

JOSEPH FELS FUND BULLETIN

BLMYER BUILDING

Monthly Information for 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

(PRICE 10C PER YEAR)

Entered as second class matter March 14, 1913, at the Post Office at Cincinnati, Ohio, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Volume 2

Cincinnati, Ohio, March, 1914

Number 3

ON WITH THE FIGHT.

"Another gap in the ranks—God, what a big one! Close up! Blows are to strengthen. We rejoice that he fell face forward and well out on the firing line. To Mrs. Fels our sympathy inexpressible in words. To the cause our renewed pledges of loyalty." Message from Home Rule Tax League of Los Angeles, on receipt of the news of the death, on February 22, of Joseph Fels.

THE MONUMENT TO JOSEPH FELS.

Joseph Fels deserves a monument, but he should have a more lasting one than could be erected of marble or granite. There is only one kind that would be worthy of him. That is the completion of the work to which he gave all he had. The Joseph Fels Fund of America now becomes in fact a fund to erect this fitting memorial. **The monument to Joseph Fels will be a world freed from poverty and from all the evils resulting from it or from fear of it. His monument must be the state described by Henry George:**

"A republic where all shall have plenty, where each may sit under his vine and fig tree, with none to vex him or make him afraid; where with want shall gradually disappear vice and crime; where men shall cease to spend their lives in a struggle to live or in heaping up things they cannot take away; where talent shall be greater than wealth and character greater than talent, and where each may find free scope to develop body, mind and soul."

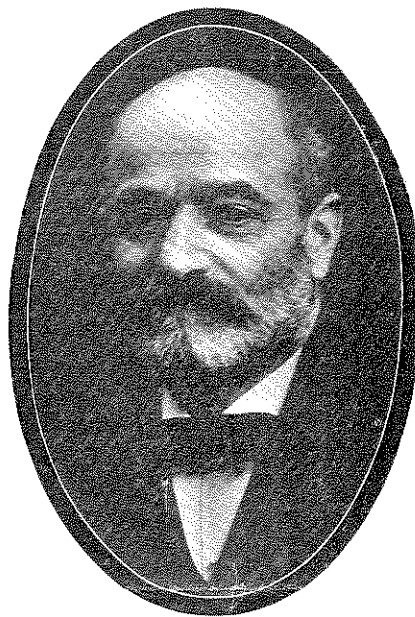
That will be a monument which will not decay, and will make needless any spoken or written eulogy of any one who has made it possible. Pledges to the Joseph Fels Fund are pledges to help erect this memorial. The Fund should now be swelled beyond what had been dreamed of heretofore. Joseph Fels gave more while he was with us than could rightfully have been required of him. He worried much over the neg-

lect of those who failed to do what they should. Now, that he has gone, let those who have thus failed grasp the opportunity to do what he would ask of them were he still here. No further solicitation ought to be necessary either of those already pledged or of those who have so far failed to do so. Every single taxpayer must now do his full duty.

JOSEPH FELS.

Long has the prediction of Henry George been fulfilled that the truth he made clear "**will find friends—those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be, die for it. Such is the power of truth.**" One of these friends was Joseph Fels. Those who think of him merely as a rich man giving what he could easily afford, fail to do him justice. A rich man he surely was—but what he gave was not merely what he would never miss. He gave what to most men must seem to be all that make riches worth possessing. He let his riches bring him no better living than a modest income would have brought. **He gave—not to relieve for the moment distress caused by unjust conditions. Had**

JOSEPH FELS



he done this he could have enjoyed the applause and flattery which come to all who are called philanthropists. But he gave instead to remove the cause of distress. He gave to the cause of justice—that charity might not be required. He gave to put an end to a system that takes from those who toil and gives to those who toil not. He felt as Henry George so well expressed:

"What is there for which life gives us opportunity that can be compared with the effort to do what we may, be it ever so little, to improve social conditions and enable other lives to reach fuller, nobler development."

