

CONFERENCE NUMBER

JOSEPH FELS FUND BULLETIN

BLMYER BUILDING

Monthly Information for Contributors to THE FELS FUND and Single Taxers Generally

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH FELS FUND COMMISSION

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Volume 2

Cincinnati, Ohio, January, 1914

Number 1

ON THE EVE OF THE CONFERENCE.

Washington press correspondents generally know an important news item when they see it. So they have sent broadcast notices of the conference. The following from the Chicago Evening Post is but an example of what has appeared in dailies throughout the country:

Fels Tax Fund Commission Will Meet in Washington.

Many Prominent Men Scheduled to Speak. Three-Day Session Will Be Held in the Capital, During Which Time Many Important Subjects Will Be Discussed.

Washington, January 6.—The Joseph Fels Fund of America Commission, organized several years ago for effective propaganda for single tax reform, will meet in Washington January 15, 16 and 17 with a large attendance. The fund was created by Joseph Fels of Philadelphia and London on the basis of the founder duplicating every dollar subscribed for the purpose in America. A similar fund is in operation in England, Australia, Canada and Denmark.

The speakers on the program include Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor; Frederic C. Howe, of the People's Institute of New York; Frank P. Walsh, of Kansas City, chairman of the Federal Industrial Commission; Joseph Fels; Representatives Keating, of Colorado and George of New York; Herbert S. Bigelow, of Ohio and Bolton Hall, of New York.

At a banquet Saturday night, January 17, William M. Reedy, of St. Louis, will be toastmaster.

The members of the commission are Daniel Kiefer, Cincinnati, chairman; J. H. Ralston, Washington, D. C.; Lincoln Steffens, Frederic C. Howe and Charles H. Ingersoll, New York; A. B. duPont, Cleveland, Ohio; and George A. Briggs, of Elkhart, Ind.

All indications point to a large attendance at the Washington conference. That it will be an enthusiastic one, may be taken for granted. At no time in the history of the movement has there been such widespread interest as exists today.

One year ago we found that the work of previous years had borne fruit. State-wide elections in Oregon, California and Missouri and local elections in Seattle and Everett showed the presence

in these places of nearly 300,000 single tax voters. That was not only encouragement to us, but a revelation to outsiders, and has no doubt had much to do with stimulating public discussion of our principles throughout the nation.

The day sessions of the conference will be devoted to business—to talking over practical methods of getting the single tax in the shortest possible time. The evening sessions will be devoted to discussing economic principles.

Those attending will kindly bear this fact in mind and refrain from engaging in discussion of a subject at one session that properly belongs in another one.

The chairman of the conference will be expected to strictly enforce whatever rules may be adopted. To properly conduct business, speakers should confine themselves to the question before the house, and should not overstep the time limit.

COLORADOANS AT WORK.

Single Taxers of Colorado held a state conference at Denver on January 2 and decided to send five delegates to the Washington gathering. Plans were discussed for a state-wide campaign. There will also be local campaigns similar to the one so successfully carried on in Pueblo.

'WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

If the Single Tax were in operation in Colorado and in Michigan, the news from the mining fields of the past few months would have been different. The mine owners could not have afforded to hold valuable opportunities out of use so long. Colorado had a chance in 1902 to adopt the Bucklin Australasian Tax Amendment. Had it done so, the Single Tax would long before this have been in operation in the state, and where now poverty, military tyranny and all the evils of war prevail, there would have been peace and prosperity. The mining interests at the time realized that the adoption of the Bucklin Amendment would make labor independent and succeeded in defeating it. What is going on in the Trinidad fields today is but a sample of what that defeat has cost Colorado. Now is the time to correct the mistake.

TAKE NOTICE.

Post-office rules limit sample copies to 10% of paid circulation. If this copy comes to you under 1c postage, it means that you haven't yet subscribed. Send us at once 10 cents for a year's subscription.

CONTRIBUTIONS DURING DECEMBER.

A good New Year resolution not too late to make will be to have your state make a better showing for 1914 than it did during the past year.

