

May 8th, 1912.

Mr. Daniel Kiefer,
Chairman, Kels Fund Comm.,
Cincinnati, OHIO.

My dear Mr. Kiefer,

I have seen the text of a proposed amendment to the constitution of Oregon providing for a graduated tax upon the owners of land which increases in proportion to the value of the land under one ownership, and, also, with various other provisions. It is stated that this amendment is advocated on behalf of the Kels Fund Commission's Oregon activities by Messrs. G'len, McAllister, Coulter, Nelson and some others.

If it is true that your Commission has endorsed as a matter of policy the preparation of such an amendment and its submission to the people of Oregon, I wish now to be on record as saying that the proposed amendment is contrary to the principles of the Single Tax, and that to submit such an absurdity at the next general election is, from the mere standpoint of expediency, about as foolish a thing as could be done.

Your Commission holds itself out as desiring to secure the establishment of the Single Tax. "The graduated land value tax proposed in that amendment contravenes the fundamental principle of the Single Tax, which is that each person occupying any particular site shall pay to the rest of the people (embodied for convenience as a state or local government) the annual value of that site which he occupies to the exclusion of his fellows." While expediency at any time may justify the acceptance of less than such an amount as a partial step, by no process of reasoning can it be assumed that the extent of the deprivation to others is greater or less in proportion to the relative value of the space which is occupied. There are other features of this proposed amendment which, by themselves, would be enough to invite a repudiation by any sensible community of all who had anything to do with its framing; and I can think of nothing much better calculated to bring about what will be heralded as a repudiation of Single Tax principles (although they really are not) than the submission of such a proposition to the electors of any state.

Very truly yours,

(signed) A. C. JULYBENT.

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