

JOSEPH FELS FUND BULLETIN

BLYMVER 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
CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

S. DANZIGER, Editor

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Volume 3

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Number 9

THE PROPER FORM.

To answer requests that have come for the proper way to word a bequest for the benefit of the Fund, the form below is printed. In literally following it, testators will avoid all error:

I give, devise and bequeath unto the Single Tax Endowment Fund (a corporation duly organized under the laws of the District of Columbia), its successors and assigns, the sum of Dollars, (or the following described real estate, to-wit) the same to be used, managed and controlled and disposed of in any manner the said Fund may see fit for the purpose of advancing the adoption in the United States of that method of taxation known as the Single Tax.

THE DUTY OF CONGRESS.

The Commission on Industrial Relations has furnished the press with abstracts of its various reports. Ten thousand copies were printed for this purpose. These can not last long, but it may still be possible for copies to be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Public Documents in Washington.

When Congress meets, the first duty it should perform is to order an ample supply of the complete report to be printed, that copies may be furnished to all who want them. Its next duty is to enact legislation as recommended in the Walsh report, especially the recommendations regarding land value taxation. After that it might adjourn without any injury to public interests, or might remain in session to indulge in its usual practices.

All this is based on the supposition that we have a Congress capable of doing its duty. That supposition may not be correct. We will find that out soon enough when Congress meets. In the meantime Congressmen should hear from constituents that they are expected to do their duty.

A GREAT HELP.

Much of the success of the conference was due to Mrs. Alice Thatcher Post, who presided at the meetings. Every single taxpayer will frankly admit that any one who can keep a collection of single taxpayers in good order and close to the matters under discussion is possessed of unusual ability as a presiding officer.—San Francisco Star.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR.

Is your State one that has made a poor showing? It would have done better had there been more active work. Do you happen to know of a single taxpayer who has been asleep. Then you know at least one who is responsible. See that he or she is told about it, even though that requires a soliloquy on your part. See how much the showing will improve by next year. Don't depend on Mary Fels to do it all.

STATES	No. Contributors	1914-Amount-1915 Aug. 1 to July 31
New York	222	\$ 5,475.19
California	793	4,695.13
Colorado	1,871	1,642.45
Ohio	167	1,402.34
Illinois	192	1,196.50
Maine	10	1,039.50
Delaware	15	993.70
Pennsylvania	113	951.82
Missouri	67	892.59
Massachusetts	124	635.45
New Jersey	54	597.96
District of Columbia	41	589.70
Rhode Island	39	460.43
Foreign	11	255.50
Texas	30	188.30
Michigan	25	180.25
Indiana	16	156.00
Wisconsin	38	146.50
Washington	27	133.65
Louisiana	16	129.20
Minnesota	34	127.60
Nebraska	18	126.62
Maryland	14	122.50
Oregon	14	112.75
Kentucky	11	112.00
Iowa	37	108.65
Florida	5	80.00
South Dakota	9	76.00
Tennessee	7	74.00
Kansas	20	72.88
Connecticut	16	61.75
New Hampshire	6	40.00
Montana	14	37.60
North Dakota	2	36.00
Alabama	13	29.30
Arizona	8	25.00
Oklahoma	5	16.60
North Carolina	4	16.00
West Virginia	4	12.00
Virginia	5	10.50
New Mexico	3	6.00
Idaho	4	5.50
Mississippi	1	5.00
Nevada	3	4.80
Vermont	1	4.00
South Carolina	1	2.00
Georgia	1	1.00
	4,122	\$23,088.21

THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

That the Conference was a great success is the opinion of all who attended. It met according to schedule at the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco on August 23, where all the sessions of that day and the next were held. On Wednesday, August 25, meetings were held in Recital Hall on the Exposition grounds.

Alice Thacher Post was elected permanent Chairman and Mrs. Clarence E. Todd Secretary. Sylvester McAfee, representing Mayor Rolph, and A. L. Cowell for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, delivered addresses of welcome.

