is worth \$10. per acre. Dividing our thirteen thousand million dollars by 2 we would get still \$6,900,000,000 belonging to the people which has been literally squandered by our National so-called Government. Every man, woman and child in the United States is entitled, by this figuring, to \$70. of the public patrimony; or every family of four persons has been buncoed out of \$280. You may not want your \$280; but there are many millions of others here today who do; and if this vast

wealth were divided among but 20,000,000 workers alone, each worker would have guaranteed to him, or her, a fair livelihood. If our public domain had remained in the hands of the people, and been leased to railroads, and other business corporations, the citizens of this country would be receiving per capita something in the neighborhood of \$900. per annum. The State of Minnesota, for instance, reserved certain of its lands and rented them to iron-mining corporations. The lands were assigned to the public school authorities by the State Legislature; and were located in the distant Lake Superior district. The transaction was considered by politicians of the day in the nature of a joke. However, the school authorities have received more than \$16,000,000 by way of revenue from these "worthless lands." Each year a very substantial return comes into the coffers of the State from ore leases alone.

Seizing the lands of the people is the time honored method of depriving them of their liberty. In the declining days of Rome, the immense "latifundia"—or broad estates—of the senators worked by slaves sapped the strength of the Empire, and brought upon it ruin.

The method of "big business" has been along classic lines. Before systematic exploitation of the people could be possible the public lands had first to be expropriated. And this has been done. Except in the arid regions, little public domain now remains.

Of course we have our belated "Conservation Movement," which has withdrawn from exploitation all land which has not already been seized by our Timocratic Government—namely the rich oligarchy under which we now precariously exist.

But the slavery of the people of this country is complete. The birth-right of the people has been bartered away. Fraud and chicanery, violence and the "statute of limitations," have transferred the lands of the people into the hands of private ownership.

Have you ever considered the actual value of these "titles" to land, which the great corporations think they have so cleverly obtained? Some of the very best legal opinion has already challenged the validity of much of this transfer; and, doubtless, when the people become strong enough to investigate the matter, they will be able to reclaim their rights to the country. Speaking of title to land, here are a few opinions on that subject which may be of interest in this connection:

Blackstone, the great legal authority, said: "Accurately and strictly speaking, there is no foundation in nature or natural law why a set of words on parchment should convey the dominion of land."

Chief Justice Coleridge, one of the greatest authorities in legal matters, in discussing the land laws, said: "These—our land laws—might be for the general advantage, and if they could be shown to be so, by all means they should be maintained; but, if not, does anyone, with what he is pleased to call his mind, deny that a state of laws under which such mischief could exist,

under which the country itself would exist, not for its people, but for a mere handful of people, should be absolutely set aside."

Another great legal authority, Justice Longfield, pronounced the following judgment:

"Property in land differs in its origin from property in any commodity produced by human labor; the product of labor naturally belongs to the laborer who produced it; but the same argument does not apply to land, which is not produced by labor, but is the gift of the Creator of the world to mankind. Every argument used to give an ethical foundation for the exclusive right of private property in land has a latent fallacy."

With these legal arguments in their favor, the people have the perfect right to demand back from the railway and other corporate cormorants, the public domain which has been filched by fraud and deception, to say nothing of other means, from the people. Ownership by the people of our public domain lands, to say nothing of the immensely valuable lands in our great cities—also obtained by very doubtful means—would place the people above want and the fear of want.

Unfortunately, in our anxiety to obtain immediate redress of many of our social and economic evils, we are apt to overlook one of the great remedies which lie right at our door.

There is no reason why the people should be born-robbed in a land of plenty.

Is there any peaceful means of re-obtaining for the people all this wealth of land, both in town and country? Any means by which, without disturbing a single title, (except those obtained by deliberate fraud—against which the "statute of limitations" does not act) all lands may be restored to their rightful owners? Yes, there is a means, and a very simple one. The Government, or the people, by means of their ballots, could impose a tax upon all land values which would automatically bring back to the people the lands of their birth-right.

We would then be once more a prosperous people. Until that is done, our alleged prosperity is a mere figment of the imagination—the veriest shadow.

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As THE heavens were appropriated to the gods, so was the earth to the children of men.—Tacitus' Speech of Boicalus to the Roman general, Annals XIII., 55.

