

# 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 Bulletin has to date 1,550 paid subscribers. That will admit us to second-class rates, but then we will have to cut down on sample copies. We want a bigger subscription list before we do that. So don't get weary of urging your friends to send ten cents for a year's subscription.

## "THE PHILANTHROPIST."

The cartoon accompanying this issue of the Bulletin shows the position of those who "are willing to do anything to help the poor except to get off of their backs." There are many good people who do not understand why liberal contributions to charity do not entitle the giver to as much credit as helping the cause of justice. The artist has succeeded in making clear why it does not. He also shows how those who see the truth that Henry George made clear are striving in spite of great obstacles to free humanity of the crushing burden.

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

## THE FUND AND ITS WORK.

The report on the Joseph Fels Fund and its work has been sent to all on the Commission's list. All readers of this paper should by this time have received it. Any who have not or who may wish extra copies to hand to friends will receive them on request. The report is an up-to-date account in brief form of what the Commission has done since its inception and what it has in prospect.

## HAS THE COMMISSION GOT YOUR ANSWER?

There ought to be an active campaign on in every State of the Union. In states not yet ready for a political campaign active propaganda work should be going on. But to carry out such a program requires a fund many times larger than is now at the disposal of the Commission. That is why the work of the Commission must be limited to a few states where the chances of securing speedy results seem best. The single taxer who withholds help on the assumption that others are giving all that is needed is mistaken. He is keeping the work from broadening out. His neglect is a loss to the movement that can not be made up. This is a fact that should be realized by those who have not responded to any of the Commission's letters.

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

## APRIL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND.

See how your state has been doing. Have you done your share in trying to make a better showing?

State	Number of April Contributors	Amount for April	Total Since December 1
Alabama	3	\$2.26	\$40.01
Arkansas	1	4.00	8.00
Arizona	..	..	11.00
California	104	342.61	1,244.36
Colorado	10	40.00	181.10
Connecticut	..	..	29.50
Delaware	3	8.00	104.00
District of Columbia	5	14.50	203.80
Florida	3	17.00	92.00
Georgia	..	..	1.00
Idaho	..	..	2.50
Illinois	33	187.00	1,150.20
Indiana	3	10.00	142.24
Iowa	2	1.25	50.85
Kansas	4	6.50	25.04
Kentucky	1	4.00	208.75
Louisiana	1	3.00	204.10
Maine	..	..	35.10
Maryland	1	20.00	79.51
Massachusetts	24	141.50	555.80
Michigan	4	15.50	215.65
Minnesota	11	34.45	141.20
Mississippi	..	..	3.00
Missouri	13	31.75	142.70
Montana	1	5.00	29.00
Nebraska	3	27.00	62.00
Nevada	..	..	2.00
New Hampshire	1	1.00	23.00
New Jersey	9	142.55	209.05
New Mexico	1	2.50	4.50
New York	38	362.63	3,328.63
North Carolina	1	1.00	1.00
North Dakota	2	3.00	22.25
Ohio	25	447.30	856.55
Oklahoma	..	..	6.50
Oregon	3	17.00	138.50
Pennsylvania	24	65.55	940.69
Rhode Island	2	2.00	120.00
South Carolina	..	..	2.00
South Dakota	2	10.90	48.40
Tennessee	..	..	59.40
Texas	2	8.00	230.00
Virginia	1	1.00	6.00
Washington	7	22.75	414.05
West Virginia	..	..	28.00
Wisconsin	6	21.00	95.50
Foreign	1	1.00	42.90

### PASTORIZA'S GREAT WORK.

Pastoriza is converting Texas to the single tax. The Texas constitution and Texas tax laws are as benighted as any that exist in other states. But Pastoriza has so thoroughly convinced the people of his home town, Houston, of the advisability of exempting labor products that **they have approved his course as Tax Commissioner in abolishing taxes on personal property, assessing improvements at 25 per cent and land values at 70 per cent, in spite of State laws and the constitution.**

Houston has prospered so under this system that Galveston is preparing to follow its example and other places will soon be compelled to do the same.