Delegates or visitors were present from nearly all the States.

Daniel Kiefer, Chairman of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, reported on the receipts and expenditures of the fund.

The question came up of organizing the movement on a national scale. After considerable discussion the following resolutions were passed:

"(1) That it is the sense of this Conference that the question of organizing the Single Taxers of the United States is ripe for consideration; (2) that a committee be organized for the purpose of considering this question; (3) that a committee of five be appointed to confer with the Fels Fund Commission as to the best method of organization; (4) that this committee be appointed on or before October 1, 1915, by the Chairman of this Conference in conjunction with the Joseph Fels Fund Commission; (5) that in case of favorable consideration such committee proceed to a provisional organization of the Single Taxers of the United States; (6) that such provisional organization be based upon the single tax platform which was prepared by Henry George as Chairman of the Platform Committee of the first Single Tax Conference, and adopted by that Conference at Cooper Union, New York, in 1891, and which was reaffirmed by the third Fels Fund Conference, which was held at Boston in 1912."

On Tuesday morning W. S. U'Ren, of Oregon, introduced the following resolutions, which were adopted:

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Conference that Single Taxers should hereafter propose nothing less than constitutional amendments for the full measure of State-wide single tax, and that every such amendment should be sufficiently complete in detail to be self-operative, without further legislation after its adoption by the people."

The discussion brought out the fact that while some of the California Single Taxers think a straight-out single tax measure would have been more valuable than the home rule amendment submitted, the general consensus of opinion at the Conference seemed to favor, from a propaganda point of view, the kind of campaign made.

A resolution bearing on campaign methods was this:

"That the question of the character of political campaigns be referred to the Single Taxers of the political subdivisions respectively to which such campaigns relate."

Edw. P. E. Troy questioned the wisdom of the Fels Fund circulating the report of the Committee on Forestry appointed at the last Conference.

There was, Mr. Troy said, "not a line of single tax in it." Another committee was appointed to investigate the application of the single tax to timber lands and to report their findings to the Fels Fund Commission: Edw. P. E. Troy, of California, Chairman; Congressman Wm. Kent, California; Wm. S. U'Ren, Oregon; Louis S. Murphy, of the Forestry Service, Washington, D. C., and Miss Adella Park, Washington.

Resolutions were passed expressing "satisfaction and gratification with the editorial and business management of *The Public*," commending the work of *The Ground Hog* and expressing appreciation of the services of *The Single Tax Review* and *The San Francisco Star*.

The following resolution on the death of Joseph Fels was carried:

"The only resolution that would have pleased Joseph Fels is the resolution that we would carry the torch that he never laid down, but rather passed on into our hands. The only memorial that seemed to him worth while is that monument in which he, though dead, is, like every other working Single Taxer, now and always, a living stone:

"In Joseph Fels' removal we recognize that our loss is simply a personal one and that his spirit goes on with us toward certain victory.

"In the midst of battle is no time to grieve for the fallen; it is rather the time to cheer the advancing guard, and especially her who must do double duty because her comrade and ours has dropped out of the visible ranks:

"Therefore, be it resolved, That our memorial resolution to Joseph Fels be the determination to redouble our support to Mary Fels and the single tax."

Memorial resolutions were adopted on the death of Susan Look Avery, of John S. Crosby, of James Bellangee, and of Levi H. Turner. The work of Frank P. Walsh was remembered, and that of his fellow-members of the Commission on Industrial Relations, in preparing for the first time an official report to Congress, which discusses fundamental economic propositions and recommends the single tax as the remedy for unemployment and for other evils. Louis F. Post, Earl Barnes and Daniel Kiefer were authorized to prepare and send a letter to Frank P. Walsh, expressing appreciation. They drew and sent the following:

August 25, 1915.

Hon. Frank P. Walsh, Chairman Commission on Industrial Relations, Kansas City, Mo.:

The members of the Fels Fund-Single Tax Conference assembled in San Francisco, wish to express to you their admiration for the fearless and effective manner in which you have conducted the investigations entrusted to your commission.

