

## LAND TENURE

By

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**Transcribed by David Morin**

They embody an indefeasible ideal a longing that is always born afresh from a Promised Land into which perhaps like Moses man will never be permitted to enter but which gives rise to this heroic and never ended adventure that is none the less pathetic As an English writer has said no map of the world is worth looking at unless it contains and (sic) island of utopia

Everything ides institutions cities and civilizations (sic) Death is not a denial of life but a manifestation of life The real proof of vitality lies not in continuance but in rebirth and this characteristic is possessed by these communities

The founders of communist societies imagine that property is the chief cause of dissensions among men in the present day society as it is between nations and that when property is abolished harmony will reign undisturbed But (sic) as we see later on experience shows that if private property gives rise to conflict so does community of property and even more frequently Moreover (sic) it is a commonplace with students of law that joint ownership is the greatest cause of dissension between co proprietors and it is therefore limited by law to a short period

There are difficulties also There is the question of sites Where are the colonies to be set up? If the Metis remain in their own localities they are in a hostile environment and will be laughed at It is scarcely (sic) likelt (sic) they will shut themselves into a tower of ivory as the saying is where they can ignore the rest of the world If on the other hand they go to these tracts they will find disruptive forces (sic) awaiting them Virgin lands are a (sic) field for pioneers: they demand individual initiative they create it and stimulate it In the midst of a land that is awaiting development it is difficult to shut oneself within the petty horizon that surrounds the colony

Another peril perhaps the garvest (sic) of all lies in the fact that these colonies are threatened as much by success as by failure For if they do not succeed (sic) it means misery ruin dispersal and age eral (sic) rush for safety (sic) on the other hand they attain prosperity (sic) they attract a crowd of members who lack the enthusiasm and faith of the earlier ones and are element and the new and ultimately a demand is made for the sharing out and each member goes his own way

A solidarity that is compulsory is of no moral value

The manner fo (sic) lief (sic) of a hunting race excludes all individual ownership of the land which is merely a hunting region belonging to the tribe Thsi (sic) mose (sic) of life also involves some association in work Nowadays (sic) when a man wants to shoot a rabbit or to fish with a line he can go alone but when fishing and hunting is the sole method of earning a living then hunting and fishing is done collectively if production here

requires co operation it must be the same with distribution for it is hardly possible to determine the exact share of each individual If the community system seems (sic) inherent in primitive forms of economy it can only apply to small communities for hunting requires extensive tracts of land that does not permit the formation of large groups

If landed property is going to appear then in the second stage or pastoral When the base of subsistence is assured it is possible to increase the proportions (sic) of the band or tribe Pastoral life marks a great step forward in social progress? People who depend entirely on livestock can feed upon their flocks but the flock must first find food and since the pasturage or range land is exhausted these people must soon move on That is why nomadic or tent life is characteristic mark of pastoral peoples

Now is (sic) is obvious that nomadic life is incompatible with private property in land As in the case of hunting peoples it involves merely a division of territory among families or groups (sic)

The third class or agricultural in (sic) these conditions the land and all the vegetable life it produces ensures the regular feeding (sic) and subsistence of the family or group What have been the effects of the change from the pastoral to the agricultural stage? Agriculture inaugurated the system of landed property when it took the place of the communal systems of hunting fishing and (sic) stock raising (sic) that preceded it That is what it (sic) done in western Canada among the native peoples but this development has been slow and even today is not everywhere completed The idea of absolute ownership of the land was inconceivable to the native races They recognized only a temporary right to the produce of the fields they tilled and venwhat (sic) the soil spontaneously produced The settler (sic) selected (sic) a piece of land to his liking (sic) If he then abandoned it without reseeded (sic) it anyone could succeed him in the enjoyment (sic) of the property