But, it may be asked, could not the courts interfere and compel enforcement of the law as it stands? They probably could but the result of so doing would be so harmful and unpleasant that even Pastoriza's opponents don't want this done. They would like the old practice restored under which the wealthy were assessed at about 10 per cent of their holdings and small home owners at 100 per cent. But they know that this is something Pastoriza will not do. He has served notice on them of what will happen if his tax reform work should be stopped. It is as follows:

The first thing we must do is to put upon the rolls **\$45,000,000** deposited in the Houston banks. Then we must employ a corps of men to visit every residence and make a careful estimate of the value of the furniture therein and assess it at its full value (less \$250 exempted); then we must assess all of the buildings and stocks of merchandise in Houston at their full value.

They will all have to be assessed at 100 cents on the dollar or the present plan maintained.

Since such strict enforcement of law would surely kill industry in Houston, his opponents do not think it safe to insist on it.

### MORE PASTORIZAS WANTED.

Houston is not the only city nor Texas the only state where the single tax or some approach to it can be applied. Single taxers everywhere have been shown a great opportunity. There must be no delay in taking advantage of it. Wherever it is possible to put a single taxer who means business in such a position as Pastoriza occupies in Houston it should be done. That will furnish the movement with object lessons scattered throughout the country, and will besides keep the enemy so busy fighting local battles that he will not have so much time to mix in the state fights where progress along legislative lines is possible.

**Single Taxers must get busy at once and investigate the possibilities in their respective localities of "Pastorizing" them.**

### PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE

We are prepared to supply copies of the congressional edition of "Protection or Free Trade," by Henry George, enclosed in franked envelopes ready for mailing. While the supply lasts they may be had at the price of two for five cents, or in greater quantities at two cents apiece.

The importance of educating the public concerning the meaning of genuine free trade, will be seen

on recalling that a wretched piece of botch work, the Underwood bill, is now being passed and many people have been deluded into believing it to be a free trade measure. On account of the oppressive and unjust features which this bill holds in common with the present high tariff law, it is sure to prove a disappointment to those who have looked for relief from tariff extortion. Those who read "Protection or Free Trade" will understand that the Underwood bill is no more a free trade measure than the Payne law, that its failure to bring adequate relief can not be justly charged to free trade and that nothing short of the complete single tax can end monopolistic extortion.

Address Daniel Kiefer, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### STATISTICS THAT TELL THEIR OWN STORY.

The following figures are of building permits issued in Seattle and Vancouver from 1901 to 1912. The population of Vancouver at the time they start was about 26,000, that of Seattle about 90,000. In 1912 the population of Vancouver was about 150,000 and that of Seattle about 100,000 more.

	Seattle.	Vancouver	
1901	\$ 4,569,788	\$ 731,716	(50% impts. taxed)
1902	6,325,108	883,607	(50% impts. taxed)
1903	6,495,781	1,426,148	(50% impts. taxed)
1904	7,898,120	1,968,501	(50% impts. taxed)
1905	6,704,784	2,653,000	(50% impts. taxed)
1906	11,920,488	4,308,410	(25% impts. taxed)
1907	13,572,770	5,632,744	(25% impts. taxed)
1908	13,377,329	5,950,893	(25% impts. taxed)
1909	19,084,853	7,258,565	(25% impts. taxed)
1910	17,163,080	13,150,365	(IMPTS. EXEM'D)
1911	7,491,156	17,652,642	(IMPTS. EXEM'D)
1912	8,415,325	19,388,332	(IMPTS. EXEM'D)

**Seattle may keep on rejecting the Single Tax, but she can not reject the hurtful consequences of her unwise choice.**

### "PASTEURIZATION" AND "PASTORIZA-TION."

"Pasteurization" is the name given to a process for improving the quality of milk. "Pastorization" is a name that might well be given to a process for improving the quality of a tax system.

The use of pasteurized milk is very helpful in preserving the health of individuals, but the use of a pastorized tax system preserves the health of the body politic.