During these later years individuals and corporations have gained a monopoly of most of the natural resources of this country. Aided by their wealth and by the brains which they can, unfortunately, buy, they have placed themselves above the laws and beyond the reach of ordinary public opinion. Our officials and servants have not dared to call these exploiters of the public to account and it has been impossible for an individual or for any group of individuals to ascertain the titles on which these monopolies rested, the actual conduct of industrial struggles or the personal attitude of such exploiters toward the public.

Pushing aside outworn methods of inquiry, ignoring the sacred majesty of money, regardless of your

own personal or political future, actuated as we firmly believe only by a desire to free the earth for its children, you have brought to the light and have given to the public a body of facts concerning the iniquitous means by which great monopolies have been created and maintained; you have shown us the accompanying wretchedness and misery of the exploited masses and you have compelled corporations and men ordinarily inaccessible to the public to face their acts, recognize their responsibilities and speak like ordinary men.

In this work, if you have won the hatred of the few, the kings and potentates of the modern industrial world, you have won the esteem, the affections and the lasting gratitude of helpless millions, and you have given to us the facts which we pledge you we will use in all legitimate ways until the earth is returned to those who must live on its bounty or perish miserably that a few may corrupt the world and destroy themselves with excessive and corrupt wealth.

LOUIS F. POST,
Chairman of the Committee;
EARL BARNES,
DANIEL KIEFER.

Resolutions commending the able and impartial chairmanship of Mrs. Post were adopted at the close of the last session on August 25.

A banquet at Campi's restaurant brought the Conference to a close. It was attended by two hundred people. Louis F. Post was the toastmaster. On the list of speakers were Mary Fels, Alice Thacher Post, Edwin Markham the poet, William S. U'Ren, James H. Barry, J. B. McGauran, Oliver T. Erickson, Dr. John W. Slaughter, Bolton Hall, J. Stitt Wilson, Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson and Gutierrez de Lara, author of "The Mexican People, Their Struggle for Freedom." Mr. de Lara, it may be remembered, is the Mexican patriot whom Dictator Diaz made such strenuous efforts to extradite from the United States in the year 1909. A United States Commissioner was ready to accommodate Mr. Diaz, although it was clear that extradition meant death. The Taft administration also seemed quite willing to oblige the Mexican dictator, but a strong and indignant popular protest forced the then Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Charles Nagel, to order De Lara's release. Thanks to this protest, *The San Francisco Star* was able on August 28 to state the following in reporting the banquet:

"Without any desire to make invidious distinctions, it may be said that the one address that received closest attention and the greatest applause was the one on "Mexico and the Land Question," by Gutierrez de Lara, who paid a splendid tribute to President Wilson, urged that Americans refrain from interfering in the Mexican revolution, and promised that Mexicans 'will not interfere in the revolutions you Americans have not had.'"

As usually happens at these gatherings, a number who attended neglected to register, consequently it is impossible to give a complete list. The following are those who registered:

Alabama—P. Y. Albright, Fairhope; Mrs. A. J. Wolf, Fairhope.

Arizona—Mr. J. C. Callaghan, Phoenix; Thos. E. Campbell, Phoenix.

California—H. Hauch, Alameda; E. H. Ovenberg, Alameda; M. L. Gable, Auburn; Hon. Hugh Craig, Berkeley; Ella U. Barber, Berkeley; Frank W. Hooper, Berkeley; Sam Taylor, Berkeley; Hon. J. Stitt Wilson, Berkeley; J. C. Wright, Berkeley; W. H. Chae, Burlingame; John H. Meyer, Fresno; G. E. Burwell, Fresno; T. J. Penfield, Fresno; M. B. Washburn, Hanford; Gertrude Bolt, Lakeport; Mr. and Mrs. Percy H. Millberry, Lakeport; Harriet Rice, Lakeport; A. J. Gregg, Mill Val-

