

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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MARKED PROGRESS.

This month Single Taxers celebrate the 75th birthday of Henry George. It is the first Henry George day on which announcements can be made of open endorsement of Single Tax by a popular majority in any community within the United States. It is also the first at which announcement can be made of legislation, adopted within the United States, generally recognized as a step toward the Single Tax. Everett, Washington, voted by two to one in favor of the Single Tax last fall. So far this has been merely an expression of popular opinion, for legal red tape has blocked the way of its enforcement. But the essential thing is the state of popular sentiment that has been made evident and cannot long be blocked by faithless officials. **Houston, Texas**, overwhelmingly endorsed last spring the measure of Single Tax, known as the Houston plan which **J. J. Pastoriza** had instituted. Houston has flourished so since Mr. Pastoriza began operations that it is now in fact the largest city of Texas, although it must wait until the next census for official recognition of that fact. In **Pennsylvania** the active work of **Pittsburg** Single Taxers has borne fruit in securing legislation which empowers the cities of **Pittsburg** and **Seranton** to reduce the tax rate on improvements 10 per cent each year until these improvements will be but half that on land values. So in coming together this year Single Taxers of the United States find themselves at last in the position of being able to discuss not only victories in prospect or things that have been done in other countries, but something accomplished here and now. Next year there should be more and with every succeeding year the list of things accomplished should grow. It can be done, but it will take work to do it.

APPROACHING BATTLES.

Last fall when the city of **Everett, Washington**, endorsed the **Single Tax**, and **87,000** voters of **Missouri**, **31,000** voters of **Oregon**, and **150,000** voters of **California** asked that obstacles to the **Single Tax** be cleared away, something important happened in **Colorado**. An amendment was adopted allowing cities with a commission form of government to regulate taxation within their borders. So this fall **Pueblo** will vote under this amendment on the adoption of **Single Tax** for local purposes. There is an active

(Continued on page 2.)

RECEIPTS DURING AUGUST.

They should have been better of course. It may be your fault that they were not. Did you think that your mite was too small to be worth while? If so, you were wrong. As that eighteenth century Single Taxer, Benjamin Franklin might have said: "Just send in the pennies and the dollars will come in of themselves."

State	No. of August Contributors	Amount for August	Total Since December 1
New York	8	\$18.11	\$3,795.41
California	30	125.00	1,984.41
Illinois	17	176.00	1,803.06
Pennsylvania	12	96.80	1,308.59
Ohio	6	26.00	1,179.70
Massachusetts	16	115.00	995.55
Washington	2	6.50	445.25
Colorado	22	150.20	428.80
Missouri	7	19.25	425.95
New Jersey	1	11.00	364.85
District of Columbia	..	..	291.80
Texas	3	19.00	281.00
Rhode Island	1	1.40	255.50
Michigan	2	2.00	253.40
Indiana	2	14.00	218.74
Louisiana	1	10.00	215.10
Kentucky	1	1.00	212.75
Delaware	4	29.50	185.50
Minnesota	2	12.00	178.70
Oregon	3	6.90	176.40
Foreign	..	..	144.00
Wisconsin	2	7.00	125.75
Florida	1	5.00	102.30
Maryland	2	10.00	100.01
Nebraska	2	26.00	90.00
South Dakota	..	..	74.40
Tennessee	..	..	71.40
Iowa	1	5.00	67.85
Alabama	2	7.00	61.11
Kansas	3	7.00	52.84
Montana	..	..	41.50
Maine	..	..	35.10
Connecticut	..	..	33.50
West Virginia	..	..	29.00
New Hampshire	2	2.00	27.00
Virginia	1	5.00	26.10
North Dakota	..	..	22.25
Arizona	2	2.00	19.00
New Mexico	..	..	14.50
Idaho	1	.25	12.25
Oklahoma	..	..	9.50
Arkansas	..	..	9.00
Georgia	..	..	6.00
Mississippi	..	..	3.00
Nevada	..	..	2.00
South Carolina	2.00
North Carolina	1.00
Vermont	1.00
Total	231	\$896.04	\$76,012.52

TAKE NOTICE.

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APPROACHING BATTLES.

(Continued from page 1.)

campaign on and at least two of the local papers are friendly.

There is to be a primary contest in New Jersey this month, important to the Single Tax movement. The candidates for the Progressive Party nomination for governor are Edmund F. Osborne and Everett P. Colby. **Mr. Osborne is making his campaign on the platform of Single Tax and municipal ownership.** He wants the Progressive Party to become thoroughly progressive. Mr. Colby, his opponent, wants to be progressive also, but lacking economic knowledge he cannot, with the best of intentions, do otherwise than lead his party, should he be nominated; or his state, should he be elected, to the ditch. **Should Mr. Osborne be nominated there will be one large party in New Jersey thoroughly committed to a finish fight in an intelligent way against monopoly.** It is up to the Progressive Party voters.

