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One Dollar a Year

Monopoly, the most popular game in the country today, was really invented by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Philips, extension secretary of the Henry George School of Social Science in Washington, D.C. She worked it out thirty-two years ago - in 1904 - to illustrate the principles of land value taxation to her students and called the game "Landlord."

Since then she has invented four other games, all with the single tax system as the basic idea. In 1924 she was granted a patent on the "Landlord's Game" and it bears the same number as her first effort - 1,509,312.

Not until recently however, when the modification of her game known as "Monopoly," which is an adaptation and resembles it closely, patented by a Philadelphia engineer, caught the tide of last Christmas season, did it actually take hold and the game has been gaining favor ever since. The factories are working on three eight-hour shifts trying to keep pace with orders. Mrs. Philips says that the manufacturers expect to bring out her original game next season.

The patents on both games - Mrs. Philips' and the Philadelphian's - are now owned by Parker Bros., of Salem, Mass., large toy manufacturers. They give credit for the origin of the game to Mrs. Philips, who secured the basic patent. She received \$500 for her rights and gets none of the profits from "Monopoly."

The game is played with dice and counters. Each player starts with the same amount of scrip. The idea is to move the counters across a board marked off into streets, some vacant and others representing public utilities, jails, etc., and the aim is to secure more and more area and by developing and improving it, all of which enables the player to charge higher rents, crowd the others out. The game ends when all but one player have been

forced into bankruptcy, leaving the winner with all the assets and no customers.

Mrs. Philips, who is 62, is carrying on in the tradition of her father who was an advocate of the doctrines of Henry George.