He did not stop with giving money. He gave much more. He gave to the cause all the prestige that wealth gives to its possessor. He gave to it all of his ability as a writer, speaker and

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solicitor from others of contributions. He left nothing undone which lay within his power to do to forward the movement. He forgot himself entirely in this work. He literally gave himself, as well as his money, and in giving himself he gave far more than his money could buy.

His work does not stop with his death. His acts, while living, have put forces in motion that can not be stopped until the ultimate goal will be reached. Although he has not lived to see the final triumph of the Single Tax movement, yet because he lived and worked, the earth will surely become a better place for others to live upon. No man can accomplish greater good than that.

THE BEST TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

Memorial meetings in honor of Joseph Fels either have been held or are to be held in about every important city. **Josiah C. Wedgwood**, prominent member of the Land Values group of the British Parliament, president of the United Committee for Taxation of Land Values, and one of the owners of the famous Wedgwood potteries, has come over to represent the radicals of his country at these meetings. All this is a fitting tribute. It is as it should be. But the tribute to the memory of Joseph Fels that must not be forgotten is redoubling of efforts to push forward the work to which he devoted himself.

APPRECIATION OF MESSAGES.

It is not possible to reproduce within the space of one issue of the Bulletin, or of several issues, all the resolutions and messages of condolence and sympathy that have poured in. They have come from every State and from every important center in each State. They have come from Canada, Great Britain, Continental Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South America, Africa, and Asia. Of course, the friends who have sent them realize the utter impossibility of individual response for the present at least. Mrs. Fels deeply appreciates these messages and through the Bulletin offers acknowledgment.

BIGELOW'S \$14,000,000 HORSE.

Watseka, Ill., Feb. 20, 1914.

Just received the last Bulletin. If I had the means I would have a million copies of Herbert Bigelow's "\$14,000,000 Horse" printed in large type, in a neat folder to fit a 5x6½ envelope, and mail to a million voters. It is the clearest, most forcible exposition of franchise monopoly I have ever read. It should be in the hands of every voter.

W. H. PETERS.

Reprints may be had in leaflet form 25 cents per hundred.

JOSEPH FELS.

Engine and wheel and chain that clank and groan
In ceaseless factory-din thundering apace,
Ear-stunning clamor of the market-place,
And yet, amid it all, he heard the moan.
When Riches made its golden bribe his own,
And Power trumpet-called him from the throng,
And soft, luxurious Ease, with drowsy song,
He was as one not hearing—save that moan.
Half the vast world he traversed in his quests,
As Galahad for the Grail, heedless of self,
Unresting, squandering time and strength and pelf,
Followed and sought and fought—and now he rests.

—FRANK STEPHENS, in The Public (Chicago).

February 22, 1914.

CHICAGO INTERESTED IN HOUSTON.

The Chicago Tribune's able special writer, Henry M. Hyde, has made an investigation of the Houston (Texas) way of dealing with taxation. Mr. Hyde's articles are all in the nature of suggestions of what can be done to improve Chicago. The result of his Houston investigation is published in the issue of March 6, of the Tribune. The following is a partial reproduction:

SINGLE TAX PLAN GIVES PROSPERITY TO HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Commissioner Forces System Upon City Despite Protests of the Landholders—Ignores Personal Levy.

Charged With Violating Law, He Wins Point By Threat of Implicit Enforcement—City Gains in Several Ways—Where 'We Will' there's a Way.

Three years ago "Joe" Pastoriza was elected one of the commissioners to whom was intrusted the government of Houston, Tex. At that time the population of the city was 78,000.

When the commission organized to divide the work among its members the unpopular job of assessing and collecting the taxes was handed to Pastoriza. * * *

As soon as he was appointed, Pastoriza announced that he would not try to collect any taxes on personal property. Not one-tenth of the personal property was ever discovered; it simply made half the people of the town perjure themselves; and all the real taxable value was in real estate anyhow. * * *

Presently and naturally the big real estate owners of the city got frightened. They called on the mayor and demanded that Pastoriza must stop his revolutionary talk. * * *

"All right," said Pastoriza, finally, "I will do as you say and obey the law just as it is written." He picked up a sheet of paper and a lead pencil. "I'll begin with myself. I've got \$5,000 cash in bank, \$13,000 loaned out on mortgages and \$20,000 in real estate. I'll write them all down opposite my own name.