	No. of Dec. 1913 Contributors	Amount for December, 1913	Total Since Dec. 1, 1912
New York	21	\$157.00	\$5,024.82
California	171	751.55	3,091.28
Illinois	17	128.25	2,448.43
Pennsylvania	15	372.00	1,853.59
New Jersey	8	53.80	1,556.40
Ohio	9	83.10	1,447.45
Colorado	36	50.00	1,337.05
Massachusetts	8	41.50	1,013.10
Missouri	6	20.75	674.20
Washington	3	17.00	513.85
District of Columbia	3	11.00	447.80
Michigan	4	106.50	404.90
Delaware	3	89.00	355.14
Rhode Island	3	31.00	352.50
Indiana	1	50.00	323.74
Texas	4	10.75	321.25
Oregon	1	25.00	245.70
Louisiana	..	..	243.10
Kentucky	..	..	214.75
Minnesota	2	7.00	199.60
Florida	..	..	174.00
Wisconsin	1	5.00	159.75
Foreign	1	5.00	151.50
Maryland	3	31.00	136.51
Tennessee	1	25.00	99.40
Iowa	2	2.00	96.35
Nebraska	..	..	96.00
South Dakota	1	5.00	92.45
Alabama	..	..	69.86
Kansas	1	.25	60.09
Virginia	1	10.00	48.10
Montana	..	..	43.50
Maine	1	5.00	40.10
Connecticut	1	1.00	36.00
West Virginia	..	..	30.00
New Hampshire	..	..	27.00
Arizona	..	..	25.00
North Dakota	..	..	24.25
Arkansas	..	..	20.00
Idaho	..	..	15.65
New Mexico	..	..	14.50
North Carolina	..	..	14.00
Oklahoma	..	..	12.50
Mississippi	1	5.00	8.00
Georgia	..	..	6.00
Utah	1	5.00	5.00
South Carolina	1	2.00	4.00
Nevada	..	..	3.60
Vermont	..	..	3.00
	330	\$2,106.45	\$23,584.56

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

"The Case Plainly Stated" that clear and convincing Single Tax argument was originally delivered as an address before the Knights of Labor, by Henry F. Ring at Houston, Texas, 25 years ago. On the following day, the Houston Post severely censured Mr. Ring for such a "brazen avowal of faith" in the teachings of "so dangerous a man" as Henry George. Recently this same Houston Post, still under the same ownership and editorial management, speaking of the Houston plan of taxation, said:

"This system is but the entering wedge of the Henry George system of taxation of land values, known as the Single Tax plan of raising revenue for the support of the government, and of giving to each individual his rightful participation in nature's free gift to humanity—not to one generation, but to all generations—of land, air and water, without which it is claimed there can be no equality of opportunity. There is too much land

monopoly in Texas, hence with the unearned increment evidenced by the rising values of unimproved land appropriated by those who hold title to it, there is growing dissatisfaction with the state's policy of land taxation."

This is but one example of a growing change in public sentiment. Long years of preaching the Gospel are beginning to have effect.

NO TIME FOR THE TRUTH.

When the National Housing Association met in Cincinnati, the headquarters of the Joseph Fels propaganda for single tax, the delegates were promptly presented with printed letters from Mr. Fels, dated in London, comparing their work with the "methods of a quack doctor" because the legislation which they urge "contains no effective provision for breaking the power of the landlord" by "putting all taxes on land values regardless of improvements." Taxation was not discussed in this year's long but crowded program.—The Survey.

Just what kind of matter was used to crowd the program is evident from the fact that discussion of taxation was conspicuous by its absence. If the ideas seriously and solemnly advanced in that conference could solve the housing problem, then it is possible to enact legislation that can force the cheapest restaurant to supply Delmonico meals without raising prices.

Mr. Fels quoted the testimony of Benjamin C. Marsh regarding the failure of the New York Tenement House Law to relieve congestion. He also showed that responsibility for congestion and all of its evil results does not lie with the tenement landlords, but with such individuals as the respectable members of the Allied Real Estate Interests of New York City, who are fighting tooth and nail against the proposition to merely allow the people of the city to vote on the question of cutting in half the tax rate on buildings.

