

# The Joseph Fels Fund of America

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May 11th, 1912.

Mr. A. C. Pleydell,  
29 Broadway,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Pleydell:-

I have yours 7th inst: Inasmuch as you have had our Press Bureau matter before and never under any other name than "The American Economic League," it goes without saying that you knew there was no inclination to have it known as anything but a Fels Fund activity. Hundreds of letters have gone from this office, stating that "The American Economic League" is the Press Bureau end of the Fels Fund, and as I feel sure this was known to you what you say as to that is idle and not worth further notice.

If you really believe the remarks contained in that reproduced article in our Press Bureau No. 230 are anything else than "drivel" I am sure the "Journal of Commerce" would be glad to print a letter from you showing it to be so. And if you actually believe the article is an attack upon the Singletax instead of a comment on something falsely labeled Singletax, I think you should prove it by quoting the words of Henry George where in he says anything at all to justify the statement that Singletaxers favor taking a farm from a man and giving it "to some ease-loving, covetous Singletaxer." I can hardly believe that that is your idea of what constitutes the Singletax as it evidently is the idea of W. J. Shrop of Akron and as Allen Ripley Foote pretends to believe it to be but, which we know it is not.

I think you will admit that since we do not advocate any such doctrine, we are not called upon to argue in defense of it.

We used the word "drivel" to describe the presentation of such an article under the heading "The Singletax Discussed" because that was the most charitable way to speak of it. We might have said it was a lie but it is possible that "W. J. Shrop" actually exists and honestly believes he was talking about Singletax. Hence, we used the milder term. If some one would label the tariff plank of the Republican platform "Singletax" and proceed to denounce it, it would be no more a misrepresentation than this article.

THIS association of poverty with progress is the great enigma of our times . . . It is the riddle which the Sphinx of Fate puts to our civilization, and which not to answer is to be destroyed.

Progress and Poverty, page 10.

WE single-tax men are not deniers of the rights of property; but, on the contrary, we are upholders and defenders of the rights of property. Henry George.

TRY our remedy by any test. The test of justice, the test of expediency. Try it by any dictum of political economy; by any maxim of good morals—by any maxim of good government. It will stand every test. What I ask you to do is not to take what I or any other man may say, but to think for yourself. Henry George.

LET no one imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power. Social Problems.

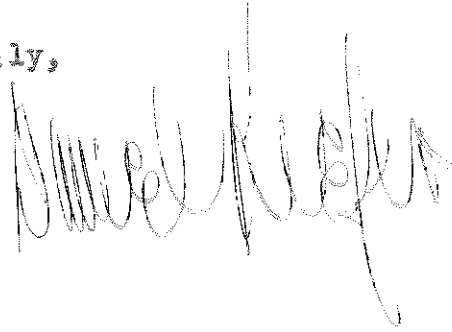
WHAT, when our time comes, does it matter whether we have fared daintily or not, whether we have worn soft raiment or not, whether we leave a great fortune or nothing at all, whether we shall have reaped honors or been despised, have been counted learned or ignorant—as compared with how we may have used that talent which has been entrusted to us for the Master's service? What shall it matter, when eyeballs glaze and ears grow dull, if out of the darkness may stretch a hand, and into the silence may come a voice: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Social Problems.

May 11th, 1912.

A. C. P. #2

It seems to me that you lose no opportunity to have it understood that a reflection on Allen Ripley Foote is a hit at yourself and I suppose we must hereafter take that for granted and not let anything calling attention to that individual's behavior get to your notice, but I think it incumbent upon you to do more in your ever-ready defense of him than merely say he is your friend and you are his and your simple denial that he is the Editor of the "Journal of Commerce."

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allen Ripley Foote". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

BHM.