

you a historic hoe that has reclaimed 30,000 acres of rich grazing-lands.

Of course, not all of the great holdings were acquired by their present owners by frauds—that is to say, by frauds that can be traced to them directly. In fact, after the agents, of whom Benson and Hyde were the most conspicuous, had, by means of their dummies, located the land and turned it over to the great cattle and wheat kings, it would be difficult to follow the frauds through their various stages and harder still to upset the title of the men who had strung the barbed wire. The king of the land does not worry about special agents and their investigations after the patent to the land has been turned over to him. His title is as good as that of the homesteader who has complied with all the requirements of the law. He is enthroned, secure.

When you have learned these things it is not difficult to understand how one hundred men in the great Sacramento Valley have come to own over 17,000,000 acres, while in the San Joaquin Valley it is no uncommon thing for one man's name to stand for 100,000 acres. This grabbing of large tracts has discouraged immigration to California more than any other single factor. A family living on a small holding in a vast plain, with hardly a house in sight, will in time become a very lonely family, indeed, and will in a few years be glad to sell out to the land king whose domain is adjacent. Thousands of small farms have in this way been acquired by the large holders at nominal prices.

It is bewildering to contemplate the tremendous tracts of a handful of men who sit in their offices in San Francisco and wield undisputed power over millions of acres. I invite you to a consideration of the Kingdom of Miller. Henry Miller came to America in 1850, a poor German butcher boy. Of his present land-holdings, only the roughest idea is to be had from the owner, as his evidence, given in court, will show. Here is a sample of his testimony:

In taking it ranch after ranch, the ranch in Santa Clara County has an extent of eight miles square; in that county it has an extent of twenty-four miles north and south and about seven to eight miles east and west. . . . In Merced County we have thirty-six miles north and south; it is not quite north and south; and then about twenty-two miles east and west. . . . The Malheur property is an extent of ninety miles northwest to southeast and about sixty miles north to south. . . . Then comes the purchase of what we call the Todhunter & Devine

property, or the Harney property, which was purchased by Mr. Singletary, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Hayes—they were the assignees and Mr. Todhunter and Devine were the owners—that lies in Harney County, Ore., and comprises over seven-tenths of 125 miles north and south and about seventy-five miles east and west, with a good distance in between.

These are only little extracts from the main body of testimony, in which many other vast tracts were described in the same loose manner. It was shown that in all Mr. Miller owned and managed 22,717½ square miles! In Fresno County alone his holdings were 921,600 acres, while in Humboldt and Washoe Counties, Nev., they were over 3,500,000 acres, and in Harney and Grant Counties, Oregon, they were nearly 7,000,000. But think of the aggregate—22,717½ square miles or 14,539,200 acres! That is a territory as large as the four States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Delaware! *It is three times as large as New Jersey!* It is twice as large as Belgium! It is bigger than Switzerland, it is much larger than Denmark, *it is greater than all Greece!*

Then there is the Kingdom of Haggin, a most delectable domain; the Kingdom of Tevis, the ruler of which has been called to a still greater estate; the Kingdom of Jack, which includes nearly half of Monterey County, Cal., and portions of adjacent counties. And besides these there is many another noble monarchy. Of the Kingdom of Carr it may be remarked that around it are stretched over 100 miles of barbed wire, inside of which are whole sections of Government land, which to enclose is unlawful, and over which a holder can have only a scrambling and tortious possession, as the law-books call it.

And these great kingdoms are not the land of the lean kine, but of the fat; not the land of the darnel, but of the full-headed wheat—the land of the fig, the olive, and the vine—much of it the richest, fairest land that lies under the blue arch of heaven. Think of all this vast territory! You begin to see the magnitude of the workings of the Land Conscience. But here in the domains we have looked upon is in reality only the beginning. New horizons open at every mile of the stupendous progress of the land monarchs. And what is most terribly significant is the fact that the kings are not letting go any portion of their kingdoms, but are adding to them almost daily. It is something for the landless man of the crowded tenement districts to wake up in the night and think over