

compromise; it will be a stumbling block in our path onward. Oh, the dismal history of compromise on the one hand—compromise with right and truth which deprives man of his ideals, of his highest development, and leaves him like 'Tomlinson' unfit either for heaven or hell; and on the other the exercise of justice, of adherence to principle that lifts man to the goodly fellowship of the Apostles high above the plane of temporizing and compromise.

"Thus to raise high the ideal, to encourage man to do the best of which he is capable, is today the duty of the teacher and the preacher, and to compromise on a makeshift like the income tax will only again bring out plainly that nothing is ever settled until it is settled right."

LAND MONOPOLY, THE CURSE OF THE CENTURIES.

(FIFTH PAPER.)

American Land Monopolists—Continued.

(For the Review)

By H. MARTIN WILLIAMS.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.—In the list of land owners in California given in the November-December number of the *REVIEW*, the holdings of Miller & Lux were placed at 14,500,000 acres when the amount should have been 450,000 acres, and the name of Henry Miller, whose holdings are placed at the former figures, by Henry M. Hyde, in an article published in the *Technical World Magazine* for January, 1909, was entirely omitted from the list. The mistake occurred in transcribing my notes. I have found the work of compiling anything approaching correct list of large land holdings in the United States, most difficult. I have made up my lists from data considered reliable and authentic. If any readers of these articles are in possession of statistics of land ownership which have escaped my notice, or find inaccuracies in my lists, they will place me under obligations by calling my attention to them.—H. M. W.

ILLINOIS.

The great, fertile, agricultural State of Illinois, with its five and a quarter millions of people, is not behind many of her sister States in supplying a "happy hunting ground," for the forestallers, speculators and land-grabbers. The meagre statistics of land ownership in this State, which I have been able to obtain, show that the land monopolist, like the busy bee has improved "each shining hour," and that he is still at work. Millions of acres of the richest agricultural and mineral lands are now owned by individuals and corporations, in amounts ranging from 1000 to 80,000 acres each. It is in Logan county, this State, that the Scully estate owns 80,000 acres, besides thousands of acres in adjacent counties. The largest holdings are in the rich corn belt which comprises the northern half of the State, although there are extensive holdings in the southern part of the State. The largest of these consist of coal

lands which have been purchased in large quantities within the last few years by coal syndicates and railroad companies. An eastern syndicate has recently purchased 52,000 acres of coal lands in Jefferson and Marion counties, and is still adding to its holdings. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. owns tens of thousands of acres in the central and southern part of the State.

In Jackson county, four coal companies own 12,497 acres of coal lands, and two individuals own 8,586 acres of farm lands.

In Hamilton county, four persons, one of them a non-resident, own 13,000 acres.

In White county, two men own 5,700 acres of land in the Wabash bottoms, that are as fertile as the lands in the famed Valley of the Nile.

The cases cited in these three counties are taken at random and are typical of the conditions in the great majority of the other 99 counties in the State, from which it will be seen that land monopoly in Illinois is pretty firmly rooted.

OTHER STATES.

In the States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, millions of acres of timber and mineral lands are owned by the lumber barons and the Steel Trust.

It is a well known fact that a comparatively few people own the wonderfully rich deposits of anthracite and bituminous coal in Pennsylvania. In Cambria county, 61,700 acres of these lands are owned by less than twenty individuals and corporations.

The coal, oil and natural gas fields of West Virginia are the property of less than five hundred individuals.

One man is said to own 750,000 acres in the State of Maine.

LAND MONOPOLY IN THE SOUTH.

But the land-grabbers have not confined their efforts to securing a monopoly of natural resources to the western and northern States. The mineral and timber lands of the South offered a rich and inviting field for exploitation, and multiplied millions of acres of mineral and timber lands in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana, and grazing lands in Texas, have been acquired by mining companies, lumber syndicates and cattle kings. The inroads of these land lords in the South, will, in the end, prove more detrimental to the real material interests of the great mass of inhabitants of those States, than the invasion of the Union armies during the Civil War.

The history of the vast tracts of land owned by the estate of N. W. Dodge, of New York, in the State of Georgia, furnishes a striking illustration of the methods of these lords of the land, and the resultant hardships suffered by the people who live on their lands. About eighty years ago, George E. Dodge, of New York, bought large tracts of land in Dodge, Telfair, Montgomery, Laurens and Pulaski counties in the South central part of the State, aggre-

gating about 300,000 acres. Litigation over portions of these lands has been going on for a quarter of a century, for the purpose of dispossessing settlers who were born and reared upon them, and upon which their parents lived for fifty years. As a result of the troubles growing out of this litigation, one murder has been committed, and three persons convicted of conspiracy and murder, one of whom died in prison, one was pardoned by President McKinley, and the other recently pardoned by President Taft. These lands known in Georgia as the "Dodge Lands," descended by inheritance from the original purchaser, George E. Dodge to Norman W. Dodge and are now the property of the estate of Norman W. Dodge.