While the issue is not so plainly drawn in the other New Jersey parties, there are signs in all of them of strong sentiment for the Single Tax. In Cape May County, Wm. Porter, candidate for the Democratic Legislative nomination, stands on a progressive platform demanding abolition of all taxes on labor and raising of all revenue by a direct tax on land values. Other candidates in different parties are making fights of the same kind. All of which shows the trend of sentiment in New Jersey.

In California, the fight is on for home rule in taxation. Last year the amendment was defeated by 20,000 majority after a short campaign in which **agents of the Southern Pacific Railway,** and of other monopolistic interests, under the name of "anti-Single Tax Associations," **circulated the familiar lie among the farmers about Single Tax being harmful to them.** This year there is better organization among the home rule advocates. A weekly paper, "*Tax Talk*," has been established, conducted by Luke North, the able editor of that interesting magazine, *Everyman*. In this paper the voters are being given full information of the effect of this measure. San Francisco and Los Angeles gave the amendment big majorities last year and will do so again. The four to one vote that San Francisco has just cast for municipal ownership against the opposition of the local street railway monopoly, shows that privileged interests need look for no sympathy there. California will give a good account of herself.

In Oregon, William S. U'Ren will be a candidate for Governor on a Single Tax Platform. Mr. U'Ren already has monopoly candidates and monopoly papers badly flurried. Oregon will also vote on an amendment that will relieve farmers and small home owners from burdensome taxation on their houses and other labor products.

Other fights in various places are in preparation. The representatives of agricultural districts in the Wisconsin legislature have pushed through an amendment for home rule in taxation. It must pass the next legislature and then be submitted to the people. **In New York,** the campaign, ably led by Benjamin C. Marsh, and the committee on con-

gestion of population for reducing the rate on buildings is worrying the land monopolists tremendously. They are already complaining that the agitation alone is depressing prices of vacant lots. **In the District of Columbia, Congressman Henry George, Jr.,** is conducting an investigation of tax methods that is giving the land speculators a bad scare. **In Louisiana, Rhode Island, Maine, North Carolina, and some other states, legislators are feeling the pressure of Single Tax sentiment sufficiently to introduce bills and to ask for commissions to investigate the subject.** Opportunities for winning fights are increasing constantly and are cropping up in the most unexpected places. **But to make a fight the sinews of war are needed.** It is for this the Fels Fund has been established, and for this it asks the help of all sympathizers with the movement.

INVESTIGATE AND BE CONVINCED.

The plan to organize a club to discuss the single tax question which will probably be before the voters this fall for consideration, seems to be exceedingly popular not only with those who favor the proposed amendment and those who are opposing it, but with the larger number who have not made up their minds and right now are seeking correct information along that line.

A number of those who are interested in getting to the bottom of this question will meet this morning, arrange some place of meeting and ask those interested to attend and discuss the question of a club for the sole purpose of studying the question.

A number phoned "The Chieftain" yesterday saying they wanted to be advised on the subject and felt that the suggestion made by "The Chieftain" to organize a club for study was an excellent one. —Pueblo (Colo.) Chieftain.

COMMON SENSE—FROM THE MAYOR OF A BIG CITY.

Jersey City has just adopted the Commission form of Government, and Mark M. Fagan has again been elected Mayor. The success of his administration would probably lead to the annexation of the adjoining cities and give Greater Jersey City a million population. The following is taken, verbatim, from Mayor Fagan's speech before the Chamber of Commerce, June 24th, 1913:

"The man who builds upon property benefits the city, stimulates business, employs labor, increases the wealth of the town. A man who holds land out of use is the dog in the manger who renders no service, who gets the increased value to his land by the growth of the community, and who reaps where he has not sown. The man who improves land should be encouraged. The man who holds land out of use should be discouraged. The exemption of buildings and personal property from taxation would accomplish this most desirable result. * * * I hereby give public notice that during the time I shall be a Commissioner I shall endeavor to apply this principle of light taxation upon buildings and heavy taxation upon land in so far as the existing law will permit, and that I shall labor to have the law so changed that this city can continue that policy to the final exemption of all personal property and buildings from taxation. This is the only policy which will redeem Jersey City. This is the only policy which will reduce rents. This is the only policy which will prevent the advantages of economy in government from going mainly to the 20 per cent of our people who own real estate. This is the only policy which will

finally compel the railroads to carry their fair share of the tax burden of our city. It is the only policy which will make Jersey City attractive to business men and to home seekers. It is the only policy which is worth the attention of serious-minded men. I hope to be able to convince my fellow Commissioners of the wisdom of this plan, but whether I do or not, I shall fight for it to the extent of my ability."