ley; A. T. Ames, Niles; S. P. Elias, Modesto; Charles Howard Shinn, Northfork; W. E. Berk, Oakland; Miss Mary A. Darby, Oakland; Dr. W. G. Eggleston, Oakland; Mr. and Mrs. Hillyard, Oakland; C. W. Pangburn, Oakland; J. J. Pottinger, Oakland; H. N. tun Suden, Oakland; Mrs. M. Tarey, Oakland; T. O. Thompson, Oceano; G. A. Rothamel, Oakland; Lura C. Rau, Pasadena; Cornelius Jansen, Pasadena; Dr. and Mrs. C. K. Hale, Santa Cruz; John W. Keegan, Santa Rosa; James Croly, Saratoga; Gustave Edlund, Sebastopol; Col. J. H. Pendleton, Marine Barracks, San Diego; T. W. Cook, Vallejo; J. P. Lightbocky, Vallejo; Mrs. Kate Fossler, Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Galagie, Los Angeles; A. L. Getz, Los Angeles; Judge R. L. Hubbard, Los Angeles; Edmund Norton, Los Angeles; Edward Norton, Los Angeles; Mr. P. H. Cornick, Los Angeles; George K. Osborn, Los Angeles; Nellie McSweeney, Los Angeles; R. J. Miller, Los Angeles; S. S. Randall, Los Angeles; Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, Los Angeles; H. H. Shimer, Los Angeles; O. H. Winton, Los Angeles.

San Francisco, Calif.—M. C. Christensen, R. Estcourt, Walter Macarthur, Henry Colombat, Mrs. Henry Newburgh, Waldo J. Wernicke, W. G. Talbot, H. White, Dr. Jacob Mieto, H. J. Fanner, Mrs. Helen Moore, A. Lawrence John, J. L. Howe, Judge James G. Maguire, Mr. B. T. Sample, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leggett, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gutstadt, B. Suzuki, J. F. Weizel, Dr. J. M. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. David, Mr. Isidor Jacobs, E. P. E. Troy, Mr. and James H. Barry, E. C. Hansen, A. L. Cowell, T. E. Zant, E. O. F. Ames, Richard Caverly, A. H. Sanborn, J. R. Kroff, F. Hachner, F. G. Cottrell, Bessie Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh P. Evans, Waldo and Mark Wernicke, Jas. O'Boyle, Wm. Hawthorne, A. C. Hanna, R. L. Duncan, S. M. Hilton, P. K. Blue, Mrs. E. Goldsmith, L. L. Loud, H. P. Rigdon, E. Benjamin, H. Echemann, F. W. Workman, E. Garcia, Elizabeth Austin, Norman Tyler, Chas. Grant Heifner, Ira E. Worth, Miss M. L. Roscoe, Sarah C. Boettcher, Geo. W. Merritt, Miss M. Davy, Mrs. Lora Shuey, David Swing Ricker, A. C. Meagher, W. C. Shepard, B. J. Evans, P. F. Bovard, Mrs. Simon Hymes, Jack Waitman, E. Y. Golding, Wm. P. Delaney, Walter B. Lowentsein, Mrs. K. Faulkner, Wm. M. Byrnes, Z. Matlin, C. Adams, Geo. H. Moore, F. McCarron, H. Newburgh, John P. Holz, A. B. Rains, F. C. Lintner, George Reed, A. H. Sweeney, Hugh Matthews, Fred R. Harwood, Alfred O. Ellison, George Johnson, Thomas E. Bigley, W. Robinson, Wm. Hill, C. Olsen, S. W. Backus, W. W. Cochrane, H. V. Gruening, Wm. R. Cloud, Johannes Trvesten, A. J. Fields, R. H. Carr, D. K. Watkins, C. Rowden, Mrs. H. M. Estes, Ellen Bigley Cole, Nathan Rothgieser, Jos. Miller, Leon Brown, P. Hughes, Geo. J. Benz, Philip Baum, Miss S. M. Starkhesne, F. W. Burnett, Mrs. E. Boden, E. C. Cunningham, Wm. Behring, Mrs. E. C. Tompkins, Mrs. F. C. Treat, Miss L. S. Borne, Louis E. Conrad, Edward McGlynn Gaffney.

