

JOSEPH FELS FUND BULLETIN

BLYMYER BUILDING

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

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH FELS FUND COMMISSION

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THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

The big event of the past month is the submission of the home rule amendment in California. That together with preparations made for similar action in other states is sufficient justification for continued solicitation by the Commission of single taxers to contribute to the Fund. We do not want again to find at the end of a campaign that we might have won had there only been enough funds on hand to carry on educational work properly. The single taxer who withholds help which he might give is making the task harder of those who are on the firing line.

The Commission needs not only contributions from those whom it already knows as single taxers or sympathizers, but from the great army of those who have not yet been enrolled, although they have come to favor our principles. To get in touch with these it must have their names. To get their names requires some effort on the part of single taxers in every locality. All who have not yet done so should prepare at once lists of all friends and acquaintances who may be considered hopeful material and send these lists with names properly classified to the Commission.

The time to do this work is NOW. So get busy.

In paying subscriptions for others than yourself, kindly send names and addresses also.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND NAMES.

There are still many names not on the Commission's list that ought to be there. The only way they can get on is through being sent in by some one already in touch with our work. Some have hesitated to send in a list for fear that it might contain some names that we already have. This can easily be avoided by asking the Commission to send the names of all who are already contributors in the locality or state. Most workers on looking over such a list will be surprised to note the ones conspicuous by their absence. Don't delay any longer but see that the Commission gets the names.

Have you sent in that list of names yet of single taxers and progressives in your locality? Neglected it have you? Well, see that it is done without further delay

RECEIPTS FOR MAY.

Note how your own State has done. Have you tried to have it make a better showing? If not, why not?

State	No. of May Contributors	Amount for May	Total Since December 1
New York	36	\$236.40	\$3,545.03
California	51	197.70	1,442.06
Illinois	16	76.20	1,226.40
Pennsylvania	16	103.00	1,043.69
Ohio	10	78.90	935.45
Massachusetts	16	87.50	643.30
Washington	4	6.20	420.25
Missouri	42	225.40	368.10
Texas	4	20.00	250.00
New Jersey	8	23.80	232.85
District of Columbia	3	27.00	230.80
Michigan	2	10.25	225.90
Kentucky	..	..	208.75
Louisiana	..	..	204.10
Colorado	4	16.00	197.10
Rhode Island	6	36.00	156.00
Minnesota	3	3.50	144.70
Oregon	2	6.00	144.50
Indiana	..	..	142.24
Delaware	1	1.00	105.00
Wisconsin	2	2.00	97.50
Foreign	1	50.00	92.90
Florida	..	..	92.00
Maryland	2	7.50	87.01
South Dakota	1	25.00	73.40
Nebraska	..	..	62.00
Tennessee	..	..	59.40
Iowa	..	..	50.85
Kansas	2	20.30	45.34
Alabama	..	..	40.01
Maine	..	..	35.10
Montana	1	2.50	31.50
Connecticut	1	1.00	30.50
West Virginia	..	..	28.00
New Hampshire	1	2.00	25.00
North Dakota	..	..	22.25
Arizona	1	1.00	12.00
Idaho	2	6.00	8.50
Arkansas	..	..	8.00
Oklahoma	1	1.00	7.50
Georgia	1	5.00	6.00
Virginia	..	..	6.00
New Mexico	..	..	4.50
Mississippi	..	..	3.00
Nevada	..	..	2.00
South Carolina	..	..	2.00
North Carolina	..	..	1.00
Totals	240	\$1,278.15	\$12,819.48

FREE SPEECH IN MISSOURI.

I live in Denver, Colorado, and entered the campaign at St. Joseph, Missouri. Francis Neilson, M. P., had delivered a speech the night before. That settled it with the farmers. Two foreigners, one from a foreign state and another from a foreign country dared to dictate to them how to manage their own affairs.

When I entered the farming districts trouble began. At first we found an occasional hero who dared to advertise a meeting, but two weeks from the election we could not find a man who dared to make a speech in his own neighborhood, not for fear of being boycotted, but for fear of his life. Judge Rea of Savannah, born and raised in the state, his father a judge before him, was told not to come to some parts of his own county if he valued his life. He got up a meeting for me in a town of 4,000. I was billed to debate at Marysville and as I entered the courthouse a farmer stepped up to me and politely told me I ought to have a bullet put through me and that would put a stop to this damn foolishness. Then I was obliged to make my own dates. At Clarkesdale, a town of 500, I called on the Mayor and told him I was going to deliver a single tax address there, and asked for protection. He flatly refused and told me I had better not stay in town. I told him that in the absence of government in that town I would resort to self-protection. That statement perhaps saved me from being mobbed. At Marysville the lights were cut off and I was left alone in the court-room and as I groped my way out I was told that a mob of 60 boys and men with eggs and rocks was coming in on the other side, but I escaped it.