MISSOURI WORKERS HELPING PUEBLO.

The following circular letter sent out by Kansas City Single Taxers, shows interest taken there. Not only Pueblo but all other places where active fights are being made should be helped thus. The commission wants to hear from workers everywhere who will do this. Remember that every dollar contributed through it will bring another one from Joseph Fels:

THE EQUITABLE TAXATION LEAGUE

WILLIAM A. BLACK, Secretary
441 Midland Building

KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 30, 1913.

Dear Sir—When we made our campaign for the Tax Amendments in Missouri last year, some of our friends in Colorado got together some money and sent J. R. Herrmann (an experienced campaigner) to help us. We now have an opportunity to reciprocate, as there is a lively campaign on in Colorado.

As you may know, the cities of Colorado which are under commission form of government have local option in taxation, and several are taking steps to concentrate their taxes upon land values; the most vigorous and promising effort is being made in Pueblo, where the proposition is to be voted upon in November. However, the work is practically all on the shoulders of one man, Mr. Geo. J. Knapp, and he needs help.

We propose to raise a fund of \$75 or more and send one of our men to help, keeping him there three or four weeks at least, and longer if we can raise the money. The man we are thinking of for this work is J. W. McCleery, one of the most effective campaigners we had last year. He spoke here, where many heard him, and we sent him into Scott County, where our amendments received 30 per cent of the vote. This is the largest vote they got in any rural county, and is largely due to the very effective work of Mr. McCleery.

If land value taxation can get a start in Colorado, it will help us to establish it in Missouri, and anything we do to help Pueblo will directly benefit us here.

Will you help in this effort by a contribution to the fund we are raising? Contributions in any amount will help greatly, and need not be a burden on anyone. This work is needed—it is urgently needed—so please do not neglect this appeal. Answer in any event, and by return mail if possible.

Make remittance to J. P. Gilmer, 709 Scarritt Building.

VERNON J. ROSE, Chairman.

W. E. WHITE.

MALCOLM MACKAY

A. E. SWEARINGEN

J. C. FULLER.

C. S. OWSLEY.

WHAT SINGLE TAX IS DOING.

Recently an investor went from Spokane to Vancouver to buy or build a modern hotel. His reason for moving was due to the prosperity of the Canadian city and that he would not have to pay taxes on his building and furnishings. Now Vancouver has added 60,000 people to her population in the last three years while Spokane has lost 15,000, mostly to the Canadians.

The cities of Western Canada are enjoying a most wonderful growth, and few of them tax improvements, and they only partially.

Everywhere you hear the same kind of talk in that country:

"Men are not punished for building homes, stores or factories, or for raising crops or cows. Homes, factories, cattle and all personal prop-

erty are exempt, and taxes are levied on land values and natural resources. This tends to prevent monopoly and to increase wages, profits and interest."

And whenever Pueblo adopts single tax there will be the most wonderful development of our land and resources that will cause the country to take notice. The time is ripe for Pueblo to take the lead in this line of work, and the people are ready for the trial. Of course there will be many who will oppose the plan, but they have no other plan that comes within gunshot of doing for the people what the single or land tax will do. The time to act is now and efforts are being made to bring the question of an amendment to the city charter at the election in November for a vote to either adopt or reject the single tax plan. After this year's terrific tax gathering the people will be so mad that they will attempt, no doubt, to drive out the entire gang of chair warmers holding down soft jobs all over the state at the expense of the people. Single tax might eliminate a fair-sized army of office holders.—Pueblo (Colo.) *Sunday Opinion*.

WELL DONE—SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco voters have shown that monopoly agents cannot fool them. By a vote of four to one they have voted for a municipal street railway in spite of the opposition of the present monopoly. That augurs well for the approaching bigger fight against not only the local street railway monopoly, but every monopolistic interest in the state—the fight for home rule in taxation. When San Francisco gets that she can tax the franchise value sufficiently of what is left of private street railway monopoly to squeeze the water out of the stock and put herself in position to get possession of her own streets once more. She can do the same with the other franchise monopolies. It is up to the voters to follow up this victory by gaining a bigger one.

HOW EDUCATION IN PUEBLO IS PROCEEDING.

