

stone is there: the acquisition of land by force or fraud, the landowners' sitting and waiting, the growth of population, the need and demand for land, the mad scramble to get it, the savage speculation—and then, the collapse. As the French so neatly say, the more it changes, the more it remains the same.

Iran's earnest efforts to emerge from backwardness into modern civilization are surely commendable, but it is

regrettable that this ambitious descendant of a magnificent ancient kingdom has not learned from economic history. It is to be hoped that some day, perhaps, a new nation conceived in economic as well as political liberty will adopt the one economic principle that complies with natural law—the abolition of the private appropriation of rent. It is not difficult; after all, *Progress and Poverty* has been translated into many tongues.

"THIS LAND IS MINE"

Leoane Anderson, director of the Denver Extension, has observed with interest the extensive news coverage on a 77,000-acre plot involved in a "range-war," and writes that it is making Colorado land conscious and aware of the fact that even with all that expense there still may be, for some people, "no place to stand."

The disputed land was originally a Mexican grant. In 1844 a Justice of the Peace for Mexico pointed to a mountain range and told two young men a million acres was theirs. This has always been known as the Sangre de Cristo (blood of Christ) land grant—an appropriate name, for much blood has been spilled over it. Congress confirmed ownership of the land in 1853 and levied taxes. Large sections have subsequently been sold and resold.

Legal action presently involves Jack T. Taylor, owner of the 77,000 acres for which he paid \$500,000. He wants to be free to sell the land or use it as he wishes, but charges that residents, many of them claiming to be descendants of original land grants, refuse to accept his ownership. They feel they have grazing and timber rights, if not under terms of the grant, then because of "adverse possession"—a legal term which means uninterrupted use of land for more than 20 years.

"The land will cost you 275,000. Did I say 175,000? Sorry, that was yesterday's price!"

From *Vejen Frem*,
Denmark