W. J. Flacy, a clothing merchant of Cameron, advertised a meeting to be held in the park on Saturday afternoon. I missed my train and did not get there until evening. We learned later that an organized committee of 50 men had intended to meet me at the depot. Soon after I began speaking, eggs began to fly at me and the audience, but eggs did not stop the speaking. Then a rough character stepped in front of the stand and tried to pick a quarrel with me. Failing in this, he started to pick a quarrel on the outside of the crowd, and but for the quick work of the marshal, I would not be able to write this story. The plan, we afterward learned, was to start a riot and in the mix-up I was to be strung to a tree. But the marshal clubbed the leader and put him in the lockup. The last I heard of Cameron they were trying to punish the leader. The city officials wrote me a letter of apology.

At King City the only one who dared to openly espouse the cause was a man by the name of Prickard. He said, "Stranger I have lived here all my life, served four years in the Union army, but I would not make a speech anywhere in the county for fear of my life. You may do as you please, but in my judgment you will be either injured or killed." I spoke there, but only by special protection of the city authorities and then under turbulent auspices. Where men dared to talk to me they said they would vote for the amendment if they dared, but a secret ballot was no protection. In one county 600 more votes were recorded against the measure than there were votes in the county. The farmers said it was

merely a scheme to load all taxes on them. Yet there are more land values in the cities and rights of way in Missouri than in the farming sections. But figures did not count in the whirlwind of passion. However, the hysteria is dying down and a rational campaign of education is setting in.—J. H. HERMANN, in *Single Tax Review*.

WORK IN RHODE ISLAND.

Rhode Island single taxers have adopted the excellent plan of sending letters to taxpayers of which the following is a form. The information it gives enables the recipient to see at once how the single tax would affect his tax bill.

Dear Sir:

Your tax for 1912 was as follows:

\$.....on Land at	\$.....per \$100,	\$.....
.....on Improvements.....	"	.....
.....on Personalty.....	"	.....
.....on Int. Personal.....	"	.....
		Total \$.....

If Improvements and Personalty had been exempt, as they should have been, the rate on your land would have been \$..... per \$100. Your tax would have been \$..... of Land at \$..... per \$100,

\$.....

Decrease \$.....

You paid \$..... for public service and received only \$.....worth. For land value, being the only value that varies with the extent and character of public service, is absolutely the only measure of the value of public service.

Are you content to pay \$.....more than your fair share of running the.....knowing that this means that somebody else is paying \$.....less than his fair share, getting for nothing what costs you good money?

Are you willing to contribute 10%, or as much thereof as you can conveniently give, of what you would have saved in 1913 to help win the fight for Land Value Taxation in Rhode Island?

If so, please remit by Check or P. O. money order to

Treasurer.

802 Lapham Bldg., Providence, R. I.

How many contributions have you secured for the Fund? How many have you tried to secure?

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

In spite of the big majority cast against the Single Tax in Missouri last fall the predatory interests are fearful of a reversal of public opinion. They succeeded in fooling the farmers, but they know that they can not keep them fooled. So to guard against this they have taken advantage of the temporary panic, into which the farmers were deluded, to have submitted by the legislature an amendment forbidding the use of the initiative not only for the Single Tax, but for home rule in taxation and for all measures which may have been voted down by ever so small a majority within five years.

This action ought to open the eyes of the farmers to how the predatory interests are endeavoring to use them. They were thrown last fall into an unreasonable frenzy and induced to vote down a measure the adoption

of which would have lightened their burdens and increased their prosperity. Now while still supposed to be under the same delusion they are being urged to destroy the most effective weapon of democracy which the people of the State possess.

