

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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[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 1

Cincinnati, Ohio, November, 1913

Number 11

THE NEXT CONFERENCE

The fourth unofficial national conference of Single Taxers held in connection with the meeting of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission will be in WASHINGTON at the RALEIGH HOTEL on JANUARY 15, 16, 17, 1914. Any Single Taxer may attend and take part in the proceedings.

In view of the favorable election results at Pueblo and other places where Single Tax principles were involved, in view of the spread of the "Houston plan," of the prospective application in Pittsburg and Scranton, Pa., of a partial Single Tax measure and in view of campaigns in prospect during the coming year in California and elsewhere, there ought to be a large attendance.

The movement in the United States is now in the most favorable position it has yet been able to occupy. Constitutional obstacles to practical application of the Single Tax are being removed. Measures that are steps in our direction are being advocated and pushed by many who are not yet ready to declare themselves Single Taxers. Influential papers and magazines have begun to editorially advocate untaxing of industry and taxation of land values. All this is not a sudden spontaneous creation. It is the result of years of effort, much of which seemed at the time it was made to be wasted. It is the result of effort made to circulate the writings of Henry George; it is the result of distribution of tracts, of writing of propaganda letters, and of the making of propaganda speeches. It is the result of campaigns that some have considered failures. The two mayoralty campaigns of Henry George, the Delaware campaign, the Maguire campaign of 1898, the Washington campaign of the same year, the Bucklin campaign of 1902, Tom Johnson's nine years' war, the more recent campaigns in Oregon, California, Missouri and Seattle, Pastoriza's great work in Houston; these and other efforts are responsible for the growth of the movement that even our opponents now admit. These efforts must now be redoubled.

The best means of doing this and the most effective way of applying the means at our command are matters in which we have all a common interest. The better the attendance at the Conference, the better will be the prospect of acting wisely on the questions before us.

Single Taxers and all interested in the Fels Fund are to accept this as an invitation to be with us at Washington, instead of the usual notice by circular letter. To enable the local committee to make necessary arrangements we should have advices as early as may be as to the number intending to be present. A banquet on Saturday evening the 17th will be one of the features of the Conference. Reservations for rooms at the hotel should be made early—by addressing the hotel management—all other communications relating to attendance at the Conference, to the dinner, etc., should be addressed the Chairman Fels Fund Commission, Cincinnati.

VICTORY IN PUEBLO.

Single Tax Wins by Several Hundred in a Light Vote.

Other Colorado Cities Will Follow Suit.

Pueblo, Colo., November 5.—To the Editor: The Single Tax amendment carried by 2,711 to 2,171, a majority of 540. The vote polled was light. Pueblo had normal vote of 12,500, but less than 5,000 polled today. Weather was bad. Had voters turned out majority would have been several thousand. The labor vote and the Bessemer

Steel Works section are solid for Single Tax. The spirit of Henry George goes marching on and victory perches on the banner of Single Tax.

—George J. Knapp.

This dispatch from Mr. Knapp, who has ably managed the Pueblo fight, tells of the successful end of a long and bitterly fought campaign. No fight for anything worth getting is a holiday affair, and the Pueblo fight was no exception. The opposition resorted to the usual misrepresentation. In addition to other unfair tactics at the eleventh hour the City Clerk declared 1,200 names on the Initiative petition illegal—just

enough to invalidate it—and refused to put it on the ballot. But in time a writ of mandamus was secured from the courts and the voters given the opportunity to pass upon the measure.

It is to the credit of Pueblo's papers that their columns were kept open to discussion of the amendment and that they furthermore urged their readers to investigate the question. The "Sunday Opinion" gave its active support, and a large share of the credit of victory must be attributed to this. Help came from outside also. Denver Single Taxers sent workers to aid Mr. Knapp and his associates. Kansas City, Missouri, workers sent J. W. McCleery to reciprocate the aid given last year by Colorado in the Missouri campaign. J. J. Pastoriza came from Houston and proved a wonderful help. Of course the Fels Fund came in handy also.

