

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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I. AND R. ON FUND MATTERS.

The establishment of THE BULLETIN has made practical the inauguration of the Initiative and Referendum on Fels Fund matters. One hundred and fifty contributors or what now amounts to approximately five per cent of the whole number may initiate any proposition to be submitted to the whole list for a vote. Any contributor may announce in THE BULLETIN a proposition he has in view for which signatures of contributors are desired. Upon obtaining the needed signatures the proposition will be published and a vote taken.

MINNESOTA'S REPORT ON CANADIAN TAXATION.

One of the most valuable official publications of the present time is the twelfth chapter of the third biennial report of the Minnesota Tax Commission which has just been published in pamphlet form by the Commission (St. Paul, Minn.) under the title of "Taxation of Land Values." Instead of allowing a cozy set of land monopolists to drive the State into a panic over the Singletax, as Missouri appears to have done, Minnesota sent its Tax Commission to Canada to investigate the Singletax system in actual operation there. The result is likely to be a release of Minnesota farmers from the monopoly burdens to which Missouri farmers cling so tenderly, and consequently the speedy putting of Minnesota as far ahead of its present agricultural advance as that is already ahead of Missouri's. In this pamphlet the Minnesota Tax Commission reports at length upon Canadian experiments with the Singletax, describing the system as found at work in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. "The most striking feature," declares this report at page 174, "in a study of tax reform in western Canada, is the strong trend throughout the entire country in the direction of the Singletax principle. That so far it is working satisfactorily wherever tried is generally admitted, even by opponents of the principle. In no district in which the principle has been applied is there any noticeable desire to return to the old system. From present indications it is safe to predict that within the next ten or twenty years the Singletax principle will be adopted by every taxing district in Western Canada."

This publication can soon be had of the Jos. Fels Fund Commission—arrangements now making for a quantity of the original or a reprint—5 cents each or less.

WHAT SINGLE TAX WILL DO.

The Joseph Fels Fund Society, of Cincinnati, which is sending its great streams of helpfulness over all the world and doing its educational work year after year, in America and Europe, would have been able to save Rome and Carthage from ruin had it existed.

Let my correspondent write to that society and ask for literature, that she may know what a sane and safe and wise method of helpfulness is being pursued, and what a common sense road out of the wilderness is being cut by some of our world's workers.

No satisfactory, lasting benefit can come to America while the EARTH is owned by a few people. WE MUST have soil before we have homes.

We must have the right to use the earth for sustenance before we can clean out the slums and thin out the crowded tenements; and give mothers a chance to rest, and the time to bring up their children as God meant them to do; and the time to read and grow and learn what real motherhood means.

All the organized charities and all the Carnegie libraries, and all the Rockefeller institutes on earth, or the Morgan galleries can never solve our awful problems of shameful poverty and shameful wealth. WE MUST HAVE the soil for the people. And that is what the Joseph Fels Fund Society is giving us, slowly but surely.—ELLA WHEELER WILCOX in *New York American*, in answer to a correspondent.

HOW CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE COME IN.

During the first three years of the Commission's work, 1909, 1910 and 1911, total contributions aside from what was received from Mr. Fels amounted to \$34,000.

During the year 1912 total receipts aside from Mr. Fels amounted to \$26,985.

Expenditures were as follows:

	1909-10-11	1912
Printing and stationery.....	\$3,581	\$5,051
Postage	3,683	2,114
Sundries	3,854	3,058
Salaries	5,122	4,896
General activities	65,809	66,651
Total	\$82,049	\$81,770

The item "general activities" means work directly done to advance the movement. It includes all expenditures for the different campaigns, as well as for *The Public, Single Tax Review, Press Bureau*, and similar matters.

The increase of 1912 over previous years is gratifying and encouraging, but at the same time a comparison of receipts with expenditures will show to what extent single taxers have failed to match Joseph Fels. This must not be the case in 1913. Good as the 1912 record appears by comparison, we must do much better this year. So get to work, everybody.

PAYMENTS TO FELS FUND DURING FEBRUARY BY STATES.

If your State is not doing as well as it should, some one has been neglecting his or her duty. If that means you, then now is the time to make amends.