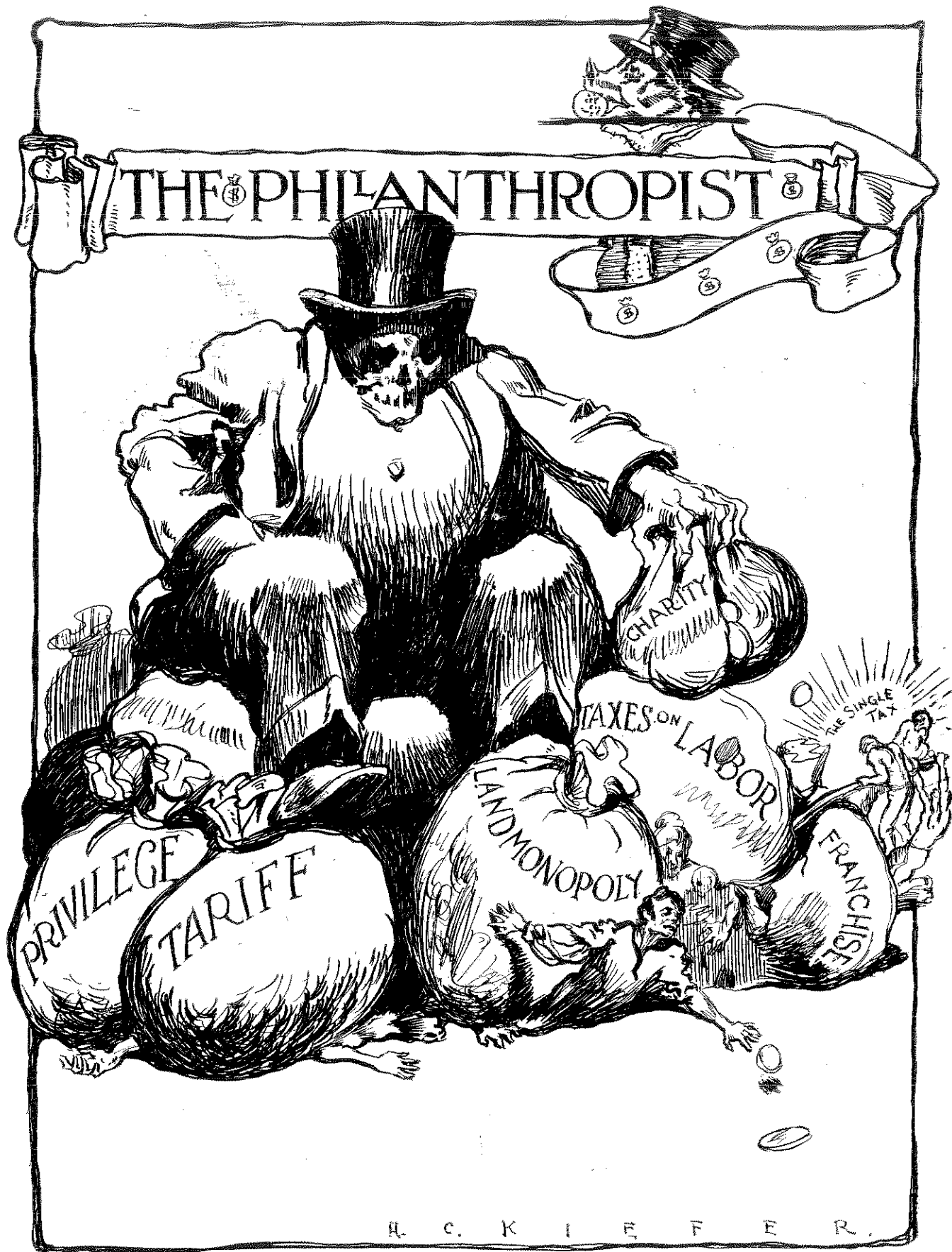
### "ASTORIZED" OR "PASTORIZED."

Communities like New York City owned by monopolists, of which the Astor family is a type, may be said to be "astorized." A community like Houston, Texas, where Tax Commissioner Pastoriza has applied a measure of relief for so unfortunate a condition may be said to be "pastorized."

The comparative figures of building operations during the past 12 years in Seattle and Vancouver reproduced elsewhere, show the difference between an astorized community and a pastorized one.

### REGINA'S TAX REFORM PROGRESS.

Regina will very soon join the roll of cities in which no taxation is levied on buildings. Three years ago Regina, which at that time taxed buildings on 60 per cent of their value, decided to reduce this by 15 per cent a year until total exemption was reached. This year only 15 per cent of the building



SUPPLEMENT TO JOSEPH FELS FUND BULLETIN

Extra copies of this cartoon may be had by addressing the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, Cincinnati, O.  
Price, 2 for 5 cents. Coin or stamps may be sent.



value is taxed, and next year all taxes will be concentrated on land values. Regina is happy and prosperous, and there are no great stretches of vacant frontage on the streets provided with public services. The growth outward from the centre is symmetrical and steady.—*The Square Deal*, Toronto, Canada.

