

Gertrude Colles,
939 Eighth Ave.,
New York City.

1c. Paid
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PERMIT NO. 385

JOSEPH FELS FUND BULLETIN

77 BLYMYER BUILDING

For Information of Contributors to THE FELS FUND and Single Taxers Generally

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH FELS FUND COMMISSION

LINCOLN STEFFENS
GEORGE A. BRIGGS

DANIEL KIEFER, CHAIRMAN
JACKSON H. RALSTON
CHARLES H. INGERSOLL

A. B. DUPONT, TREASURER
FREDERIC C. HOWE

S. DANZIGER, EDITOR

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TO APPEAR MONTHLY

READ THIS NOTICE FIRST.

The subscription price of the Joseph Fels Fund Bulletin is ten cents per annum. To secure second class entry it is necessary to have a bona fide subscription list paid in advance. Either coin or stamps may be sent and we trust that all who feel enough interest in the BULLETIN to see it continued will remit this not very exorbitant amount at once.

R. S. V. P. (PLEASE REPLY.)

Every reader of this received a circular letter from the Commission last month. It was as important as if it had been pen written and personally addressed to each recipient.

Some responded promptly. Others intend to answer but have delayed. They are still delaying.

Another group wants to see if enough others won't respond to make their own help unnecessary. They forget that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business." Success can only be assured through each one doing his duty regardless of what others do.

Some are unable to pledge even a dollar a year or less. But these can do good service by personally calling on those better off and inducing them to send something. There are negligent ones in every community who can help and will help if seen personally. Those with more time than money are entitled to be considered contributors if, through their efforts, help is secured which would not otherwise have been obtained. See your negligent friend, get his pledge and send it to the Commission together with your receipted bill for value of services rendered as your own contribution.

When the Commission sends out invitations to help in matching Joseph Fels, it virtually asks these questions of every one addressed:

1. Do you favor adoption of the Single Tax?
2. If so, what are you willing to do to hasten it?
3. When are you going to do it?

Answers have been worded differently, but in substance all are nearly the same. With a few exceptions they may be correctly interpreted as follows:

1. Yes.
2. See card enclosed.
3. Now.

Now let those who have not yet answered, no

matter what their reason for delay, speak out and say where they stand.

PAYMENTS TO FELS FUND DURING JANUARY BY STATES.

If your State has lagged it is due to neglect of duty by some one. Does that mean **you**? If so, now is the time to make amends.

Alabama	\$24.25
Arkansas	1.00
Arizona	5.00
California	377.50
Colorado	64.10
Connecticut	27.50
Delaware	31.00
District of Columbia.....	48.00
Florida	75.00
Georgia	1.00
Idaho50
Illinois	436.55
Indiana	2.00
Iowa	26.00
Kansas	7.50
Kentucky	101.25
Louisiana	87.10
Maine	33.00
Maryland	34.25
Massachusetts	161.50
Michigan	70.00
Minnesota	93.25
Mississippi	3.00
Missouri	56.75
Montana	8.00
Nebraska	32.00
Nevada	2.00
New Hampshire.....	15.00
New Jersey.....	32.50
New Mexico.....	2.00
New York.....	1,579.00
North Dakota.....	13.00
Ohio	213.10
Oregon	19.50
Pennsylvania	418.50
Rhode Island.....	1.00
South Carolina.....	2.00
South Dakota.....	22.00
Tennessee	52.00
Texas	179.15

Washington	232.50
Wisconsin	41.00
West Virginia	1.00
Foreign	6.00

The January collections show a gratifying increase but not entirely as encouraging as it seems. Some of the increase is due to new subscriptions, but more of it comes from subscribers who were back in their payments and have sent in what should have reached us last month. This explanation is necessary to prevent a false impression.

ARE THERE MORE LIKE THESE?

A friend writes as follows:

"I note in your December report that you have got nothing at all from the State of _____. I am surprised. I know a good single taxer there who is able to contribute a lot more than I can. He is _____ of _____. I suppose you did not have his name, for he surely would not have ignored your appeal.

"Then there is the State of _____, from which you have received but a ridiculously small amount. In the city of _____ I know three men, any one of whom alone could easily have done better without trouble. I enclose their names and street addresses. I do not think it possible that you have them on your list."

Unfortunately for our friend's opinion, every one of these men has long been on our list and has received every circular issued. A personal call by some local worker or a letter from an acquaintance is probably all that they need and they will feel thankful to the person who wakes them up. Such sleepers are to be found nearly everywhere. Single-taxers should arouse them.

WHAT IS BEING DONE.

The first Single Tax fight of 1913 takes place in Seattle on March 4th. An amendment to the city charter is to be voted on which "*gradually during four years, takes city taxes off of all personal property (except franchises and leaseholds), and off of all improvements on land—that is, off of merchandise, furniture, clothing, machinery, factories, dwelling houses, apartment buildings—off of all things made by labor.*"

A year ago Seattle voted on a similar proposition which was defeated. Now, voters may reject good measures but they can not reject the consequences of such action. So Seattle has had to stand a year of taxation on the labor of its citizens, a year of fines for its industry and enterprise, a year of unemployment for many willing workers, a year of high rents, and a year of tribute to land speculators. It might have avoided this by voting right a year ago. It will avoid at least another year of it by voting right next month.

