

*the community.* The fact that our man-made land laws foolishly give this ground rent to the ground owner instead of to the community does not alter the fact that ground rent, by the nature of things, belongs to the community that creates it.

Land value is artificial, unnatural, and would not exist if justice were done. Land value is the legal privilege given by our man-made land laws to the landowner to collect the ground rent on a piece of land for all time. This ground rent is produced by the community and, therefore, belongs to the community, and should be collected for government expenses. *Land value is the value of the privilege of appropriating by the landowner the ground rent that belongs to the community.*

A hundred years ago in the South our man-made laws permitted the master to appropriate what the slaves produced. In this way slave value appeared.

We are so used to land having selling value that we regard it as natural and right. Most of my readers will have to think about it for quite a while before they could accept the statement as true that land value is as unnatural, artificial, unjust and wrong as slave value.

Land value rises as population increases, because the increased population provides a market for the products of the fishermen, farmers and manufacturers. This increased population increases the demand for the fish, food, and manufactured articles, and they sell at higher prices than they would bring if they had to be shipped to distant markets. These increased prices of products of the land appear as land values when the landowners are allowed to collect the ground rent that the presence and activity of the community creates in the piece of land. It should be kept in mind that production is not complete until the product is in the hands of the final consumer. In other words, the cost of selling is part of the cost of production.

In any community there is a best location for supermarkets, and a best location for a large dry-goods store. These best locations for selling are best because the cost of selling in these lo-