State	No.	Amount for February	Total Since December 1
Alabama	.....	.....	\$24.25
Arkansas	.....	.....	1.00
Arizona	3	\$3.00	8.00
California	45	140.00	588.25
Colorado	2	15.00	139.60
Connecticut	1	1.00	28.50
Delaware	.....	.....	96.00
District of Columbia	5	56.00	112.00
Florida	.....	.....	75.00
Georgia	.....	.....	1.00
Idaho	1	2.00	2.50
Illinois	22	116.75	767.85
Indiana	4	17.00	71.24
Iowa	5	20.50	47.60
Kansas	2	80	8.54
Kentucky	2	3.50	104.75
Louisiana	3	113.00	200.10
Maine	.....	.....	33.10
Maryland	.....	.....	34.51
Massachusetts	17	107.70	360.40
Michigan	7	69.15	144.15
Minnesota	1	2.00	95.25
Mississippi	.....	.....	3.00
Missouri	5	35.10	103.45
Montana	.....	.....	18.00
Nebraska	1	.00	35.00
Nevada	.....	.....	2.00
New Hampshire	1	5.00	22.00
New Jersey	5	17.00	54.50
New Mexico	.....	.....	2.00
New York	21	141.25	1,917.50
North Dakota	.....	.....	19.25
Ohio	14	89.75	362.10
Oklahoma	1	1.00	1.00
Oregon	5	24.00	119.50
Pennsylvania	29	155.20	841.05
Rhode Island	3	4.00	76.00
South Carolina	.....	.....	2.00
South Dakota	1	50	32.50
Tennessee	1	5.00	57.00
Texas	13	36.35	218.75
Virginia	1	1.00	1.00
Washington	31	151.00	386.00
West Virginia	1	2.00	3.00
Wisconsin	2	11.00	52.00
Foreign	4	27.90	34.90

ENCOURAGING RESPONSES.

THE BULLETIN has received so many encouraging and complimentary letters that it is impossible to reproduce them all.

Responding to the heading "Are There More Like These," put over the reproduction of a letter a friend in Chicago wrote: "Yes, here is one," and enclosed a check for a liberal amount.

A friend in another city wrote as follows:

"Your February BULLETIN reminded me that I had not done my share toward the fund. When I saw the question, 'When are you going to do it?' I said: 'Now.'"

From Washington comes the following complimentary word from a liberal and faithful helper:

"It is my earnest belief that the Commission is doing the greatest work ever undertaken for the Single Tax cause, and I hope that the other contributors throughout the country, outside of Mr. Fels, will do their share and that the contributions for 1913 will far exceed those of 1912."

From New York City comes this word: "I am so glad to see the Joseph Fels Fund BULLETIN. It is a step in the right direction. It ought to be elaborated and brought out weekly."

Many more quotations of the same kind could be given and more are still coming in.

Help us by sending names and addresses of friends who may be interested in The Bulletin and the work of The Commission.

WE MUST HAVE NAMES—WE NEED THEM NOW.

Hundreds of thousands have woken up during the past few years to the fact that existing conditions are wrong. Some have become Single Taxers. Others are on the way.

The last election shows that there must be a half million Single Taxers or Near Single Taxers in a half dozen States alone!

Yet we are struggling to build this fund on a little foundation of but 3,000 contributors.

That is not fair to you. We ought to be in touch with every man and woman of the great army that is coming our way. They will gladly help if we only get the chance to tell them of our work. To get this chance we must know who they are. Every reader of this knows some of them.

Don't keep this knowledge to yourself. Send us their names.

Our 3,000 contributors together with other readers, who are going to contribute, are an army in themselves. Here are their marching orders.

1. Subscribe.
2. Send names of Single Taxers.
3. Send names of other Progressives.

Now all you soldiers of the Common Good do your duty and follow these instructions. You can have explanation of the why and wherefore of these orders if you want them, but if you don't already know them, don't delay obeying for that reason.

PROMPT RESPONSES WILL HASTEN
THE SINGLE TAX.

DELAYS WILL DELAY IT.

NEED WE SAY MORE?

HOW SINGLE TAX AFFECTS MEDICINE HAT.

Medicine Hat—Alberta: Assessment for 1913 is \$18,500,000, as against \$7,012,000 in 1912 and \$4,153,000 in 1911. The tax system in use is the single tax. Tax rate last year was 15½ mills. It will be less this year.

By next fall when flour mills now being constructed, are operating, the city will be turning out 15,000 to 20,000 barrels every day.

Many are sending from one to five dollars for their subscriptions. While this substantial show of interest is very helpful and much appreciated we much prefer to receive names and addresses sufficient for the amount sent.

PROCEEDINGS OF BOSTON CONFERENCE.

Afternoon session, November 29, 1912, Twentieth Century Hall.