Preparations for the next fight for Home Rule in Taxation are being made in California. Home Rule was voted down last fall by a small majority, after a campaign in which the friends of the measure were prevented by insufficiency of funds from making a thorough canvass of the State, while the Southern Pacific Railroad and other monopolies

had no difficulty in raising a loud hullabaloo against it. It carried by large majorities in San Francisco and Los Angeles, where it was better understood, but lost out in the rural districts where predatory interests could more easily delude the voters. But these interests can not keep on successfully telling the same falsehoods to the same voters forever. Slowly but surely the example of Western Canada is impressing the voters of the whole Pacific Coast. They can see in that alone the contradiction of all that the representatives of plutocracy have been telling them.

Plans are being laid for active campaigns in other States which will be announced when perfected. There will be no let up in the war against poverty.

ENDORSEMENT FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

From John R. Nichols of the Massachusetts Single Tax League:

"Several of our members received yesterday copies of the Fels Fund Bulletin, and last night the Executive Committee voted 'that the secretary be instructed to send a communication to the Fels Fund in hearty commendation of the recently instituted Fels Fund Bulletin.'

"We are particularly pleased to see it and hope it will be continued."

AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING.

J. S. Maclean of Columbus, Ohio, sends this cheering communication:

"Your last Fels Fund circular is, in my opinion, the best ever sent out. If we Single Taxers don't take hold after having it put up to us in that manner, we stand badly in need of a dose of Billy Sunday's medicine along our lines of religion. I have tried to get in touch with some of the faithful here, with a view to our getting together and planning a campaign. Wish you would send me by return a half dozen copies of the circular, and I would like also some copies of 'The Religion of Joseph Fels.' That's great. I want to shoot it into a lot of church folks, right now when Billy Sunday has them all worked up."

FROM LOUIS F. POST.

"I like the idea of your periodical bulletin immensely, and think that the first number is exceedingly well done. I see no reason why it should not be a regular feature of the Commission's work, and in the absence of all possible objection which does not at the moment occur to me, I am sure it will prove to be one of the most valuable and effective features of your work."

FROM PROFESSOR LEWIS J. JOHNSON.

"Can you put on your list for the P. B.'s, Mr. _____ of the _____. He is one of the editors of that widely read paper, and I am sure he would be very glad to receive them.

"It seems to me that nearly everything that appears in the P. B.'s ought to be available for the individual Single Taxers of the country. For instance, every member of our Massachusetts League should get all those P. B.'s. It is an admirable and, it seems to me, an almost essential supplement to 'The Public.' You are doubtless aware that the _____ Daily _____ is using them freely, and I have

a personal letter from the editor expressing his strong devotion to our cause, both as a man and as an editor."

Some may not know that the "P. B.'s" referred to by Professor Johnson are articles sent out by the American Economic League, which is the name for the Press Bureau of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission. A report on its work is contained in the proceedings of the Boston Conference published in this issue.

THEY "HAVE NO TIME FOR THEORIES."

Nearly fifty legislatures are at work making laws to regulate economic activities—not one has given evidence of a disposition to discover those natural laws by which such activities are governed.—*Single Tax Review*.

SINGLE TAX IS FUNDAMENTAL.

That the Single Tax program is not a mere superficial reform is evident from the opposition it encounters. However superficial any move in the direction of shifting taxes from industry to land values, wide awake beneficiaries and representatives of privilege are unanimous and vigorous as well as demagogic in opposing it. Henry George was profoundly right when in "*Progress and Poverty*" he said: "*The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance; if that could be, it would have been accepted long ago; if that could be, it would never have been obscured.*"—*The Public*.

PROCEEDINGS OF BOSTON CONFERENCE.

MORNING SESSION, NOVEMBER 29, 1913.

TWENTIETH CENTURY HALL.

Meeting called to order.

Mr. Post, as chairman of the meeting last night, reported that said meeting was an informal gathering of all available members for the purpose of drawing up a program, that the conference might have something to begin on. A committee of local men was therefore appointed, with Mr. Johnson as chairman. This committee drew up a program which was to be subject to amendment at any time during the conference proceedings.

According to the program, Mr. Johnson gave the names suggested for chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary.

Mr. Baker moved that names be acted upon individually. Motion seconded and adopted.

Moved and seconded that Charles S. Millet be made chairman. Mr. Millet elected.

Moved and seconded that Professor Carroll W. Doten be made vice-chairman. Prof. Doten elected.

Moved and seconded that Mr. Hull, of Cambridge, be made secretary. Mr. Hull elected.

Chairman and secretary took their places.

Mr. Post moved that program suggested by last night's committee be read before the meeting and adopted. Seconded and made a vote. Mr. Hull read program which was adopted.

Chairman of Fels Fund Commission reported.

Moved that any amendment to program be made by a two-thirds vote. Not a vote.

Moved and seconded that amendment to program be made by a majority of the conference. Made a vote.

