

measure of ability is a public thing. It is as well known to all his neighbors as to the owner himself. It is easier to ascertain by assessors than the insurance value of the improvements upon it are by insurance agents. The title to a piece of land is the first of all monopolies. It is the fundamental source of revenue enjoyed under the protection of the state. It is, therefore, the most fitting thing for the state to tax.

JOHN GREGSON.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

BACK TO THE LAND.

Westover, Md.

We are all well, and as happy as a busy tribe could expect to be. I finished cutting 50 acres of wheat this p. m.; drove the machine part of the time myself. Had to rig it up with the help of a Negro employe, and lay on my back under it with a lantern till 10 p. m. the night before we began cutting—quite automobile style but a heap more fun. With barns to get ready for hay; late crops to prepare ground for—potatoes, cowpeas, buckwheat, rape (for hog pasture), silo corn, etc., etc.; with a neglected (not “a deserted”) garden, to bring up to date; with stock to get acquainted with, a regular crusade of errands to this town and that for these things and those—I have been kept jumping sideways.

But I am having the time of my life. Have landed in a most hospitable neighborhood, and am sure to become better acquainted as time goes on.

An institution here is the “Cooperative Produce Exchange” composed of farmers, ostensibly. Majority of stock, however, gradually passes into hands of bankers, lawyers, agents for commission houses, with natural results—line between “farmers of farms” and “farmers of farmers,” as you so forcefully phrase it.

Another institution is Negro labor. I am threshing out that problem practically. I find them (I have three) most exceedingly human: so mature and sophisticated in some ways, so like children in others. I am making no deductions yet, and have much to learn about and of them.

But the heart of the problem is visible instantly. My men do all the work on the place. They raise and harvest crops for wages. Then they come to me to buy straw for bed; milk, butter, eggs, meal, corn for a pig or chickens if they have them. Outside of my legal title to the land on which they labor, under a privilege I allow them—to work on it at a fraction only of what they produce—they would own it all and I would have to buy of them unless I produced as they do.

The farmer is going to be slow to give up this legal privilege he enjoys, of land monopoly; and not until the landless far exceed, numerically, the land-owning farmers, will they change the system.

WESTERN STARR.

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The single eyeglass is worn by the dude. The theory is that he can see more with one eye than he can comprehend.—United Presbyterian.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date. ●

Week ending Tuesday, June 29, 1909.

The Cleveland Traction Fight.

In connection with the Cleveland traction fight (p. 612) the committee of the whole of the City Council, to which the Chamber of Commerce franchise grant to the old company, drafted by Judge Tayler, had been referred, finally disposed of it at a meeting on the 21st by deciding by a vote of 23 to 0 to report against it. The introducer of the ordinance, Councilman Walz (a Democrat), refused to vote, as did Councilman Horner (a Republican). Councilman McClain (a Republican) voted for the adverse report. The other four Republicans were absent. Mayor Johnson and City Clerk Witt, ex-officio members of the committee of the whole, voted for the report.

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A few hours later, on the evening of the 21st, a meeting held under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce and at its rooms, began the organization of a “citizens’ committee” of 100 to oppose the adoption of the Schmidt ordinance at the referendum of August 3. Mayor Johnson on the 22d challenged the committee of 100 to a series of debates. No reply had been made at the time of the tent meeting for the Schmidt ordinance that night. The audience at this meeting is described by the Plain Dealer report as one of the most interested yet, hostile questions being asked by a member of the committee of 100, and answered by Mayor Johnson. No reply to the debating challenge had been given on the 23d, and many of the committee of 100 were reported as opposed to accepting. Their reported objection was that Mayor Johnson is an expert on traction technique and this would place anyone who attempted to debate with him at a disadvantage. “If that is given as a reason why the challenge should be declined,” said the Mayor, as reported in the Cleveland Press, “I am willing to be barred from participation in the debates. We have five or six others who can hold their own with any representatives the other side may have.” “It has been charged in the past that you packed the meetings when you were to debate,” he was told. “If the other side thinks there is danger of that, I am willing admittance should be by ticket, and I will give them all the

tickets," he replied. Mayor Johnson's debating challenge of the 22d to the committee of 100 was still unanswered on the 26th.