"Now we'll take you, Mr. Smith," he said, addressing the chairman of the committee and one of the richest men in the city. "If I have \$5,000 in bank you must have at least \$50,000. We'll put that down. If I have \$13,000 loaned out, you must have at least \$75,000 invested in mortgages. We'll put that down."

Pastoriza went on with two or three other members of the committee in the same way. Finally they all threw up their hands. If Pastoriza's talk about taxing nothing but land was revolutionary, this threat that he would really enforce the law and tax all personal property was complete madness. Anything was better than that. They agreed to let Pastoriza go ahead with his single tax scheme. * * *

Pastoriza first of all caused a scientific assessment to be made of all the land in the city limits. In determining the value of the property against which taxes were to be laid, he put in the land at 75 per cent of its full value; improvements of all kinds were listed at only 25 per cent of their real value.

The franchises of public utility corporations had never before been assessed at all. Pastoriza put them down for \$1,800,000.

It was necessary to raise several hundred thousand dollars more that year by taxation than the year before, yet, when Pastoriza got through, the tax bills of some 5,000 citizens, constituting a clear majority of the taxpayers of the city, were less than they had been under the old arrangement.

Last spring Pastoriza ran for re-election on a straight out single tax platform. He even warned people publicly that if they did not believe in the single tax they had better vote against him. Single taxers find vast satisfaction in the fact that Pastoriza was triumphantly re-elected at the head of the poll, receiving almost as many votes as all of the other thirteen candidates put together.

Single taxers also produce with pride the figures which show that under Pastoriza the city of Houston has flourished as never before. Its population is more than 80

per cent larger. Its bank deposits and postoffice receipts have greatly increased.

Most significant of all is the fact that, under single tax, building operations have each year shown a decided gain. For the first six months of 1913, for instance, building permits were 55 per cent in excess of those issued during the same period in 1911. And for 1914 Pastoriza has announced that land values will be assessed at 100 per cent, with no tax whatever on improvements.

The Houston plan of enforcing a radical reform without waiting either for the repeal of old laws or the passage of new laws, without attempting to create any new government machinery, has been followed by a number of other cities in Texas. Pastoriza has been out all over the state speaking before various civic organizations. As a result of his work the Houston plan of taxation, under which the burden is gradually shifted to the land values, has been adopted by Galveston, San Antonio, Waco, and Beaumont.

* * *

It will be strange if other radical reformers do not follow the Texas example. All that is necessary is to get elected to office on any old ticket. Then take advantage of the fact that very few laws of any kind are strictly enforced and put your own particular pet reform into force, under threat, if objection is made of following the letter of the statutes.

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING.

Modesto, California, February 20.—The secretary of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce took me over the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation District yesterday. We covered about 35 miles of roads in each district, so that I got a fair insight into conditions in each of them. The Modesto district exempts buildings and other improvements from taxation for irrigation purposes. The Turlock district taxes improvements.

The condition of each of these irrigation districts verifies every theory of single taxers as to the effect of the taxation of improvements. In the Modesto district the houses, barns and outhouses are substantially built, well kept, and the houses are generally neat architectural structures, some of them very fine, and nearly all of them have nice gardens with flowers, ferns, palms, and other trees, and grass lawns. Their average condition is superior to most of the moderate sized homes in the large cities.

In one part of the district where five years ago there was a large wheat ranch of 1,660 acres with one house on it, that was occupied only during the harvest season, and on which three years ago there were but three children, today there are a multitude of small farms from 3 to 40 acres in area, a very fine, large school house that would do credit to any town, with an attendance of 75 children. Close by them is a large, handsome structure about 100x100, built by the Women's Improvement Club of the neighborhood, with a nice garden about it. This building is used for meetings of all kinds in this section of the district. Mind you, these buildings are out in the country among the ranches! There are other fine schools and Women's Improvement Club buildings in other parts of the Modesto Irrigation district.