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WITH gates of silver and bars of gold  
 Ye have fenced my sheep from their Father's fold;  
 I have heard the dropping of their tears  
 In heaven these eighteen years.

—JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

**THE PROPOSED OREGON AMENDMENT.**

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Following is the proposed amendment to be submitted by initiative petition to the voters of Oregon in November, by the Central Labor Committee of Portland and vicinity. This will be submitted unless something better is offered. Criticisms and suggestions are asked for and should be addressed to the Secretary, E. J. Stack, Labor Temple, Portland, Oregon.

We print the proposed measure in full. It is the broadest Single Tax proposal ever offered to the voter, and marks a tremendous step in advance.

Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of Oregon, being the Bill of Rights, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

**BILL OF RIGHTS.****ARTICLE I.****PEOPLE'S POWER AND RIGHTS.**

We declare that all men, when they form a social compact, are equal in rights; that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper.

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO USE LAND.**

We reaffirm our faith in the self evident truths of the Declaration of Independence, "That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." In pursuance of these rights all citizens of Oregon are equally entitled to the exclusive possession, for their personal use, of as much land as may be necessary for their homes, and from which to produce a living by their individual labor, without paying any person for leave to live and labor on the land.

**PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF GROUND RENT.**

Public ownership of all ground rent is right, because such rent is created by the presence, industry and productive power of the whole people as a social organism, and not by those individuals only who own or hold title to land. Private ownership of ground rent is the chief cause of land monopoly and land speculation. It is therefore right and necessary, in order to promote the general welfare, that all ground rent shall be collected by public taxation, and equally, whether the land is actually rented or used or not.

**PUBLIC POLICY.**

It is the public policy of Oregon to abolish all forms of land monopoly and leave no chance for any person to get a profit by owning land without using it; to begin the abolition of involuntary unemployment and poverty

in this State by enacting such laws as shall insure opportunity to all citizens for the exclusive possession and use of enough land to employ themselves and make their home, so long as there is idle land; to protect all persons in the absolute ownership of the value of their land improvements and the rents or other payments for the use of such land improvements.

DEFINITION OF THE WORD "LAND."

For purposes of taxation, assessment and appraisal, the word "land" means the earth, including soil, water, water powers, minerals, stone, natural oils, gases, timber of natural growth, and all other natural resources before being severed, removed, or withdrawn from their natural position.

DEFINITION OF THE WORDS "GROUND RENT."

The words "ground rent" as used in this section mean the highest price that is or can be obtained in the open market for the use of any lot, tract or parcel of land, for a definite time, exclusive of improvements, plus the total tax on the ground rent and plus the tax on the lease.

DEFINITION OF "LAND IMPROVEMENTS."

The words "land improvements" mean valuable and useful changes, growths or additions made by labor in or to any natural resources, or on, in or under any portion, parcel or tract of land.

LEVY OF PERMANENT GROUND RENT TAX.

A continuing annual tax is hereby levied of 90 cents in each dollar of ground rent on land in Oregon not now exempt by law from taxation. The ground rent tax shall be collected in like manner as taxes on land are now collected until otherwise provided by law, or by the rules made by the State Land Board; but no other tax shall be levied on ground rent, land, or land value. An additional one-tenth of this ground rent tax may be levied, either by general law or by local taxing authorities.

BASIS OF VALUATION FOR ASSESSMENT.

The value of any tract, lot or parcel of land, for assessment is the amount for which, if it were by law forever free and exempt from all taxes and public charges, it would sell, at a voluntary sale, made in the ordinary course of business, and in which the value of the improvements, if any, would be appraised and stated separately from the value of the land. On that valuation of the land the yearly ground rent tax shall be levied, in all cases where the land is not actually rented. If the land is rented, the amount of yearly ground rent agreed upon shall be taken into consideration, but the assessed value shall in every such case be at least twenty times the amount of the ground rent for the year of assessment. No land shall be valued hereafter for assessment at less than the amount for which it was assessed for the tax year beginning on the first day of March, 1915.



## MINIMUM ANNUAL AMOUNT OF GROUND RENT.

For the purpose of this section the minimum annual "Ground Rent" of every lot, parcel or tract of land is hereby conclusively presumed and declared to be not less than an amount equal to five per cent. of the assessed value of the land for that year, exclusive of improvements. This conclusive presumption of the minimum amount of ground rent applies equally to all land not now exempt by law from taxes, whether said land be held in idleness or actually used by the owner or tenants.