The Bourbon Democracy which controlled the legislature has acted very much like the French Bourbons of the 18th century. Its attitude toward the Single Tax is like that of the French Bourbons toward Turgot, the representative of the Single Tax movement of that day. These alleged Democrats and also the so-called Progressives of Missouri may well ponder over what Theodore Roosevelt had to say about this incident. Addressing a public meeting in New York City on March 20, 1912, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"Had pre-revolutionary France listened to men like Turgot and backed them up all would have gone well. But the beneficiaries of privilege, the Bourbon reactionaries, the short-sighted ultra-conservatives, turned down Turgot, and then found that instead of him they had obtained Robespierre. They gained twenty years' freedom from all restraint and reform, at the cost of the whirlwind of the red terror; and in their turn the unbridled extremists of the terror induced a blind reaction; and so, with convulsion and oscillation, from one extreme to another, with alternations of violent radicalism and violent Bourbonism, the French people went through misery toward a shattered goal. May we profit by the experience of our brother republicans across the water."

The Bourbons of today like the Bourbons of the Eighteenth Century "never learn anything and never forget anything." They are poor leaders for the farmers of Missouri to follow.

Is anything being done to "Pastorize" your town? Note how Pastoriza did it in Houston. Can not the same thing be done where you live?

THE BOSTON CONFERENCE.

Final Session, November 30, 1912, 2 P. M.,
Tremont Temple.

Meeting called to order. Mr. Ralston was called upon to speak. Mr. Ralston said that the discussion so far had not been toward advising the Commission, one of the purposes of this conference. He moved that both original clause of the Johnson resolutions and explanation be cut out.

Prof. Johnson said he was in sympathy with the motion.

Mr. Post said that if the original clause were cut out it would be equivalent to changing of Henry George's principles by this conference, an informal body.

Mr. Stephens said that Henry George was not infallible and had at times been inconsistent as in favoring a tax on dogs and skyscrapers.

Mr. Ralston declared that it was not the purpose of the conference to lay out a single tax platform but to advise the Commission.

Mr. White moved that Section 3 be struck out entirely.

Mr. Baker said that not to discuss the platform was to evade the real issue.

Mr. Fiske Warren moved that the third section be struck out. Lost.

Mr. Ingersoll moved that resolutions be laid on the table. Carried.

Mr. Fels appealed for better financial support of single tax papers. He said he would advance as much as \$2,000 a month, but would not again give any money that was not duplicated.

Moved and seconded that Commission be requested to decide whether discussion of the Johnson resolutions would be in the nature of advising them. Carried.

After a five minutes recess, Mr. Frederic C. Howe reported for the Commission that it favored discussion of the resolutions and would like to have parliamentary form waived where it interfered with discussion.

Moved to take resolutions from the table. Carried.

Mr. Black favored discussion of resolutions paragraph by paragraph.

Mr. Hall moved striking out of third paragraph which he called the "gloom paragraph." Lost.

Moved and seconded that resolutions be adopted. Carried.

Mr. Albert B. Farmer of Toronto, reported on conditions in Canada. He said that Ontario has made substantial advance toward single tax.

Personal property, cattle, stocks, bonds are not taxed there. In Toronto there is every indication of a two to one vote in favor of single tax at the next election. In Nova Scotia the leaders of both political parties have been won over.

Moved and seconded that the chairman be given a rising vote of thanks. Unanimously adopted.

Conference then adjourned.

Banquet was held at 7:30 P. M.

Mr. John J. Murphy of New York City, Toastmaster.

Mr. U'Ren spoke on Oregon situation.

Mr. R. S. Fuller told of conditions in France.

Miss Grace I. Colbron told of the progress in Germany.

Mr. J. W. Bengough illustrated single tax principles with appropriate and clever sketches.

Mr. Fels said that progress in this country was not equal to that in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Canada.

Mr. Henry George, Jr., said that the tariff issue would make the single tax an issue in national politics.

Mr. Herbert S. Bigelow paid a tribute to the inspiration given him by the conference.

Adjourned.

CAMPAIGNING IN NEW YORK.

New York single taxers are circulating the following petition:

To the Legislature of the State of New York:

Gentlemen—The undersigned, a citizen of this State, requests your honorable body to so amend the tax laws of the State of New York that all products of labor and industry be excluded from all taxation, and that the annual rental value of lands, irrespective of the improvements therein and thereon, and of other natural monopolies or public franchises shall be collected in lieu of all the other taxes to defray the expenses of the State, County and Local Governments.

All wishing to help this work may communicate with Harry Weinberger, 261 Broadway, New York City.