Called to order by Secretary Hull. Mr. Frank H. Thomas, of Cambridge, chosen Chairman pro tem in absence of Dr. Millet.

Mr. Kiefer read reports from California and Washington on work done in these States.

Mr. Robert Scott, of Winnipeg, reported on progress of single tax in Canada. Victoria, British Columbia, had adopted the single tax by a vote of six to one. In Saskatchewan there has only been land value taxation for a few years. In Alberta single tax has been made mandatory on all cities and towns. In British Columbia many cities and towns are adopting it. The farmers of Western Canada are out and out single taxers. Many business men also are supporting the movement.

Professor L. J. Johnson offered resolutions approving the work of the Commission in detail.

Moved and seconded that resolutions be printed and taken up as first order of business on November 30th. Carried.

Resolutions offered by Bolton Hall of an advisory nature. Moved and seconded that resolutions be made an order of business November 30th. Carried.

Resolutions adopted by the Tenants Union, of New York City, advocating the single tax were read.

Moved and seconded that resolutions be taken up as an order of business November 30th. Passed.

Moved and seconded that program be amended to permit address by Mr. Fuller. Carried.

Mr. Fuller said he had just returned from France after an eight-years stay. He declared that the single tax has a firm hold not only in Paris, but other parts of France. He considers conditions there most encouraging for the progress of the movement. He also holds that conditions in America are favorable.

Mr. Hull read a letter from Portland, Ore., signed by Messrs. Rice, Coulter, Rex, Lampman, Goldberg, Gregg, Flacke and Bowerman, severely criticizing the management of the recent campaign in Oregon and especially finding fault with W. S. U'Ren.

Mr. U'Ren said that the committee of which he was a member was composed of seven men who made every effort to work in harmony. Nothing was ever passed unless every member approved. They never sought to obtain anything by subterfuge. When they had been accused of being tools of moneyed men, they replied by aiming a bill direct

at the big men. The cause of the defeat was that people still look upon single tax as too radical a reform. The 31,000 who voted for their measure are firm believers in single tax and will not forsake it. He admitted that all single taxers, including himself, had expected too much. They had forgotten that it takes time to convince voters of the truth of even so clear and righteous a principle as the single tax. He is a candidate for governor on the single tax basis and feels optimistic. He does not consider the recent defeat an unmixed evil, as it would have hurt the cause had their measure passed and the legislature and other state officials been hostile. This would have been the condition had single tax been victorious.

Dr. W. G. Eggleston approved of what Mr. U'Ren had said but added the explanation that the graduated measure voted on was not called by them the "graduated single tax," but "the graduated specific tax and exemption amendment."

Mr. J. W. Bengough reported that throughout the campaign he had found his audiences patient, good natured and interested. He is confident of the early success of single tax.

Adjourned to 8 P. M.

Help us by sending names and addresses of friends who may be interested in The Bulletin and the work of The Commission.

MORE PROGRESS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Government of British Columbia is taking the first steps toward putting the single tax for provincial purposes in operation. Hon. Price Ellison, Minister of Finance, has introduced a bill to abolish the poll tax at once, to exempt improvements from taxation in two years and in four years abolish the personal property tax and rearrange the incidence of the income tax. In his address to Parliament, the Minister said: "Our aim is as soon as possible, by easy stages, to reach a point where direct taxation will be eliminated and our revenues will be obtained from the natural resources of the province. This I regard as a sound policy, and I shall go further into the matter when I explain Bill 44, on its second reading."

Local single tax already exists in Vancouver, Victoria, Prince Rupert, New Westminster and other cities. Mr. Ellison clearly aims to exempt labor from provincial taxation also, leaving Dominion taxes as the only burden on industry in British Columbia.

NEARLY CAUGHT IN OWN TRAP.

Salem, Oregon, February 13.—One of Senator W. Lair Thompson's pet measures in this legislature is senate bill 125, for the purpose of shutting out the use of any portion of the Fels fund in the single tax campaigns in this state. It is asserted that the senator has enjoyed many a chuckle over what this measure, when it became a law, would do to the single taxers.

But, sad as it may seem, there appear to be others besides the users of the Fels fund who draw liberally from exchequers outside of the state. The corporation lobbyists were not slow in discovering this. They whispered the matter around. While they didn't care a dang about the single taxers, their

own corns were tender and, please, they mustn't be stepped on.

Boomerang! did some one say?