### ACTIVITY IN NEW YORK STATE.

*Joseph Fels Fund Commission:*

GENTLEMEN—I note in your little pamphlet entitled "The Joseph Fels Fund and Its Work" you state in New York, that the only work in prospect is the bill having the tax rate lowered on buildings in New York City. I enclose herewith the One Per Cent Increment Tax Bill drawn by a committee of the Manhattan Single Tax Club for the Mayor's Commission on New Revenue, which will have the City Administration behind it. I also enclose herewith a bill introduced by Senator Duhamel which is a straight Single Tax bill, and copies of a petition which the Club is having signed so that sentiment may be created for the straight Single Tax bill.

HARRY WEINBERGER,  
New York City.

To be corrected in this way is a pleasure.

The One Per Cent Increment Tax bill is described by its title. It only applies to New York City. Senator Duhamel's bill applies to the whole State.

### A MYSTERY HERE ALSO.

The smaller municipalities in Saskatchewan have moved much more rapidly toward the land-value tax than have the cities. That is due probably in large part to the influence of the Grain Growers' Association, a body of some 30,000 farmers who are not taxed on their personal property or improvements. One night I was invited to speak to a farmers' meeting, and when I asked what I should talk about an old farmer said:

"Tell us about direct legislation in the States. We farmers are all single taxers."

The one great mystery to a Western Canadian farmer is the opposition of American farmers to single tax, for he can't understand why an American farmer wants to pay taxes on the products of his labor.—W. G. EGGLESTON, in *Sacramento (Cal.)*

### A SOCIALIST'S JUST REBUKE.

As a socialist, somewhat active, I have one serious fault to find with the Single Taxers. They do not work hard enough at it. Here in our town there are at least a hundred convinced single taxers. But they are not organized; they conduct no propaganda, they distribute no pamphlets or books and promote only an occasional meeting. The time is ripe for a lively campaign in this very community.

There are in this town fifty or sixty convinced Socialists. We hold meetings regularly, buy large quantities of printed matter, hold many meetings and are ten times as active as are the Single Taxers. I look upon your party as our brothers who can make headway among the middle class, which is almost closed to the socialist propaganda.

I wish you could promote everywhere local clubs for the propaganda laying out programs from some headquarters. Single taxers have more money than

Socialists, and if some system was provided they would be as active in spreading their ideas. I do not, however, suggest a political party organization as I agree somewhat with the wisdom of Single Taxers in working through other parties.

OTTO McFEELY,  
Oak Park, Ill.

### INTERNATIONAL SINGLETAX CONFERENCE OF 1913

May 12, 1913.

*Mr. Antonio Albendin, Calle Mendes Nunes 21., Ronda, Andalucia, Spain:*

MY DEAR MR. ALBENDIN—

In behalf of its single tax supporters, the Joseph Fels Fund Commission of America, sends greeting to the single taxers of Spain and other countries, met in international conference at Ronda. We wish you a successful gathering and that it may have results that will hasten the coming of the single tax throughout the world.

Yours very truly,

JACKSON H. RALSTON, A. B. DUPONT,  
LINCOLN STEFFENS, GEORGE A. BRIGGS,  
FREDERIC C. HOWE, CHARLES H. INGERSOLL,  
DANIEL KIEFER, Chairman  
Commission.

### PROGRESS IN CALIFORNIA.

Sacramento, April 23.—By a vote of 54 to 17, the assembly today adopted the Gelder home rule in taxation constitutional amendment which provides that any city, county and city and county may elect what it shall include or exempt in property to be taxed.

The measure now goes to the senate, and in the event of its adoption there, will be submitted to the electorate for ratification at the next general election.

It came out of committee without recommendation after being opposed by State Controller A. B. Nye, on the ground "that there are already too many proposed constitutional amendments to be submitted to the people," and by Prof. Carl Plehn of the University of California, an expert for the board of equalization, on the contention that "it was an out and out single tax scheme."

The reasons given by Professor Plehn for objecting shows that whatever qualifications the University of California may require of one filling the chair of political economy, a knowledge of the principles of that science is not among them, or if it is, then concealment of such knowledge must be another one.

### MISSOURI FARMERS OBJECT TO THIS.

"Not a farmer in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta pays a cent of tax on his improvements or personal property. Farmers in British Columbia pay no tax on personal property unless it is worth more than \$1,500, and the personal property tax in the province will be abolished in the next four years. The poll tax has been abolished this year. No municipality has ever gone back to the old system of taxation after adopting the land-value tax."—Interview of W. G. EGGLESTON, in *San Francisco Bulletin*.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOSTON CONFERENCE.