Colorado—John B. McGauran, Denver; Mrs. A. E. Sanford, Pueblo.

Connecticut—David Chidlow, Ridgefield.
Washington, D. C.—Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Post, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson H. Ralston, Mrs. Clara B. Colby.

Idaho—Judge D. Glenner, Boise.

Illinois—Abram E. Adelman, Chicago; Stanley Bowmar, Chicago; W. S. Buhrman, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Cullman, Chicago; Harriet B. Chamberlain, Chicago; Miss Ruth Coddington, Chicago; J. Z. O'Brien, Chicago; W. J. Spaulding, Springfield.

Indiana—C. A. Kenyon, Indianapolis.
Massachusetts—Page Austin, Boston; E. Van Noorden, Brookline.

Maryland—Mr. and Mrs. John Salmon, Baltimore.

Missouri—Dr. and Mrs. E. R. Curry, Kansas City.

New Jersey—Dr. Benedict Lust, Butler.

New Mexico—Ada M. Morley, Datil.

New York—Mr. A. F. Borschel, Buffalo; Mr. and Mrs. John G. Murphy, New York City; Bolton Hall, New York City; Lois Hall, New York City.

Ohio—Mr. Daniel Kiefer, Cincinnati; E. E. Hardcastle, Cincinnati; Miss Ceril Stem, Cleveland; A. P. Cowing, Cincinnati; John S. Hoyman, Pemberville.

Oregon—A. W. Cauthorn, Portland; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred D. Cridge, Portland; S. E. Holcomb, Portland; W. S. U'Ren, Portland; I. H. Teel, Grant's Pass.

Pennsylvania—Earl Barnes, Philadelphia; Mrs. Mary Fels, Philadelphia; G. D. Bell, Pittsburg.

Texas—Mrs. J. L. Pritchett, Huntsville.

Washington—A. H. Blaine, Seattle; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver T. Erickson, Seattle; Lucy R. Case, Seattle; Miss Adella Parker, Seattle; T. Teepe, Seattle; A. H. Veralie, Spokane.

Wisconsin—H. M. Kallen, Madison.

Mexico—M. Gutierrez de Lara.

Canada—F. P. Rand, Victoria, B. C.; L. E. Brownell, Winnipeg.

England—Dr. John W. Slaughter, London.

STANLEY BOWMAR.

KEEP THE WHEELS MOVING.

Remember that single tax work can only be kept going when given adequate financial support, and the Joseph Fels Fund has been established to secure it. Mrs. Fels and some others are giving their share. Are you giving yours? If not, now is the time to begin.

WALSH'S SPLENDID WORK.

For the first time in an official report to Congress the single tax is recommended. This is in the Manly report, signed by Chairman Frank P. Walsh and by Commissioners Garretson, Lennon and O'Connell.

The other five members joined with these four in admitting the existence of deep and widespread industrial unrest, due to inexcusable and unjust economic conditions. All nine members agreed on political reforms needed, such as the initiative, referendum, proportional representation, etc. There was disagreement on economic remedies. The Walsh faction held that to abolish these evils the cause must be removed. The other five held that the cause must not be touched; that legalized robbery must continue uninterrupted, but that the government should dole out charitable relief to the victims. The reports do not use such language exactly, but that is what they mean.

To abolish unemployment, the Walsh report urges:

1. Vigorous and unrelenting prosecution to regain all land, water power and mineral rights secured from the Government by fraud.
2. A general revision of our land laws, so as to apply to all future land grants the doctrine of "superior use," as in the case of water rights in California, and provision for forfeiture in case of actual non-use. In its simplest form the doctrine of "superior use" implies merely that at the time of making the lease the purpose for which the land will be used must be taken into consideration, and the use which is of greatest social value shall be given preference.
3. The forcing of all unused land into use by making the tax on non-productive the same as on productive land of the same kind, and exempting all improvements.