LAND MONOPOLY IN OUR INSULAR POSSESSIONS.

The operations of the land monopolist are confined to no such narrow limits as the States composing the American Union, but like the Constitution he "follows the flag." Go to the Sandwich Islands and you find him gobbling up the lands of those beautiful islands by and with the advice and consent of the public officials, and that, too, during the Administration of President Roosevelt, and in the face of the declaration in his message of December 4, 1906, that "the needs of Hawaii are peculiar; every aid should be given the islands; and our efforts should be unceasing to develop them along the lines of a community of small freeholders, not of great planters with coolie-titled estates." Under the existing land laws of Hawaii, the Land Commissioner, who is an appointee of the Governor, has the power to exchange any or all of the public lands of the Territory with individuals or corporations for other lands. In the exercise of this power, what is known as the "Lanai Deal" was consummated. "By this deal," to use the words of the Address of the Territorial Democratic Central Committee to Congress, "nearly fifty thousand acres of public lands on the Island of Lanai—the best lands on the Island and the lands containing the best water resources of that Island—were secretly exchanged for a few pieces of property in Honolulu, and more than a hundred native Hawaiians were evicted from the soil on which most of them were born, and all of them had lived for years, as ruthlessly as the Crofters of Scotland or any peasants of Russia were ever evicted from their ancestral lands." This infamous transaction which vested the title to the entire Island, comprising over 88,000, had the approval of President Roosevelt, in a letter to Governor Carter, dated October 10, 1906, in which he said: "I do not care a rap what the politicians say about you, still less what they say about your course. You are doing all right, and you can be sure of my unqualified support." This is only one of many similar transactions in those islands, either with the connivance or downright approval of the officials.

The shameless robbery is still going on, and the native Hawaiians are being driven from their homes and off their beautiful islands to make room for American land grabbers.

American land monopoly moves rapidly. Apparently securely entrenched in Hawaii, it has gone across the Pacific and settled down in

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The manner in which it is proceeding to grab the patrimony of the Filipinos is shown in an editorial in *The Public*, of January 7, 1910, which says:

"The Organic Act of the Philippine Government provided that the unapportioned public lands obtained by treaty with Spain, should not be sold in tracts of over forty acres, and that no one corporation engaged in agriculture should hold more than 2,500 acres. Attorney General Wickersham has ruled that the church lands bought from the Recollet friars by the United States to straighten out certain semi-ecclesiastical questions which had arisen, do not come within this limitation, and has upheld as legal the sale of 55,000 acres of them in one parcel. The decision may be legally correct, and it may be true that the original restriction was unwise. But the argument of officials in Washington about the matter as reported in the daily press, seems highly inconsistent with the avowed purposes of that original restriction, which we were told ought to convince Anti-Imperialists that the United States would never permit its citizens to exploit the Philippines to the exclusion or injury of native interests. The active head of the Bureau of Insular Affairs and the Secretary of War are quoted in the *Inter Ocean* as saying, 'The church lands were bought for an investment. They are not public lands in the sense that the lands acquired from Spain are government lands. We want capital to go into the islands, and it would be preposterous to think that men will invest their money in the islands if they are to be limited to a little 2,500 acreage.'"

So, according to this argument, the government of the United States is in the field as a land speculator; as a proponent, aider and abettor of land monopolization in the Philippines.

We will next hear that the devil-fish of land monopoly has reached out its tentacles across the Spanish Main and is gathering in the soil of the Porto Ricans, if, indeed, it is not already doing so.

The next article in this series will be entitled "Tenant Farmers in the United States."—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

FROM AN ADDRESS BY HON. WM. H. BERRY, OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

The area of the United States is so great that the rapid monopolization of land was for a long time but little felt, but it is now becoming evident that our system of land tenure—and our land laws are essentially the same as those the Britisher is beginning to fight—must within a generation or two produce a landowning class as arrogant, as powerful, and as merciless as ever were princes and nobles, and a working class as subjected, as miserable, and cheated of the fruits of their labors as were any serfs or slaves.

And while Henry George, who has taught us, was a prophet and a seer,