Colorado Single Taxers will not rest on their laurels. The Denver Single Tax Club has been conducting an active propaganda in that city, and now is in position to push a concrete measure. Grand Junction and other towns will do the same. Colorado may be the State to lead the nation to better social conditions.

SPREAD OF THE HOUSTON PLAN.

J. J. Pastoriza sends the good news that Houston's plan of assessing land values high and labor values low has been adopted by four other Texas cities, Galveston, Waco, Beaumont and San Antonio. Mr. Pastoriza does not say so, but it is not an unreasonable guess that if these cities had failed to follow Houston's example they must before long have disappeared from the map. Texas is getting wide awake. Houston has waked up the cities, and a Farmers' Tenants' Union is waking up the rural districts. It is one of the States where history is being made.

Mr. Pastoriza has succeeded in arousing interest in Houston among business men of Mobile, New Orleans, Shreveport, Meridian, and other Southern cities.

THE SINGLE TAX AMENDMENT ADOPTED IN PUEBLO, COLORADO.

Here it is:

Section 2, Article IX, shall be amended to read as follows:—

Section 2. Tax Levy, How Made.—The council shall have power to levy by ordinance an annual tax upon all of the taxable property within the limits of Pueblo and upon all of the taxable property of the several parts water districts and park districts thereof to provide funds for the general expenses of the city and for the payment of interest on the outstanding debts of the city and of the several parts, water districts and park districts thereof and for the payment of the principal of such debts or for the creation of sinking funds for the purpose of making such payments; provided, that all taxes levied shall be levied in the manner following, and not otherwise:

a.—On and after January 1st, 1914, a tax of not less than one quarter of one mill, and not more than one mill, shall be levied upon all taxable property within the limits of the city, and upon all of the taxable personal property within the several parts, water districts and park districts thereof.

b.—Real estate improvements and all improvements in or upon land shall, on and after January 1st, 1914, be exempt from all taxation for municipal purposes to the extent of fifty per cent or one-half of its present assessed value; and all such property shall, on and after January

1st, 1915, be exempt from all taxation for municipal purposes to the extent of ninety-nine per cent of its value.

c.—Land, exclusive of all improvements in or upon it, and the franchises of all public service corporations, and all other rights of way and franchises in the public streets and alleys shall never be exempt from taxation for municipal purposes.

d.—Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to abolish or to reduce, or in any way to affect the taxes and licenses levied upon saloons, or dealers in, or dispensers of liquors, as such, nor shall anything herein be construed to affect the collection of taxes heretofore levied and now unpaid.

e.—Nothing in this amendment shall be construed as imposing a tax upon property used exclusively for purely educational or religious purposes, or upon such other property as may now by law be exempt from taxation.

f.—Anything in the charter of Pueblo in conflict with, or inconsistent with the provisions of this amendment, is hereby repealed.

A DESERVED REBUKE.

Not the least satisfactory feature of the result in Massachusetts is the rebuke given by the voters to Governor Eugene Foss, who believed he would be re-elected. Mr. Foss believed that he could be elected by misrepresenting the Single Tax plank in Charles S. Bird's platform. He wrote an open letter to the master of the Massachusetts Grange, in which he made the usual mis-statements about the Single Tax being an injury to the farmer—the same mis-statements that did service for monopoly in Missouri last year. But it proved a boomerang in Massachusetts. Many voters who felt friendly toward Mr. Foss concluded that they could not vote for a man who, if he believed what he said, must be too ignorant to be fit for the governorship, or if he did not believe it, must be unworthy of trust. Influential papers, like the Springfield Republican, exposed the fallacy of Foss' argument. Well posted men like Professor L. J. Johnson of Harvard, published corrections of his mis-statements. On election day the vote for Governor Foss was mentioned in the scattering column. It does not pay to misrepresent Single Tax in Massachusetts.