To improve housing and to promote safety and sanitation, it suggests:

1. The Federal and State Governments should institute investigations directed not so much to ascertaining existing housing conditions as to formulating constructive methods by which direct support and encouragement to the promotion of improved housing can be given. Actual experiment in the promotion of housing should proceed as rapidly as proper plans can be drafted.
2. Special attention should be given to taxation, in order that land should as far as possible be forced into use and the burden of taxation be removed from home-owners.
3. The municipalities should be relieved from all State restrictions which now prevent them from undertaking the operation of adequate housing schemes and from engaging in other necessary municipal enterprises.

To put an end to agricultural landlordism, it recommends:

- The revision of the taxation system so as to exempt from taxation all improvements and tax unused land at its full rental value.

The four Commissioners who signed this report have done well.

WHAT VANCOUVER NEEDS.

The *State Journal*, of Columbus, Ohio, refers in its issue of August 22 to a traveler from Vancouver, concerning whom it reports:

"This is where the single tax has been adopted and so he paid particular attention to that, and he tells us that the whole place has been made desolate by this tax reform. The price of property has gone down, and the population is scattered to the four winds."

In commenting on this, *The Public*, of Chicago, says:

"It is needless to say that this account, besides having the defect common to careless travelers' tales, is further affected by being reported second hand to the readers of the Journal. That may account for the extremely exaggerated view it presents. Since the Journal suggests that Single Taxers dissatisfied with the report do something to counteract it, it may be well to say that it was counteracted long before anything actually occurred to afford a basis for such a report. In the *Public* of March 31, 1911, on page 294, is a letter from Henry George, Jr., in which he tells that the land value tax in Vancouver is but two per cent on a valuation so low that it is equivalent to but the trifling amount of one and a half per cent. Commenting thereon, Mr. George said:

"By making it so low, it unnecessarily courts land speculation, with its certain penalty of enormous inflation of land prices, and then a pricking of the bubble and a dead city for a longer or shorter period."

"In the same issue on page 290 Louis F. Post said editorially:

"There is nothing new about the desolating effect which Congressman George predicts for Vancouver if the people of that city content themselves with the degree of land value taxation they have now, while the exemption of improvements progressively stimulates land values. His father gave warning more than thirty years ago in 'Progress and Poverty.' Observing that in the better developed countries the value of the land taken as a whole is much more than sufficient to bear the entire expenses of government, the author of 'Progress and Poverty' wrote: 'Hence, it will not be enough merely to place all taxes upon value of the land. It will be necessary, where rent exceeds the present governmental revenues, commensurately to increase the amount demanded on taxation, and to continue this increase as society progresses and rent advances.' If Vancouver fails to heed this warning, let her not account for the inevitable disaster by criticising the single tax of which she now boasts. Her plight will be due, not to the degree of single tax she has adopted, but to the greater degree which in folly she may neglect to adopt."

"The warning was disregarded, with the result that Messrs. George and Post foretold. But the people of Vancouver are wiser than the Journal's returned traveler. They see, at least so far, that the city's plight is not due to the degree of single tax she has adopted. That has been shown by continued indorsements at the polls. They will yet learn that the remedy for their troubles lies in adoption of the greater degree of single tax which, in folly, they have so far neglected to adopt."

TAXATION IN CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION DISTRICTS.

In speaking of the single tax in California irrigation districts, it may not need to be explained that this refers only to the purpose for which these districts have been formed. However, since some may get a wrong impression, the mention in the August number of "single tax in full operation" is thus commented on by Mr. R. E. Chadwick, of Los Angeles:

"The single tax is in operation in California irrigation districts to the following extent only: Irrigation districts in this State are authorized to pay for the installation and maintenance of their irrigation systems by an assessment upon the land within their district. All property within these districts, real and personal, together with all improvements on the land, is assessed and taxed for city and county purposes, within incorporated towns, and for county purposes outside of towns."