The Pueblo taxpayer who casts his vote on the Single Tax proposition this fall without knowing how the proposed change will affect his tax bill will have only himself to blame. The following is a copy of a letter that went to one taxpayer. Similar letters with figures to suit the case have gone to all others.

HEADQUARTERS

PUEBLO TAX REDUCTION LEAGUE AND SINGLE TAX CLUB

118½ WEST THIRD STREET

PUEBLO, COLORADO, Sept. 1, 1913.

Dear Sir—Being a taxpayer, you are of course interested in having your taxes reduced, and we are therefore very glad to be able to inform you that you will make an annual saving of \$15.32 in your City Tax if the Single Tax Amendment to the Pueblo City Charter is carried at the coming election on the 4th day of November.

We have copied your Schedule No. 1024 from the books of the County Assessor and find that your valuations for 1912 are: Land Value, \$370; Improvement Value, \$1,040; Personal Property, none.

Of the total tax you are now paying on the above valuations, \$31.47 is City Tax and this City Tax will be reduced to \$16.15 if the Single Tax Amendment is adopted as part of the City Charter, thus saving you annually \$15.32. Your State, County and School Taxes will not be affected by the Single Tax Amendment and they will remain the same as they are. Your City Tax will be reduced as above. Under Single Tax you can improve your property at any time without having your taxes increased.

Under the Single Tax System the city will get just as much revenue as it gets now, but this revenue will be drawn from Monopolists and Speculators, instead of from Home-owners and legitimate Business interests. The Single Tax removes the taxes from your home and your

Personal Property, and requires a *Vacant Lot* to pay the same tax as an *Improved Lot of Equal Value*.

The exemption of Personal Property and Improvements will stimulate Industry and Commerce, and will discourage *Speculators* from holding the *Land Vacant*, which, we think you will agree, is most desirable, since *Vacant Lots* do not employ *Workingmen*, and *Merchants* can sell them no goods.

Call at our headquarters and get full information as to what the *Single Tax* has done for other cities. Investigate thoroughly. We will be pleased to answer fully any questions you may ask, and to give you *free* literature with full information.

If you wish to save \$15.32 every year, and if you wish to see Pueblo become the Greatest City in the West, vote for the *Single Tax Amendment*, and get your friends to do so, on November 4, 1913, at the regular City Election.

Cordially yours, GEORGE J. KNAPP,
Secretary and Treasurer.

SINGLE TAX PROBLEMS.

A seeker for information asks how land values would be determined under the single tax. At the same time he says that some land is more productive than others, is closer to market, or may have something upon it to increase its value.

All such circumstances are taken into consideration by assessors now, or ought to be. The valuation of land is a matter that has been reduced to a science. Such methods of valuation as the Somers System are safe methods that could be employed under the single tax, just as they are being employed in Houston, Texas, Cleveland, Ohio, and a number of other cities.

Another question is "how would corporations be handled as regards their taxes?" The same as individuals. This is not generally done now. In many States corporations are under special tax laws, generally so drawn as to give an unfair advantage to the larger ones. All such distinctions would be abolished. This is something that should be done even should the single tax not be adopted.

"How would the single tax apply to railroads?" The single tax would largely increase the taxes now paid by railroads. On railroad franchises alone, the tax would be far in excess of existing taxes. In 1912 the railroads paid altogether taxes amounting to something less than \$114,000,000 on property which they value at approximately \$22,500,000,000, or a rate of about one-half of one per cent. The cost of the roads and equipment, according to the railroads themselves, was \$15,872,000,000. These figures may be scaled down when the physical valuation begun by the federal government will be completed. But taking them as given there would seem to be a franchise value of about \$7,000,000,000, which, taxed at 3 per cent, would produce more than double the present tax paid by railroads on all property. Besides that, there is much land value included in the fifteen billions allowed for physical value, which would still further increase the tax.

However there are good reasons why the franchises should be revoked entirely and no private corporation be allowed control of a public highway.

Another question is, would the revenue raised be sufficient for the government? Land values of the United States have been estimated by different experts at from \$60,000,000,000 to \$100,000,000,000. Taking the lowest figure

a tax of 3% would raise far more revenue than state and federal governments raise now.

BOOKS, TRACTS AND PAMPHLETS.

The Commission has literature on hand, both for sale and for free distribution, of which the following is a list. When more is wanted enough should be sent to pay cost of printing the additional supply.

GROUP 1.