OTHER VICTORIES.

Single Tax principles were very much in evidence in more places than one at the recent elections. Cleveland re-elected Newton Baker, Tom Johnson's worthy successor, as Mayor. In Massachusetts, Charles S. Bird, running on a platform favoring municipal Single Tax so largely increased his party vote as to raise it from third place where it was a year ago to second place. Everett P. Colby did not have the same success in New Jersey. Possibly this may be due to the fact that many progressives in the President's State felt loath to desert the candidate endorsed by him.

The result in New York City is much more than an anti-Tammany victory. John Purroy Mitchel, the Fusion Mayor-elect is committed in favor of a referendum on the matter of cutting in half the tax rate on houses. This caused him to be denounced by the Real Estate Owners' Protective Association for "advocating the dangerous propaganda of Single Taxation." A vigor-

ous campaign in behalf of Mitchell was made by advocates of the untaxing of industry. The following circular is an illustration:

Society to Lower Rents and Reduce Taxes on Homes.
Room 506, No. 320 Broadway, New York City.
Vote for Mitchel for Mayor and for Assemblymen in favor of the Lower Rents Referendum.

TO TENANTS AND HOME OWNERS:

Your rents or the taxes on your little homes are too high.
To reduce your rents or the taxes on your little homes the tax rate on buildings must be reduced, and the tax rate on land increased.

Mayor Gaynor said: "Untaxing buildings will automatically reduce rents."

Simply to reduce slightly the tax rate on both buildings and land will not lessen your burden of rents, or taxes.

Buildings must be taxed less, and land speculators taxed more to help you, because then it will be more profitable to put up buildings than to speculate in land, and the increased supply of buildings will reduce rents because of the competition for tenants.

For two years, a bill has been before the legislature to provide for a referendum on gradually reducing the tax rate on buildings here to half that on land.

This would save a month's rent every year, and save at least a fifth of the taxes on small homes, by making land speculators pay more and tenants and home owners less.

This bill was defeated by land speculators for two years.

It is a charter amendment and must have the Mayor's signature to become a law. Mr. Mitchel has promised, if he is elected, to sign such a bill. Mr. McCall, although he has repeatedly been asked to state what he will do has failed to reply. Tammany Hall's municipal platform, however, says: "New sources of city revenue should be devised with a view to lessening the taxes now borne by real estate." This means Tammany Hall is the organ of the land speculators against the people. Besides that, Mr. McCall has accepted the endorsement of the City Economy League, composed largely of land speculators who are opposed to this referendum.

If you want your rent or the taxes on your little home reduced DO NOT VOTE FOR MR. McCALL, nor for the following Assemblymen who have refused to state that, if elected, they "will favor and work for" this lower rents referendum.

Then follows a list of assemblymen, Tammanyites, and others, twenty-four of whom, as a result, will not go to Albany this year. Land monopoly has little to be thankful for in this year's election results.

DRAINAGE AND SINGLE TAX.

The several drainage projects now on foot in the State, inspires the News and Observer to write the following editorial:

"Something over four million acres of North Carolina land is practically worthless because of the lack of drainage. This land, if properly drained, would be as fertile as the Valley of the Nile. At the present time it can be bought for a nominal sum.

"The matter of drainage is very important, especially those plans that are necessary to prevent loss of soil. But if there are 4,000,000 acres worthless for lack of drainage, how many millions are there as good as useless simply because speculators refuse to allow them to be used? If we had a system which would prevent men from holding land out of use for mere speculation, waiting for its "value to grow," it would not be necessary in a hundred years to go to the extra burden of clearing and draining swamp lands, nor of working our poorest soils. The use of the land ministers to the comfort of man, but the

selfish policy of preventing its use drives men to the swamps, to the rocky hillsides, to the slums."
—The State Journal (Raleigh, N. C.) October 24.

LECTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A lecture tour has been planned for Miss Grace Isabel Colbron of New York City. Her itinerary will be from coast to coast and will include Canadian cities and points in the Southern States. A tour through the State of Illinois has been arranged for John Z. White, and one is in prospect for Mr. E. P. E. Troy of San Francisco. All of these lecturers are well-known to Single Taxers everywhere. The lecture tours are all under the auspices of the Henry George Lecture Association, of which Mr. Frederick H. Monroe is the head. Information concerning them can be had by addressing Mr. Monroe, 538 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago.

HOME RULE IN TAXATION.

In November, 1914, the people of California will vote on a Constitutional Amendment for Home Rule in Taxation.

THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AMENDMENT ON THE BALLOT IN 1914.

If it is approved by the voters, it means dollars and cents for every working man and working woman in every industry in California, if the people use it after they adopt it.

What does the amendment mean?

It means that if the people of any county, any city, or any town wish to take taxes off buildings and other improvements, and off household goods, machinery and other personal property, THEY CAN DO SO. They can't do that now, because the Constitution says that ALL property must be taxed.

The amendment does not COMPEL any county, city or town to exempt ANY property from taxes. All it does is to give counties, cities and towns permission to exempt improvements and personal property, except franchises, from taxes. One county, one city or one town can do that, even if all other counties, cities and towns keep the present system of taxation.

WHICH IS BETTER, A SYSTEM OF TAXATION THAT ENCOURAGES BUILDING, OR A SYSTEM THAT ENCOURAGES SPECULATION?

Home Rule in Taxation gives the people more power.

The big landlords and speculators are glad to have the taxing power. If YOU don't want it THEY will be glad to keep it.

No Assessor in California obeys the law, which says that "ALL property must be assessed for taxation at ITS CASH VALUE."

The law tells the Assessor to do what NO ASSESSOR CAN DO.

All the men in the San Francisco Assessor's office could not make a cash value assessment of the goods in one big store in two months.

What is the result?

Every Assessor makes the best GUESS he can make of the property he finds. But he can't find what is hidden, and California Assessors are as-

sessing property at 60 per cent., 50 per cent., 40 per cent., and as low as 10 per cent. in some cases. That is, every California Assessor is operating under a Home Rule Tax law enacted and enforced by himself.

WHY NOT HAVE A HOME RULE TAX LAW ENACTED AND ENFORCED BY THE PEOPLE?

San Francisco Organized Labor, Official Organ of California Building Trades.

MONOPOLY'S CRY OF ALARM.

There can be no letup in the fight against Privilege until Privilege will be utterly destroyed. The rapid progress of the past few years is alarming upholders of existing wrong and we must expect stronger and more bitter opposition in campaigns to come. An illustration is a call to arms to monopolistic interests in the New York *Real Estate Magazine*, from which the following is taken:

It is our purpose at this time to show the scope and extent of the work in organizing, proselyting and publicity, of those who call themselves single taxers—that is, those who believe that all taxes except those on the ground rent of land should be abolished. The far reaching scope and extent of this work will be a revelation to those who are accustomed to look upon the single tax movement simply as a radical dream. The single taxers have money, brains and energy. They are spending freely of all three in the furtherance of their purpose. They have the courage and conviction of unshakable faith, fanaticism, if we might so term it, and it is this which makes them so formidable.

* * *

Those, on the other hand, who suffer most wherever the single tax should be adopted, have so far failed to use the money, which they possess in larger quantity and the brains and energy which they possess in equal quantity, to protect themselves. Joseph Fels, individually, has established a fund, into which he has put over \$38,000 a year for the three years ending last January, whose purpose is to spread the doctrine.

* * *

If the landowner wishes to continue existence as such and hand land down to his heirs, if the myriad individual activities and profits which accrue from investing in land are to continue, those who draw their dividends from such activities must use their brains, their energy and their money as continuously and as forcefully as do those who believe the abolishment of landlord profits will spell the greatest good for the greatest number.