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On the evening of the 23d, Mayor Johnson's meeting was the largest of the campaign, according to the Plain Dealer of the 24th. His tent overflowed. He did little more than answer questions, and the crowd was enthusiastic. On this occasion, as reported by the same paper, he—

publicly announced his intention to remain in this city to fight for 3-cent fare, win or lose at the referendum or the mayoralty election next November. "Whether I am in office or not, whether I am mayor or a private citizen, I shall remain here and carry on this fight," said the Mayor. "This railway question has now reached the stage where it is never going to be settled unless it is settled right. We now have additional proof that 3-cent fare pays, and pays well. This proof comes from the books of the receivers, men who are not favorable to the low fare movement. Here and now I challenge anyone on the other side of this controversy to discuss the figures of the receivers dealing with the 3-cent lines. Those figures showing a substantial profit on the low fare lines now in operation have not been discussed by the opponents of low fare because they cannot be answered. I propose to stand for all time for the protection of the men who put money into low fare stock. If any settlement is made that works injustice to these men it will have to be made through other persons. I will never consent to it as long as I live. This contest has been reduced to a straight fight between the people who want 3-cent fare and the people who want 5-cent fare. And in it all is involved the question as to who owns the streets, the people or the privileged classes."

The meeting of the 26th is reported to have been still larger than the previous one. "The overflow extended beyond the stretch of canvas," the Plain Dealer puts it.

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At the City Council meeting on the 22d, an ordinance was read granting 13 extensions to the Payne avenue grant to Schmidt; and at a special meeting on the 24th, the extension ordinance was passed by a vote of 24 to 5. One Democrat (Walz) voted against it, and one Republican (McClain) voted for it. It contains a provision for the protection of the old low fare stockholders who exchanged their holdings for the stock of the Cleveland Railway Company upon the settlement which fell through at the referendum last Fall. This provision authorizes the grantee of the Schmidt franchises to take up the old low fare stock with stock of the new franchise to be voted on at the referendum on August 3.

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Bomb-Throwing in Chicago.

The thirty-first of a series of mysterious bomb explosions in Chicago occurred on the 27th in the

rear of No. 100 Washington street. It put the "Central" exchange of the Chicago Telephone company out of business and precipitated several panics in theaters and hotels. The damage, however, was practically confined within the radius of the block bounded by Washington, Clark, Madison and Dearborn streets. The dynamiter had placed his bomb, which is estimated to have contained twenty-five pounds of dynamite, at the bottom of a manhole in Calhoun place, known in the old days as "Gamblers' alley," in the rear of the four-story annex to the building of the Chicago Title and Trust Company, and the object of the explosion is understood to have been a police-protected gambling resort.

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Of these mysterious explosions, the first occurred two years ago. As recorded by the local newspapers, they have taken place as follows:

1907—(1) July 8, John Condon's residence; (2) July 20, John F. O'Malley's saloon; (3) July 25, Mont Tennes' garage; (4) Aug. 12, James O'Leary's saloon; (5) Aug. 19, Mont Tennes' home; (6) Aug. 25, Carmichael Stove Company; (7) Sept. 1, Former Sheriff James Pease's home; (8) Sept. 14, Stanley R. Graham's paint store; (9) Sept. 24, Forest Park Station of Wisconsin Central railroad; (10) Sept. 27, Mont Tennes' cash register store; (11) Oct. 1, John A. Rogers' saloon; (12) Oct. 2, Small clearing house near Forest Park station; (13) Oct. 6, John F. O'Malley's saloon.

1908—(14) Jan 23, Patrick O'Malley's saloon; (15) Jan. 28, Edward Brennan's saloon; (16) July 9, Smith & Perry's saloon; (17) July 17, John Rogers' saloon; (18) July 20, John J. Corbett's saloon; (19) July 25, National Hotel; (20) Oct. 18, James O'Leary's saloon; (21) Oct. 20, John A. Rogers' saloon; (22) Oct. 21, Mont Tennes'; (23) Oct. 23, Barney Marcus'; (24) Oct. 31, Edward Brennan's saloon; (25) Nov. 20, James O'Leary's saloon; (26) Dec. 2, John Gazzole's saloon; (27) Dec. 13, Coliseum Annex; (28) Dec. 18, John Morris' saloon.

1909—(29) May 31, Southern Whist Club; (30) June 25, Manning & Bowes' saloon; (31) June 27, Mont Tennes' saloon.

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In each instance the bomb explosion is understood to have been intended for gambling places protected by the police, or in order to cripple such gambling places, or to intimidate persons interested; but the police have discovered nothing and apparently have made no genuine efforts. The last explosion recorded above not only wrecked the establishment for which it seems to have been intended, but also injured surrounding business property in the "Loop," and for the first time caused serious personal injuries, including one that may result in death. The city council has now offered a reward of \$3,000 for the conviction of the criminal.

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A lucid explanation of the matter appeared edi-