CALIFORNIA'S GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

Both houses of the California Legislature have voted to submit the amendment for home rule in taxation. The matter is now up to the voters of the State. A similar measure was submitted by initiative petition last November and voted down by only 20,000 in a total vote of 320,000. It carried San Francisco and Los Angeles by heavy majorities. Lack of funds prevented workers from carrying on much of a campaign in the country districts where agents of the Southern Pacific and other monopolistic interests were able to misrepresent the situation to the farmers with scarcely any opposition. This should not occur again. Voters should be thoroughly informed of what this amendment will do. It will enable the people of any county to raise their local revenue in the way they see fit. It will put an end to the forcing on the people of San Francisco, for instance, of a system they do not want and will free to the same extent the people of the rural counties. California like all other states of the Union does not grant to counties and cities as much freedom as cities and rural districts of the western Canadian provinces enjoy.

Next November the state will vote on whether or not it shall continue to be outdone by a British possession in the amount of freedom conferred on localities within its borders. **California workers will want all the help they can get from friends outside the state. To secure this help for them is one of the important duties the Fels Fund Commission has to perform.**

PUEBLO LINING UP.

A movement is afoot for a single tax amendment to the city charter of Pueblo, Colo. Mr. George J. Knapp sends the following cheering account:

*"Last night I addressed the local Trades and Labor Assembly, and I think they will endorse the amendment in the near future. * * * The business and professional men are lining up in great shape. * * * Every doctor in the city excepting one is lined up for single tax. Most of the merchants downtown are in or on the threshold. I went out personally to get signers to the petitions and got seventy-five in less than two hours. Only about six or seven refused to sign. * * * I expect to file the initiative petition with the city council next Tuesday (June 3), and then the press will begin to fight over the amendment."*

BEGINNING TO SPREAD

Last fall, Everett, Wash., voted by a big majority in favor of single tax. In the spring, Houston, Texas, did the same by re-electing J. J. Pastoriza and endorsing his pastorized tax system. Then the Pennsylvania legislature authorized partial single tax in Pittsburg and Scranton. Now Pueblo, Colo., is coming in line. We are progressing.

In paying subscriptions for others than yourself, kindly send names and addresses also.

PENNSYLVANIA PROGRESSING.

The single tax heaven is affecting even monopoly ridden Pennsylvania. The legislature has just passed the Stein bill conferring on the city councils of Pittsburg and Scranton the power to order a lower tax rate on improvements than on land values. The new act authorizes the rate on buildings to be reduced ten per cent every three years until they will be taxed only half as much as land values. That is a beginning, although but a feeble one. The movement will surely increase in strength in Pennsylvania. The wait of three years between each reduction is too long and the legislature will surely be called upon to shorten it, and also abolish the limitation which does not allow reduction beyond fifty per cent.

Have you sent in that list of names yet of single taxers and progressives in your locality? Neglected it have you? Well, see that it is done without further delay

**TREND OF
THE THOUGHTFUL PRESS****UNEARNED INCREMENT.**

One of the leaders of the Progressive party in Ohio is John D. Fackler, a Cleveland lawyer. Mr. Fackler's office is in the Williamson Building, and paying rent every month has given a practical application in his own case to an idea which he expresses thus:

"Who made the value upon which the Williamson Building stands? The value of this land, which sold in 1820 for \$477, has grown to over \$700,000, yielding its owner clear of all tax a net revenue of \$28,000 a year."

Mr. Fackler thinks that increase in value from \$477 to over \$700,000 wasn't due to any particular virtue in Mr. Williamson (if that is the owner's name), nor to any contribution which Mr. Williamson made to the public welfare. Mr. Fackler thinks the increase was made wholly by the people of Cleveland, and he thinks the people in Cleveland, in the future at least, ought to get a portion of that which they make themselves. So he has started a movement to amend the Ohio constitution to provide for an "increment tax."

Now the increment tax provision simply says to the landowner: "We will value your land exclusive of improvements on January 1, 1915. If after that date the population of the city grows, and adds more to the value of your land, the community which creates the value is going to insist on a share of the profit which it produces for you."—Collier's Weekly.

The subscription price of the Bulletin is ten cents per annum. Send coin or stamps. If amount is large enough for check, make payable to A. B. DuPont, Treasurer, Daniel Kiefer, Chairman, or to Joseph Fels Fund Commission.