The *Real Estate Magazine*, it must be confessed, is more sweeping than facts warrant in crediting all Single Taxers with liberality equal to that of Joseph Fels. But many a man has been spurred to effort to live up to a reputation he feels to be undeserved. Perhaps the *Real Estate Magazine* will impress upon some of the sleepy Single Taxers that they must wake up if they appreciate the reputation for activity and liberality it has forced upon them. In fact, they must be aroused. Their help is needed more than ever now to meet the reserve forces of monopoly, which organs like the *Real Estate Magazine* are endeavoring to call up.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OCTOBER.

Yes, they should have been more. Suppose you see if you cannot help to make November's twice as much.

	No. of October Contributors	Amount for October	Total Since December 1
New York	58	\$728.50	\$4,600.67
Illinois	29	404.75	2,286.67
California	6	15.50	2,191.88
New Jersey	7	17.00	1,471.60
Pennsylvania	11	128.00	1,443.59
Ohio	15	63.40	1,274.60
Colorado	67	212.00	1,067.05
Massachusetts	8	27.40	951.85
Missouri	43	118.50	544.45
Washington	3	11.90	462.15
District of Columbia	5	142.00	436.60
Rhode Island	..	25.00	321.30
Texas	3	9.00	308.50
Michigan	3	9.00	286.40
Indiana	1	5.00	273.74
Delaware	3	26.00	246.14
Louisiana	2	7.00	242.10
Kentucky	..	..	214.75
Minnesota	2	5.00	189.60
Oregon	2	3.25	188.15
Wisconsin	6	29.00	154.75
Foreign	..	..	144.00
Florida	2	22.00	124.00
Maryland	1	1.00	105.51
Nebraska	..	..	91.00
South Dakota	..	..	75.40
Iowa	2	7.50	75.35
Tennessee	..	..	74.40
Alabama	3	3.00	69.86
Kansas	1	1.00	53.84
Montana	..	..	42.50
Virginia	1	5.00	38.10
Maine	..	..	35.10
Connecticut	2	2.50	35.00
West Virginia	..	..	30.00
New Hampshire	..	..	27.00
North Dakota	..	..	23.25
Arizona	..	..	22.00
Arkansas	..	..	20.00
Idaho	3	3.40	15.65
New Mexico	..	..	14.50
Oklahoma	1	2.00	12.50
Georgia	..	..	8.00
North Carolina	..	..	4.00
Nevada	2	1.60	3.60
Mississippi	..	..	3.00
Vermont	1	2.00	3.00
South Carolina	..	..	2.00
Totals	288	\$2,037.20	\$20,307.20

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC.,

Of The Joseph Fels Fund Bulletin, published monthly at Cincinnati, Ohio, required by the Act of August 24, 1913:

Name of	Post-office Address.				
Editor—Samuel Danziger,	205 Ellsworth Building, Chicago, Illinois.				
Business Manager—Daniel Kiefer,	77 Blymyer Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.				
Publisher—The Joseph Fels Fund of America,	77 Blymyer Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.				
Owner—The Joseph Fels Fund of America,	77 Blymyer Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.				
Chairman—Daniel Kiefer,	77 Blymyer Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.				
Treasurer—A. B. duPont,	1102 American Trust Building, Cleveland, Ohio.				
George A. Briggs,	Elkhart, Ind.; Frederic C. Howe,	31 W. Twelfth Street, New York, N. Y.; Charles H. Ingersoll,	315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.; Jackson H. Ralston,	Union Savings Bank Building, Washington, D. C.; Lincoln Steffens,	Players' Club, Gramercy Park, New York City.

Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders, holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.

DANIEL KIEFER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of October, 1913.

THOMAS GREGORY, Notary Public.
(My commission expires June 22, 1914).
(Seal)

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



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.

