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F. George Gannett

'Property' and 'Human Rights'

To Editor of The Knickerbocker News

We hear that there is too much emphasis put on "property rights" and not enough attention give to "human rights."

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The chattle slave owned no "property," not even his body or the clothes he wore. What was his status in life; did he have a wife and family, a home, was he and his family happy and contented, did he rise to an influential position in his community? No, we know that the chattle slave has no such advantage.

The slave who is not bought and sold, but is shifted from place to place and job to job as a dictator see's fit is no better off then the chattle slave. The only difference is the advantage gained by the dictator, he does not have to buy the slaves as the oldtime slave owner did.

What is ownership of of property, or "property rights?" The exclusive right of possession; of the thing owned, estate, goods, articles, wealth. Most people who labor produce wealth and goods and if we do not have the right to own the "property" that we produce and use or consume, then we are in about the same status as the slaves to those who do have "property rights." Without freedom and property rights we have no human rights. Human rights and property rights are inseparable.

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