But these truths were not desired. However, desirous those in charge may have been to accomplish housing reform, their desire to refrain from hurting land monopoly was even greater. That is why the program was too "crowded" to discuss taxation.

SINGLE TAX IN BUSINESS ADS.

When a big business firm puts single tax arguments in its advertising, it is time to sit up and take notice. A firm intelligent and public spirited enough to do that deserves all the free advertising it can get. The following is from an advertisement of Gimbel Bros., who have department stores in Philadelphia, New York and Milwaukee:

Taxing Initiative.

A man plans and saves, and buys a lot. On this lot he is assessed for purposes of taxation. He plans and saves; and finally manages to put a building on his lot. He is reached at once by the tax collector.

Pretty soon, the good building he has erected puts him into another lot owner to improve his property—he is taxed on all he does.

After awhile the whole section or block is built up—the direct outcome of the first builder's initiative. Then the whole block becomes more valuable, because a community of improvements proves a drawing power, so the taxing power is again invoked and the assessment of every property in that section or block is raised—a further tax on the initiative of the first builder.

"But," says someone, "his property is worth more money because of his initiative." Possibly, but what

of a lot owner in the next block who lacked initiative altogether—whose lot is hardly held from being a common dump? As the growth of the initiative man's efforts has spread, the lot of the non-progressive man becomes in request, and he finally sells it for two or three times the sum that it cost the person who gave it to him.

Talk about "unearned increment." There it is—and plus.

And yet, the man of no initiative is almost always the one who decries "high taxes" and bemoans as "graft" money spent in improvements.

Do some people ever think—think straight?

A business firm progressive enough to take the lead in proclaiming truths of this kind is worth testing in other matters.

IF JUSTICE PREVAILED

The Chicago Tribune of December 31 shows that the total of charitable gifts and bequests in the United States during 1913 amounted to \$189,881,442. In the November-December number of the Single Tax Review Albert Firmin shows that in 1912 Manhattan Island alone paid as tribute to land owners \$156,392,623. So that the tribute exacted by a monopolistic class in one division of one city nearly equalled the alms bestowed by charity throughout the nation. How much need would there have been for this charity had justice prevailed?—The Public.

Why contribute to charity when justice needs all that you can spare? Those who want existing conditions continued should bear the entire expense of caring for the victims, as should all who through carelessness, indifference or design cause unjust injury to others.

PUEBLO SHOWING MISSOURI.

The following self-explanatory item was in the Glasgow (Mo.) Missourian of December 18:

Pueblo, Col., December 11, 1913.

Mr. R. C. Marr, Glasgow, Mo.

Dear Sir—Your article in the Glasgow Missourian of December 4, 1913, in relation to "Single Tax" in Pueblo, was called to the attention of the Pueblo Real Estate Exchange by Mr. W. J. Brinkley, of the Brinkley-Douglass Fruit Company, of this city.

On behalf of the Real Estate Exchange, and by their instructions, and for myself, I thank you for your kind expression concerning our city and its future. We are going to get all the benefit out of this method of taxation that is possible and will give it the widest publicity that we can.

Yours very truly,

THE PUEBLO REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE.
By W. C. Carrington, Secretary.

DISCOVERED—A GREAT CONTINENT. Free Land and Opportunity for Millions.

Reliable information has been secured, revealing the existence of a vast continent capable of yielding annually five times the wealth now being produced in the United States. So wonderful are the resources, that nothing, short of man-made laws permitting monopoly, can prevent the development of a civilization with human happiness and achievement greater than the fondest hopes of the Utopians. Equally remarkable, this domain is not inaccessible, as if it were at the pole or beyond the Pacific, but lies right at our very door, and the only thing preventing entry and possession by any person is a bogie man on guard.