Paper Covered Books, each 25c by Express, or 30c, postpaid
Five books by Henry George as follows: *Progress and Poverty*, *Social Problems*, *Protection or Free Trade*, *A Perplexed Philosopher*, *The Land Question*.
Taxation of Land Values. Formerly "Post's Outlines." By Louis F. Post.
The Theory of Human Progression. By Patrick Edward Dove. Abridged by Julia A. Kellogg.

GROUP 2.

Paper Covered Books. Single Copy, postpaid, 10c; 8 Copies, 50c.
The Shortest Road to the Single Tax. Containing an abridgement of Henry George's "The Condition of Labor," a part of Thomas G. Shearman's "Natural Taxation," and the Single Tax Platform.
The Story of My Dictatorship. By Lewis H. Berens and Ignatius Singer.
A. B. C. of the Land Question. A handbook for students and speakers. By James Dundas White, LL. D.
Woonsocket Taxpayers. By John Z. White.
Hard Times. About panics, the cause and the cure. By James Pollock Kohler, lawyer, New York City.
The Lost Island. By E. J. Austen and Louise V. Sheldon, with a conclusion by William Lloyd Garrison and seventeen illustrations.
The Initiative and Referendum. An effective Ally of Representative Government. By Lewis Jerome Johnson.
Reconciled. By Mrs. E. M. Scofield.

GROUP 3.

Paper Covered Books. Single Copy, Postpaid, 5c; 12 Copies, 50c.
The Crime of Poverty. By Henry George.
The Labor Question. An abridgment of "The Condition of Labor," by Henry George.
How to Get Rich Without Working. By Edward Homer Bailey.
The Open Shop and the Closed Shop. By Louis F. Post.
The Case Plainly Stated. By H. F. Ring.
Franklin and Freedom. By Joseph Fels.
Taxation of Land Values. By Frederic C. Howe.
A Primer of Direct Legislation. Reprinted from *The Arena*, May, June and July, 1906.
Open Letter to Rev. Charles Stefelz of the Men and Religion Forward Movement. By H. F. Ring.
Direct Legislation. By John Z. White.
The Somers Unit System of Realty Valuation.
Not a Single Tax. By Charles T. Root.

GROUP 4.

Paper Covered Pamphlets. Single Copy, postpaid, 2c; 12 Copies, 20c.
The Single Tax; What It Is and Why We Urge It. By Henry George.
To Destroy the Rum Power. By Henry George.
Thy Kingdom Come. By Henry George.
Moses. By Henry George.
Why I Want Woman Suffrage. By Frederic C. Howe.
Smaller Profits, Reduced Salaries and Lower Wages. By Geo. L. Rusby.
The Disease of Charity. By Bolton Hall.
The Land of Your Children. By Emil Felden. Translated from the German by Mrs. Daniel Kiefer.
Unearned Increments. By Joseph Fels.
Institutional Causes of Crime. By Louis F. Post.
The Single Tax; What It Is and What It Will Accomplish. By Judson Grenell.
The True Social Remedy. Written for *Everybody's Magazine* by Geo. L. Record, a prominent attorney of Jersey City, N. J.
Thoughts of a Settlement Worker. By Miss Elma Dame.

GROUP 5.

Leaflets, 50c Per Hundred.
Farmers Would Like It. By Tom L. Johnson.
The Single Tax and the Farmer. By Joseph Fels. Reprinted from *Successful Farming*, Des Moines, Ia.
Intemperance. By Bolton Hall.
Thou Shalt Not Steal. By Louis F. Post, editor of *The Public*, Chicago.

GROUP 6.

One Dollar per Hundred.
China's Next Step. By Dr. Sun Yat Sen.
Single Tax Program. By R. Bedichek.
MISCELLANEOUS.
Gems from George. Being memorable passages from the writings and addresses of the author of "Progress and Poverty." Per copy, postpaid, 30c.
Foundations of Freedom. Per copy, 10c.
American Merchant Marine and the Tariff. By Staughton Cooley. Per copy, 3c.
The Up-to-date Primer. By J. W. Bengough. Per copy, 20c.
The Dartmouth College Case Decision. By John Z. White. Per copy, 5 cents.
My Story. By Tom L. Johnson. Per copy, \$1.

DO YOU READ THE PUBLIC

If not, here's a good introductory offer—THREE SINGLE TAX BOOKLETS FREE with a 25c subscription.

"The Single Tax: What It Is."—George
"The Single Tax and the Farmer"—Shearman.
"The Single Tax and the Business Man."—Rusby.

All three booklets and *The Public*, the paper with the Single Tax point of view, 13 weeks for 25 cents.

THE PUBLIC, Ellsworth Bldg., CHICAGO