In my trip through the Turlock Irrigation District I went south on the west side about 14 miles, thence east to the city of Turlock and returned on the state highway via Ceres, covering about 35 miles. In all that journey I saw only three very good houses, and but one that might be called very fine. The rest of the houses would not average above a shack, very few of them had gardens, the barns did not average one-half the size of those in the Modesto district, and the outhouses were smaller and fewer in number. The buildings were not well maintained or painted, some of them were tumbling down. Many of the barns had large advertising signs painted on the roofs. (I did not see a single barn in the Modesto district so disfigured.) The houses were scattered and not near so close together as in the Modesto district. Large sections of open country without a house upon it were to be seen. One absentee owner was growing grain on a 640-acre section, which can easily suggest 35 families if properly cultivated.

These two irrigation districts immediately adjoin each other, the soil is admitted by every one to be practically the same in each of them. They get their water for irri-

gation purposes out of the Tuolumne at the La Grange dam, the ditch of one being on the north side of the river and of the other on the south side. The climate in each district is exactly the same. The people throughout the country are of the same nationalities and descent. There is nothing to distinguish one district from the other except that Turlock district taxes improvements while Modesto does not. (Personal property is not taxed for irrigation purposes in any irrigation district in California.)

The best answer to the question, What is the cause of the excellence of the conditions in Modesto district and the contrary in Turlock district? is to be found in my experience with the Stanislaus County Board of Trade. A few days ago I appeared before that body and asked them to adopt a statement showing the effect of the exemption of improvements from this irrigation tax on the city and county in the Modesto Irrigation District.

While some of the members seemed inclined to comply with my request, one member of the board, Mr. E. P. Mains, of the firm of Cadwaller, Mains & McCart of Turlock, objected. He said the board was a county body and that "We do not have that system of taxation in Turlock."—EDWARD P. E. TROY, in *The Public* (Chicago).

CROSBY AND HEYDECKER.

The passing away of Edward Le Moyne Heydecker on February 10, and of John Sherwin Crosby on February 24, are losses to the movement that deepen sorrow over the loss of Joseph Fels. Both worked for the cause in different ways. Crosby, through his magnificent oratory and splendid writings; Heydecker, through his ability to patiently co-operate in a friendly way with those who favored anything at all that was a step—however short it may have been—in our direction. And both did fine work that has left permanent results. As an orator Crosby had scarcely an equal. Had he cared to devote this great talent to any other cause than that of an unpopular truth, he would surely have achieved fame and fortune. But he preferred to speak for truth "ere 'tis prosperous to be just."

The names of Crosby and Heydecker belong in the list of the soldiers of the common good, who remained in the fight till the last.

CALIFORNIA'S OPPORTUNITY.

All California is horrified over the report of Dr. Carleton H. Parker, State Commissioner of Immigration, telling of the horrible condition in the hop ranches near Wheatfield, which led to a bloody riot last August. Two men charged with taking part in these riots have been convicted of murder and sentenced to the penitentiary for life. But Dr. Parker points to the fact that that is neither a preventive nor a cure. Fortunately, California has a chance to make a beginning at putting a genuine cure in effect. The Home Rule in taxation amendment to be voted on this fall will open the way to giving labor better access to the unused natural resources of the State, making it more independent and able to make better terms for employment. Men will not then be compelled to choose between starvation and acceptance of jobs under conditions that breed disease and suffering.

To keep labor from attaining such a position of independence, monopolistic interests of California are fighting this amendment. It is up to opponents of monopoly to put it through.

TORYISM IN NEW YORK.