Does this seem but a dream; and too good to be true? Then go to the window and glance across the country. See the vast area of agricultural land estimated from Secretary Houston's report, at four-fifths of the total, producing very little or even nothing; and then remember that

the other one-fifth must be supporting our rural population, as well as the life and industry of our cities. Here then is the great territory that would yield enough and to spare for a half billion of people if it were but available for use. Find a way to restore this idle land to the public, and keep it free for all future generations, and it will be the greatest constructive work, the most beneficial discovery, that the world has yet known.

If you had lived in the time of Columbus would you have been a scoffer—a head-tapper—or would you have been willing to be shown? If you are the latter kind, and not entirely satisfied with the present system of landlords and landless, billionaires and bankrupts, underconsumption and unemployment, monkey dinners and dinnerless children, progress and poverty, then consider seriously the proposed plan for getting past this bogieman and opening up this continent to wealth production. Learn how easy by means of a single law to shift the burden of taxes from the industrial classes and place it upon those who claim the privilege of monopolizing the land; and how this simple act will make it possible for any normal person to earn a living, and impossible for any selfish one to hinder. If we are to avoid the fate of ancient Greece and Rome, and of modern Mexico, we must study and investigate, and then get busy. Write for literature or speakers on the Single Tax. Help circulate this notice. W. S. Wright, No. 7 Post street, Spokane, Wash.

DOINGS IN DELAWARE.

Under the leadership of Francis I. du Pont of the duPont Powder Co., the state of Delaware is being organized. A state league has been formed and local branches established in several wards of Wilmington and in some of the smaller cities. A monthly paper, The Single Tax Bulletin, has been started, the first issue of which appeared in December. The seed sown in the campaign of 1895-96 has taken root, sprouted and is bearing fruit.

ORGANIZED LABOR FAVORS SINGLE TAX.

Addressing the San Francisco League for Home Rule in Taxation on December 1, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, said:

In California a new spirit of revolt against wrong, corruption and tyranny and the perversion of human rights has developed, and out of this atmosphere of human indignities grew up a man of highest intellect, a man who dared to be right. I speak of Henry George and of the work of Henry George. I was one of those who were among the first in the East to read his book "Progress and Poverty." It was first published in the Irish World in serial form. I was introduced to it by Herman Gutstadt when I spoke before the Spread the Light Club in Brooklyn. We used to read "Progress and Poverty" and discuss it. I count it a great privilege to have been one of those who helped to make Henry George understood in New York and elsewhere. I count it a great privilege to have been a friend of Henry George and to have taken the stump for Henry George for Mayor in New York. . . . You speak about the Single Tax and I believe in it with you. I have the pleasure of knowing Joseph Fels, who is about the same size as I am, and Kiefer of Cincinnati. We have had lots of fun together. One of the principal trustees of the Fels Fund, Jackson H. Ralston, is the man who is trying to keep me out of jail.

PUEBLO SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

The Pueblo Single Tax League has been organized and already a large membership is secured. It is expected to secure 5,000 names before the close of the campaign, so that those officials who desire to carry out the will of the people may be sure that there is a big solid organization back of them. The officers elected for the first year are Edwin B. Haver, president; B. V. D. Reeve, secretary and treasurer. One of the efforts of the league will be to give publicity to the people of the country as to the work that is being done to encourage investors and manufacturers to come to Pueblo where they will not be taxed to death. After 1915 there will be no tax on improvements or personal property, and this item of taxation should prove a tremendous advertisement for Pueblo and bring to our city many millions of new capital and thousands of more people. In fact the league members believe that Pueblo will in five years, if the people will fall in line and pull together, double her population. Of course if any one wants to start any opposition they are going to bump up against this league, and perhaps they might not get as far as they anticipate, as the will of the voters at last fall's election must be carried out.

Every citizen is invited to join the league, and

as the membership fee and dues are only 50 cents a year no one can afford to stay out, especially those who believe in the Single Tax plan. When asked to join do not refuse. Send your name to B. D. V. Reeve, Central Block, and become a member.

The publicity committee is getting up data that will be interesting, and inviting the capitalist and manufacturer to come to Pueblo—the first city in the United States to adopt the Single Tax plan.—Pueblo (Colo.) Opinion, December 27.

MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

Wednesday, January 21st, at 6 p. m., at the Fifth Avenue Restaurant, Broadway and Twenty-third street, the Manhattan Single Tax Club will give a

FELS FUND CONFERENCE DINNER.

Several of the nation-wide Single Tax orators who will attend the Washington Conference, will pitch their tents in New York on that evening, to give us the benefit of their deliberations and the vigor of their hopes.

TICKETS, ONE DOLLAR DRESS INFORMAL

Yours fraternally, JOHN T. M'ROY,
For the Dinner Committee.

PROGRAM: JOSEPH FELS FUND OF AMERICA CONFERENCE.

Fourth Annual Meeting, Washington, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 15, 16, 17, 1914.

The Raleigh, Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15—MORNING SESSION, 10 O'CLOCK.

Openings Remarks by the Chairman..... DANIEL KRIEGER
Address of Welcome..... HON. OLIVER P. NEWMAN
President Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Response..... HON. EDWARD KEATING, of Colorado
Selection of permanent chairman by the Conference for all the business sessions.

Routine Business.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2:00 O'CLOCK.

Routine Business.

NIGHT SESSION, 8:00 O'CLOCK.

Presiding Officers: GEO. A. BRIGGS, Elkhart, Ind.
LINCOLN STEFFENS, New York.

Address by..... FRANK P. WALSH
Chairman Federal Commission on Industrial Relations.
Among Others Who Will Take Part in the Informal Discussion:

CONGRESSMAN HENRY GEORGE, JR., "Taxation in the District"
FRANK STEPHENS, Arden, Dela.
F. W. GARRISON, Boston, Mass.
JENNIE L. MUNKOE, Washington, D. C.

FREDERIC C. HOWE, "The Philosophy of Industrial Liberty."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16—MORNING SESSION, 10 O'CLOCK.

Routine Business.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2:00 O'CLOCK.

Routine Business.

NIGHT SESSION, 8:00 O'CLOCK.

Presiding Officer, JACKSON H. RALSTON.

Addresses by—

ALICE TEACHER, Post, Washington, D. C.
GRACE ISABEL COLBRON, New York City.
GEO. J. KNAPP, Pueblo, Colorado.
BOLTON HALL, New York City.

F. H. WARREN, Detroit, Mich.
Senators and Congressmen.

The program for Saturday morning and afternoon sessions will be arranged by the members of the Commission and announced at the Friday afternoon session.

HEADQUARTERS.

All the business sessions and evening meetings of the Conference and the Banquet will be held at the Raleigh, in their parlors and assembly rooms.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18.

Addresses at a number of churches and other meeting places by the visiting Single Taxers. See Washington papers Saturday and Sunday.

Executive meeting of the Commission only at the Raleigh, Sunday morning and afternoon. Recommendations of the Conference considered, and Budget for the year adopted.

BANQUET—**SATURDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 17, 6:30 P. M.**

Toastmaster, WM. MARION REEDY, St. Louis.

"Immediate and Ultimate Aims of the Single Tax"..... HERBERT S. BIGELOW, Cincinnati
"After the Underwood Law—What?".....
..... CONGRESSMAN HENRY GEORGE, JR., New York
"Privilege and Municipal Reform".....
..... AMOS L. PINCHOT, New York
"Political Parties and the Single Tax".....
..... GEO. L. RECORD AND PROF. L. J. JOHNSON
"Department of Labor"..... LOUIS F. POST
"Outlook of the Single Tax Movement"..... JOSEPH FELS
Five-minute Talks by—

SENATORS ROBERT L. OWENS, Oklahoma;

MOSES E. CLAPP, Minnesota;

HENRY L. ASHURST, Arizona.

CONGRESSMEN WM. KENT, California;

FRANK BUCHANAN, Illinois;

WARREN WORTH BAILEY, Pennsylvania;

ROBERT CROSSER, Ohio;

DAVID J. LEWIS, Maryland;

JOHN NOLAN, California.

EX-MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT GEO. LANSBURY, of London.
And others.

For \$1.10 we will send you for one year The Bulletin and The Public, two papers you ought to have.