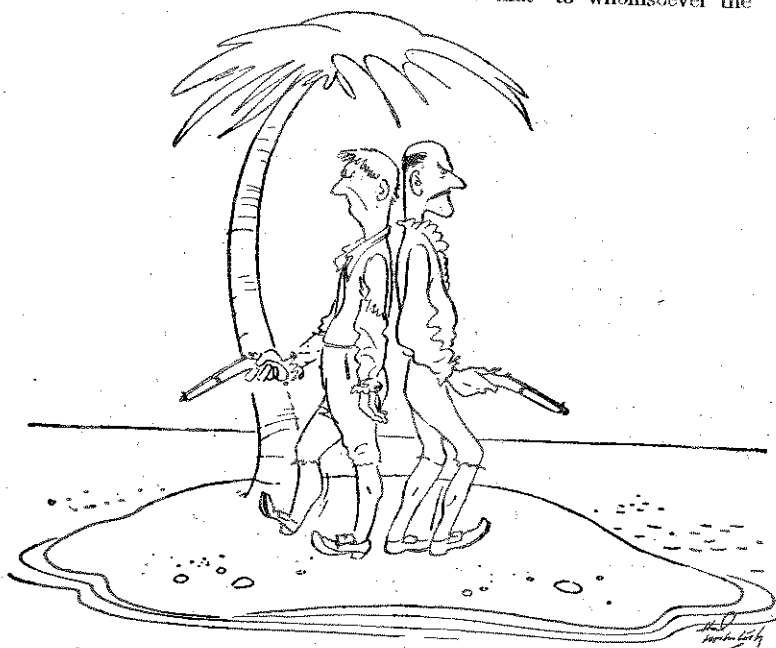


They Want The Monopoly Rent

These determined men are going to "shoot it out" to see who owns this island. Why, this might eventually prove to be another Manhattan Island, once worth a paltry sum but now worth 3,530 million dollars. These men well know that "to whomsoever the



island belongs to him belongs the rent thereof." Both these men think that this "Rent" is well-worth fighting for.

At Murray Hill Lyceum in New York City during a Single-Tax convention (circ 1905) the late artist-poet J. W. Bengough suggested what might have happened if Robinson Crusoe had landed on Manhattan Island instead of Juan Fernandez. He slightly altered the familiar lines to read:

I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute,
From the center all round to the sea
I am Lord of the fowl and the brute.

Then one day Crusoe saw a footprint in the sand and continued:

A footprint! Ah, what does it mean?
It means population is coming.
Soon thousands will crowd on the scene
And rent for the lots will be humming.

I am Lord of the fowl and the brute.
I'll be Lord too of each human soul,
And no person shall here set his foot
But shall pay me perpetual toll.

I am monarch of all I survey.
I'll have the whole island surveyed,
And to me and my heirs from today
Shall the whole of the land-rent be paid.

A vision of millions and fame;
My wealth will grow faster and faster.
I'll change this poor Robinson name
And call myself Vanderbilt-Astor.

In science, Land is called the prime (essential) passive agent (factor) in production because it is absolutely essential to all production. Land furnishes all of the elements and conditions which human exertion (Labor) utilizes to produce Wealth, (which is always a product) for the satisfaction of human desires. Land furnishes all of the electricity, minerals and metals; grains and animals and woods; the wind, the rain, the sunlight, the heat, the water power, the atoms, the electrons; the radiations of the radio-active substances, etc., etc. The entire material universe with all of its forces is termed LAND, the return thereto being Land-Rent. The return to human exertion is termed Wages. The legal institution allowing Land Monopoly is the primary cause of the high cost of living, involuntary poverty, want, etc.

Note—See George's "Property In Land," "Perplexed Philosopher," and for Monopoly Rent footnote in "Condition of Labor." (CG-1947)