## WHEN GROUND RENT TAX SHALL BE PAID.

Any person whose tax on ground rent in one county in any year is greater than \$100. and not more than \$300. shall pay such tax in two equal semi-annual installments; if more than \$300. and not more than \$600. he shall pay such ground rent in four equal quarterly installments; if more than \$600. he shall pay such ground rent tax in equal monthly installments. Failure to pay any installment of ground rent tax when due shall render such tax delinquent liable and immediately subject to such penalties and process for collection as may be provided by law or by the rules of the State Land Board. Any tax collector who shall permit any such tax or installment thereof to stand delinquent for more than thirty days without legal action to enforce its collection, shall thereby forfeit his office. He shall be summarily removed from his office by the governor, and the unexpired term of said officer shall be filled in the manner required by law.

## ADDITIONAL PENALTY ON DELINQUENT GROUND RENT TAX.

If any person shall fail or refuse, for a period of thirty days after the same is due, to pay any installment of ground rent tax due from him, he shall thereby deprive himself of all right to bring any suit or action in any court to collect his rent or any part thereof, or to enforce any provision of his lease against his tenant or landlord, as the case may be, and all other persons.

While such failure or refusal continues, no court or judge shall entertain or permit to be filed, received or heard in his court any action or suit by such delinquent taxpayer, or his assigns, to enforce any provision of the title, deed, lease, contract or agreement concerning which any installment of ground rent tax is unpaid. If any such suit or action shall be filed, it shall be stricken from the docket upon proof that any such tax is delinquent and unpaid as aforesaid, and for that purpose this defence may be offered by the tenant and shall be offered by the District Attorney on behalf of the State. During all the time that such taxpayer is delinquent, the tax collector shall collect the remaining installments of ground rent directly from the tenant and sub-tenants under such lease.

## RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY MAINTAINED.

This section does not limit, change or abolish any person's rights of private property or of private ownership and exclusive possession of his land and land leases, so long as he pays the ground rent tax.

## SEPARATE ASSESSMENT OF LAND.

The assessed value of every tract, lot and parcel of land, and of every lease, and the amount of ground rent thereon, and the tax thereon, shall be listed in the assessment and tax rolls separately from other taxes and from the assessed value of any personal property, and of any improvements on, in or under such land.

## STANDING TIMBER.

Standing timber of natural growth shall be assessed and taxed as a part of the land on which it grows.

## ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAX.

The laws in operation for assessing property and levying and collecting taxes and delinquent taxes when this section is adopted shall continue in force, and shall be applied to the collection of the tax hereby levied on ground rent and leases of land, except as herein provided, and as such laws may be changed by amendments and rules made hereafter in accordance with this section.

## DUTY OF GOVERNOR. POWER OF STATE LAND BOARD.

It is the duty of the governor to enforce all the provisions of this section. The State Land Board, by a majority vote of the members, is hereby authorized to prescribe all forms and blanks, and all conditions of contracts, and to make and promulgate all rules, expedient to aid in the enforcement and application of this section. Every such rule shall have the force and effect of law until it is changed or repealed by the legislative assembly or by the people. The governor, secretary of State and State treasurer constitute the State Land Board.

## HOME RULE IN TAX ON LAND IMPROVEMENTS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.

The officers of every county, municipality and taxing district having authority to levy taxes, may continue to levy taxes annually on land improvements and personal property, but the referendum powers are hereby reserved to the voters of every such county, municipality and taxing district against every such tax levy and every part and percentage thereof. Said officers may also submit such levy to the people by referendum order. If the tax is levied by a town, referendum is to the people of that town; if by county, then to the people of that county, and in like manner to the people of other taxing districts. Any tax levy on personal property and land improvements shall be made on or before the first day of September for collection the next year, and the referendum petitions may be filed not later than the 25th day of October next for submission of all or any percentage of such levy to a vote of the people of the taxing district. Five days after the expiration of the time for filing such referendum petitions with the clerk, auditor or recorder of the taxing district or board, he shall order a special election to be held throughout the taxing district on or before the last day of November next

after the filing of such petition, for approval or rejection by the people of the demands of such referendum petition or petitions.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE FROM GROUND RENT TAX.