Tremont Temple, November 30, 10 A. M.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Kiefer who introduced the new Vice-Chairman, C. W. Doten, who presided.

Mr. E. W. Doty of Cleveland, Ohio, was called upon to speak on conditions in Houston, Texas. Mr. Doty said that Houston was further advanced in tax matters than any other city in the United States. It had as poor tax laws as any other city, but by tacit consent of its citizens, it has gone some distance toward applying the single tax. Mr. Pastoriza, a retired business man, became one of the commissioners. He was appointed assessor by the Mayor who was not in sympathy with him and aimed to give him disagreeable work. This was just what he wanted and he went ahead and brought in \$200,000 more revenue. This won the Mayor over and put him in position to do as he pleased. He investigated the Somers system of assessments and had it applied. He then reduced assessments on buildings so as to put them on the tax list at from 25 per cent to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. of their value, while land values were assessed at 70 per cent. Personal property he did not assess at all. The revenue was increased another \$200,000, the taxes of 45,000 persons were reduced and the tax rate was reduced from \$1.70 to \$1.50. A remarkable building boom set in.

Mr. Doty then described the work of the Ohio Constitutional Convention and said that Herbert S. Bigelow was the man responsible for its success.

Being asked to define the Somers system, Doty replied that it is "a scheme of computation to eliminate the guess work of the assessor."

Ex-Governor Garvin of Rhode Island said that in his State three-fourths of the population lived within ten miles of the Capitol and that if one good man were sent into the State much might be accomplished for the Single Tax. In many of the cities the people are favorable to it.

Congressman Henry George, Jr., told of his work in Congress. He had been put on the District of Columbia Committee and had an investigation made of taxes and assessments in the District. The result is that a bill has been drawn up setting forth the atrocious conditions found prevailing. This will be presented to Congress and Mr. George is confident it will make headway since there will now be several single tax men in Congress.

Moved and seconded that resolutions introduced on preceding day by Professor L. J. Johnson be considered. Carried.

Moved and seconded that speakers be limited to ten minutes with an extension of five minutes at discretion of the conference. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Cooper Union platform as contained in the resolutions be read and discussed. Carried. Platform of 1890 read by Secretary Hull.

Bolton Hall moved that platform be adopted as it originally stood without the explanatory note added thereto in the resolutions.

Louis F. Post moved that it be adopted without change and explained that on account of changes that have taken place since 1890 in the meaning of some terms the original phraseology does not convey the meaning intended.

Frank Stephens said that the explanation misinterpreted the original platform.

Judge Edward Osgood Brown agreed with Mr. Stephens and urged adoption of platform as it originally stood.

Mr. Post said the phraseology had never been satisfactory since it had been amended in 1893.

Henry George, Jr., argued that Mr. Post was right and the explanation was quite in order.

Mr. U'Ren favored adoption of explanatory clause. He said there is an ambiguity in the original which should be explained.

Moved and seconded that meeting be adjourned until 2 P. M. at which time Mr. Ralston be called upon to speak. Carried.

Adjourned until 2 P. M.

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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

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## HOW IGNORANT VOTERS WERE DECEIVED.

While arguments made in public against the single tax by monopoly agents in Oregon, Missouri and other states were fallacious enough they were not the principal ones on which they relied for success. They did not dare to publicly approve the kind of arguments which their heelers, working among the more ignorant voters, were instructed to use.

Thus one favorite argument was this: "Fels is a manufacturer of naphtha soap. Naphtha is produced by the Standard Oil Company. Therefore the single tax must be in the interest of Standard Oil." A silly set of resolutions adopted at a packed meeting of the Oregon State Grange went so far as to contain a reference to Standard Oil based on belief in this ridiculous reasoning, although the framers of it lacked the courage to openly say what they wanted readers to understand thereby.

Another favorite argument was this: "**Fels wants to make land so cheap that he can buy up the whole State for a song. Then he will have the Single Tax repealed and make millions from the great increase in land values.**" This argument must have been intended not only for the ignorant, but for those unable to think enough to see that even if such an opportunity should exist, poor men as well as rich could take advantage of it, and that moreover, when it came to repealing the single tax law a popular majority could easily block that part of the game.

A number of poor fellows, mostly farmers, wrote indignant letters to Mr. Fels while the campaigns were in progress, seriously repeating these and other absurdities.

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