New York's monopolistic interests are thoroughly alarmed over the prospective passage of the Herrick-Sharp bill, authorizing a popular referendum on cutting in half the taxation of improvements. The *New York Times* and the *New York Evening Post* both openly say that the popular will on a measure of this kind must not be allowed to prevail. They favor popular government—of course—as long as popular government won't interfere with predatory interests. But as soon as a move is made to prevent appropriation by a few of what belongs to all, they say popular government must be checked. There is nothing particularly surprising in this. All progressives and particularly single taxers have long known that these papers and all other opponents of economic justice feel that way. But it is something new to secure this frank admission. The Allied Real Estate Interests is, of course, at one with these papers in opposing popular rule whenever it may result in anything of importance.

IN MEMORY OF A DEPARTED ONE.

By Leigh Mitchell Hodges, in Philadelphia North American, March 1:

Only yesterday—it was a week ago, but when the hands of death point to eternity, days become as minutes—he grasped my hand in greeting and gave back smile for smile.

Even then the edge of the shadow of those silent wings which ever are sweeping us as heaps of dust into the quickening life-light, was upon him. But I did not know, and I do not know that he knew.

If he did—if to his eyes so soon to be cleared to the vaster range had come a vision of some sign in the distance; the beckoning of some Friendly Hand along the up-road, none knew it.

With that fine courage which is in the heart of every gentleman, he was facing the way unafraid.

What is there to fear when the Friendly Hand does beckon?

A little payment of pain which brings peace; a little handing over of strength which bears interest—everlastingly, we are forced to think—in greater strength.

Only yesterday I saw him in the white bed in the room that was all white, with the white-capped nurse beside him.

He had so longed to sleep, and now he was falling asleep. It was not the sleep of the night that comes after the day's work, but the kind that comes in bottles.

He did not care. The creditor who some day will call for your account and mine had exacted a huge payment of pain—I think it must have been a mistake, for so clean and just a gentleman should not have such debts to pay.

He had longed to sleep, and sleep now was come to him.

That old, old nurse, Sleep, who for tens of thousands of nights has been stroking children—we all are children—into a delicious foretaste of eternity!

That gentlest of nurses who so loves us that she can not bear to see us in pain, hence turns from the bed of suffering!

I shall not see him again—here.

But like a fair mantle left hanging in the room of my remembrance, his cheeriness and charm; his interest in others and his faultless courtesy shall keep him alive for me, and—I hope in some measure be kept alive in me!

For to me and all who knew him he left these great treasures—a desire for what is best, an unwillingness to utter an unkind word and the grace of a true gentleman.

I shall not see him again—here, yet in all that is fine and sincere I shall see something of him, and be glad and thankful.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

The work inspired by Joseph Fels will go on. He shall be no more dead than is Henry George or Tom L. Johnson, or any other of the workers who have passed on. The Commission has something to say to contributors to the Fund concerning the manner of continuation, and will send a letter to each one. When it comes, answer it promptly. The sending of second letters, of notices and reminders, causes a heavy drain on finances, which can be saved by prompt replies. Show your interest in the work by doing at least that much for it.

ROBERT G. BREMNER.

When Congressman Robert G. Bremner, of New Jersey, died at Baltimore, on February 5, there passed away an enthusiastic fighter for social justice, who realized that only through the Single Tax can social justice be obtained. Even during the last months of his life, while suffering from cancer, he did not relax in his efforts in behalf of the cause. As a member of the District of Columbia Committee, he ably assisted the work of Henry George, Jr., in pushing his plan of more just taxation for the city of Washington. While on his deathbed he worked on a speech he intended to deliver. Nothing less than death itself could stop him. His place is secure among those who have lived to make men free.

BULLETIN SUBSCRIBERS—ATTENTION.

Since subscriptions to the Bulletin are but ten cents a year, it is evident that the expenditure of two cents to send a notice of an expiring subscription can not be a judicious expenditure. It is still more evident that it would be still less judicious to pay for sending of additional reminders if the first notice should be disregarded or overlooked. So if you care enough for the Bulletin to continue getting it, **renew your subscription promptly** without waiting for a notice from us.

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