Two-thirds of the revenue obtained in each county from the ground rent tax levied in that county shall be divided among the different towns, cities, ports and other municipalities in the county, and between that county and the State, by allowing and paying to each the same amount that each received from the general tax levy of 1915, if said portion shall be sufficient for such allowance and payment. If said two-thirds of the ground rent tax shall not be sufficient in any county for such division and payment, then each of said different municipal corporations shall receive the same proportion of said two-thirds of the ground rent tax that it received of the revenue from the general tax levy of 1915. If this two-thirds of the ground rent tax does not supply sufficient revenue, additional taxes may be levied as provided in the preceding paragraph. The above distribution of two-thirds of the revenue from said ground rent tax may be changed from time to time by law.

#### HOME MAKER'S LOAN FUND.

An account is hereby ordered to be opened by the State Treasurer which shall be entered as the "Home Maker's Loan Fund." One-third of all the revenue obtained in the State from said ground rent tax, and all revenue hereafter obtained from the present inheritance tax rate, shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the "Home Maker's Loan Fund Account." The amount of this fund may be increased in any manner and from any source that may be now or hereafter provided by law. This fund shall be administered by the State Land Board. The Board shall lend the money from this fund to home makers, in its discretion, both in the town and country, in amounts not exceeding two-thirds of the actual value of the improvements they may make or have already made, on any tract or lot of land. Payment to the borrower of portions of such loan may be made at definite periods to be fixed by the Board, as such improvements may be completed. The Board shall so provide that every such loan shall be the first lien on the land and improvements, except taxes, and every such home and improvements shall be exempt from execution except only for State loans and interest, taxes and the purchase price.

One purpose of this section is to help persons with no capital but their labor and character to make homes and farms, but not more than \$1,500. shall be loaned for the making of one such home or farm. This fund is for loan to those who are now trying to make homes and farms as well as to persons who begin hereafter.

#### COST, INTEREST AND TIME OF REPAYMENT.

The average actual cost of making, securing and administering said loans shall be estimated by the State Land Board, and a percentage sufficient to

cover the same shall be deducted from every loan as the same is advanced to the borrower. The loans shall be secured by first mortgage on the improvements and the land. There shall be no interest on any such loan for the first five years, and thereafter the rate of interest shall not be greater than six per cent. per annum. Every such loan may be made repayable by installments, but the final payment shall not in any case be more than twenty years from the date of the loan.

**FORM AND PAYMENT OF STATE WARRANTS ON HOME MAKER'S LOAN FUND.**

The warrants drawn on the State Treasury for said Home Maker's Loan Fund shall be designated as such; they shall be payable on demand in lawful money of the United States of America, shall not bear interest, and shall be at all times receivable by all tax collectors at their face value for one-third of all ground rent taxes, and shall at all times be received by the State Treasurer in payment of all amounts due the State for such Loan Fund Account. Said warrants shall be issued in denominations of one dollar, two dollars, five dollars, ten dollars and twenty dollars each. Every such warrant, when received by the State Treasurer, shall be cancelled and shall not be reissued. The total amount of such Loan Fund warrants outstanding at one time shall never exceed two years income of said Loan Account as estimated by the State Land Board.

**SELF-EXECUTING.**

This section is self-executing and shall take effect and be in operation as to all assessments and taxes made or levied on or after the first day of March next after its approval and adoption by the people of Oregon. The provisions of this section do not apply to any assessments or taxes made or levied before the first day of March next after its approval by the people. All provisions of this section relating to the Home Maker's Loan Fund become operative and effective on the first day of December next after the approval of this section by the people. The Legislative Assembly is hereby instructed to enact laws to aid the enforcement, application and execution of this section and the public policy declared herein, but no law shall lessen its force and intent.

All provisions of the Constitution and laws of Oregon in conflict with this section or any part hereof, are hereby repealed in so far as they conflict herewith. Any paragraph of this section may be amended without resubmitting the entire section.

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"WE would simply take for the community what belongs to the community, the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community, leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual."—HENRY GEORGE.

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THE heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath He given to the children of men.—Psalms CXV, 16.