Well, slightly, and so the measure was laid on the table, where it quietly sleeps, and it is asserted that Senator Thompson, loyal to his corporation friends, dares not call it from its resting place.

His chuckles cease to be heard.—*Portland Daily Journal*.

VICTORY IN HOUSTON.

J. J. Pastoriza, the Single Tax Tax Commissioner of Houston, has been re-elected by 1,200 majority on the issue of endorsing the policy he has pursued during his administration. This policy was to make as near an approach as possible to putting local single tax in operation in Houston. All local licenses were abolished. Personal property was not assessed for taxation at all. Improvements were only assessed at 25 per cent of their value and land values at 70 per cent. Of course land speculators kicked. But the effect of the policy on Houston has been so good that in spite of the speculators' opposition Mr. Pastoriza has been triumphantly re-elected to continue his good work.

Steps are being taken in Galveston to follow Houston's example.

The subscription price of The Bulletin is ten cents per annum. Send coin or stamps.

PLUTES BADLY WORRIED.

The Fels Fund work has set predatory interests to frantically endeavoring to find some way to block the single tax. They know that the voters they fooled last fall won't stay fooled. They feel that while ignorance prevails they must prepare for enlightenment which they see is coming.

That is why their agents in the recent Ohio Constitutional Convention tried to emasculate the Initiative and Referendum provision so that it could not be used to get the single tax. They blundered most stupidly and secured a meaningless inhibition which does not inhibit.

Their agents in the Missouri legislature are trying to monkey with the same buzz saw. It would not be a great misfortune to any one but themselves if they actually put their hands on it.

In Oregon also they are bothering their brains to find some way to stop education as well as to prevent any use of knowledge after it has been obtained.

In all these places plutocratic interests have made pretty clear that they fear nothing so much as single tax. If the people can only be prevented from adopting that, they do not care much what else may be done.

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THE LIGHT IS SPREADING.

While some of the Granges of Oregon have adopted resolutions against the Single Tax, the first convention of Tenant Farmers in Texas has adopted resolutions demanding the taxation of land values "up to the limit." The farmers of Alberta and Saskatchewan who are not tenants but own their fields, are a unit for the abolition of tariff taxes and the

substitution of land values taxes, while in these States the farmers are exempt from local and State taxes on improvements and live stock, machinery, vehicles and warehouses.—*Single Tax Review*.

A WORD TO NEGLIGENT FRIENDS.

It is not pleasant to be continually after one's friends for contributions, especially when there is some doubt about how each friend feels concerning the matter to be supported. But unpleasant as it is, it is a duty that can not be shirked. When a friend responds promptly, cordially and favorably, one feels that he is a friend indeed. When he positively declines, one has at least the satisfaction of knowing where he stands. But when he neglects to answer at all, the task of the solicitor is made hard. It then becomes necessary to make a second appeal without positively knowing how it will be interpreted. Failure to answer may mean lack of interest, may mean refusal to consider or may mean merely forgetfulness or negligence on the part of a would-be helper. So it will not do to interpret any man's silence as refusal. On the chance that he may be unintentionally negligent, he must be solicited from again and again until there can be no question concerning his position. Otherwise the work of the solicitor will not be properly done.

So those of our friends who have not responded to any of the Commission's letters or to notices in THE BULLETIN, will now realize that their act of omission forces an embarrassing and disagreeable duty on the Commission. It becomes compelled to take the risk of appearing as a pestiferous dun. A prompt response including a pledge of help or definite information that the writer is not interested will relieve it of this most unpleasant necessity.

Now let those readers who favor establishment of the single tax send in their pledge of help without any further delay, and let those who don't want the single tax, kindly inform the Commission, so that it may know its duty does not require it to ask help from them.

YOU SHOULD READ "THE PUBLIC."

If you are a Democrat with a little d.

If you want to be posted on current events.

If you want to get important news impartially reported.

If you want to be spared picking important items out of a mass of unimportant happenings or out of sensational slush.

If you want to read fair and logical comments from a Democratic standpoint.

Louis F. Post is the editor.

Published weekly.

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Address "The Public,"

Ellsworth Building, 357 Dearborn st., Chicago.

THE SEATTLE RESULT.

Seattle has voted once more to allow labor in the city to be robbed and to go on maintaining conditions which breed poverty, disease and distress. But there have been gains nevertheless. The total vote was smaller than a year ago, but the proportion of single tax votes cast increased from 30 per cent of the total to 33⅓ per cent. It is only a matter of keeping on.