Treasurer absent. His report read by Mr. Kiefer, who also reported details of his indictment. He had been charged with making merchandise of a public document. The truth was that the administration feared the effect of its circulation. To avoid appearance of a political prosecution the district attorney had suppressed the indictment until after election. The charge was obviously absurd and he did not think it would be pressed. [Since the conference the charge has been dropped on order of Attorney-General Wickersham.]

Report of Mr. Post on "The Public."

Mr. Post gave an account of the Public's history. The paper had never been self-supporting. The price was at first \$1.00 a year and the subscription list had reached 5,000. It cost 60 cents a year for each subscriber. Since this did not leave enough profit to pay office expenses and salaries, the price was raised to \$2.00. The circulation then fell to 2,500. The \$1.00 price was then restored and Mrs. Post gave of her individual funds to keep the paper alive until April, 1907, the end of its year of publication. Mr. Kiefer then raised a sustentation fund to continue its existence. There continued to be a deficit with little change in circulation until Mr. Bowmar became business manager in 1909. Since then the circulation has increased from 6,000 in 1909 to 16,500 in 1912. Mr. Bowmar is confident of 20,000 next year, which will make it possible to secure enough advertising to wipe out the deficit. The men who gave large sums never attempted to control the policy of the paper.

Mayor Fitzgerald was then introduced by Dr. Millet. The Mayor expressed his sympathy with the single tax movement. 25 years hence the world will not understand why the agitators of the movement were so little appreciated. People do not understand it now. They think it is an illusion and say, "There are so many real problems to fight that men have not time for single tax." The Mayor believes the "transfer tax" to be the practical thing that will open the eyes of the people. Boston is a good place to fight in. Conditions here are a curse to the community. His cry is, "reach the people and open their eyes." Therefore he advocates passage of the "transfer tax act."

The Mayor was heartily thanked by a rising vote.

Joseph Dana Miller reported on "The Single Tax Review." It has 1,900 subscribers and does not pay; 5,000 copies of the German number and 5,000 of the New Zealand number were distributed; 20,000 of the Vancouver number were printed and 15,000 of them distributed. This number was in great demand. Even now there were demands for it from colleges. This year there will be two or three special numbers covering the movement in Great Britain.

Samuel Danziger reported on the Press Bureau. It furnished matter for publication to 700 papers. This matter treats not only on single tax but on all democratic measures, the aim being to interest all progressive reformers in our work by showing our sympathy with theirs.

Mr. Biederman duPont was introduced as "The man who converted Tom Johnson." He explained that to him the single tax is a means whereby will be abolished every law that permits one man to steal from another.

Adjourned until 2 p. m.

(Continued in next issue.)

DOES SINGLE TAX HURT BUSINESS?

Reports of Bank Clearings in Canadian Cities Indicate Otherwise.

Remarkable Increase in Places Where All Municipal Revenue is Raised by a Tax on Land Values Only.

Edmonton, Alberta: December bank clearings were \$21,649,209. Last year they were \$14,138,713. Increase, 53 per cent. The total for 1912 is \$220,727,622. For 1911 it was \$121,433,394. Increase, 82 per cent.

Building permits for December amounted to \$680,532. For the year 1912 to \$14,500,000.

Regina, Saskatchewan: The increase in building permits for 1912 over 1911 amounts to \$2,958,239. Bank clearings were \$44,528,717; customs returns, \$297,533; postoffice receipts, \$811,322.

Vancouver, B. C.: 1912 Bank clearings amount to \$645,108,017. Last year they were \$534,484,354.

Increase is 20 per cent. December clearings were \$55,434,815. Last December they were \$49,775,662. Increase was 11 per cent.

1912 building permits amounted to \$19,033,907. In 1911 they were \$17,652,642. Increase, 8 per cent.

INFORMATION ABOUT CANADA.

Those wanting complete information in a brief space of Single Tax in Canada, up-to-date, should write to the Manitoba League for the Taxation of Land Values, 253 Chamber of Commerce, Winnipeg. The League has issued a pamphlet by F. J. Dixon, which tells what has been done in each province and what legislation may be looked for in the near future. To the one who has not been getting his single tax news as it occurred the pamphlet will be a revelation, while even the single taxer who has tried to keep tab may find many items of progress which he has overlooked.

The price of the pamphlet is 5 cents or 25 for \$1.00.

STRENGTH OF THE MOVEMENT.

How many Single Taxers are there in the United States? No reliable estimate can be made. But this we know: There are 31,000 in Oregon; 87,000 in Missouri; 150,000 in California; 13,000 in Seattle, and 4,800 in Everett, Washington. The total in three States and two cities is 285,800. In 1890 there were but 100,000 in the whole United States. Who says that the movement is not growing?

If you want to help circulation of the Joseph Fels Fund Bulletin, fill in, cut out and mail the following to the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, 77 Blymyer Building, Cincinnati, O.:

I enclose.....cents for one year's subscription to BULLETIN for myself and for others mentioned.

Name and address of sender.....

Names and addresses of other subscribers.....

Subscription price of BULLETIN is 10 cents per annum.