

OFFERED BY PROF. LEWIS J. JOHNSON

Whereas, this Conference is the last of a series of such Conferences that have been presided over by our president, Mrs. Alice Thacher Post. And,

Whereas, under her guidance the business of these Conferences has been expeditiously, fairly and gracefully conducted to a successful end,

Therefore, be it resolved by this Conference, that we do hereby express our appreciation of the important services to the cause thus rendered by our chairman, to whom we hereby extend our sincere thanks by a rising vote. (Carried by rising vote).

RECIPROCAL MESSAGE TO OUR CANADIAN BROTHERS

Resolved, that we, the members of the Sixth Annual Conference of American Single Taxers, under the auspices of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, acknowledge with hearty greetings, the cordial welcome extended us by the Canadian Conference of Single Taxers, and desire to record our keen appreciation of their hospitality in inviting us to a share of their proceedings on the soil of Canada.

A resolution was also passed declaring in effect that State and local organizations should direct work according to their judgment and settle differences of opinion as to policy within their own organizations.

REPORT OF DANIEL KIEFER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOSEPH FELS FUND COMMISSION

If from the Great Beyond Joseph Fels can behold this gathering, I know the pleasure that he must feel.

The exceeding joy which it gave him to see the workers together and participate in their discussions, is known to all who have attended previous Conferences.

In the fact that this Conference exceeds in number the first day's meeting of any previous gathering, is alone evidence of how efficiently his work is being continued by Mary Fels.

Joseph Fels lived long enough to see the Single Tax become a live, political issue, largely through his own work. If he can still see what is going on here, it will not be many years before he sees that the continuation of his work has resulted in widespread adoption of the complete Single Tax. We have this year pending two State-wide campaigns in which the issue is application of the unlimited Single Tax. This brings up discussion of it, not only as a tax reform measure, but as the means of destroying land monopoly and emancipating labor.

We have this year received the unqualified approval of the National Executive Board of the American Federation of Labor. It is to the honor of organized labor in Oregon that it has initiated the sweeping measure, which, if adopted, will put into the public treasury of the State the entire rental value of Oregon land. It is to the honor of the National representatives of organized labor that the measure has been accorded their endorsement, and

the labor movement of the nation committed to the support of the only practicable means of permanently bettering the condition of all wealth producers.

In California, the result of the repeated campaigns is shown in the effort on the part of a hostile tax commission to stop further progress, by offering concessions in the form of an increment tax, forgetful of the fact that no pregressive movement has ever been stopped that way.

Though we have suffered what might superficially appear to be a reverse at Pueblo, Colo., in the repeal by 200 votes of the Single Tax amendment to the City Charter, it was morally a gain. The vote as cast showed an actual gain for the proposition and the repeal was only accomplished through illegal wholesale disfranchisement of our voters. Then the actual result of repeal has shown the people, as nothing else could, the oppressive nature of the present system, as compared with even a very faulty administration of a partial application to local affairs of the Single Tax system.

Propaganda efforts continue. *The Public*, *THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW*, and the *Ground Hog* continue to explain our principles from different viewpoints. The editorial and news branches of our Press Bureau furnish service to hundreds of papers throughout the nation. In co-operation with Mr. Wm. F. Cochran, of Baltimore, we have kept in the lecture field Louis Wallis, of Chicago, who has shown peculiar ability to secure a hearing in churches and religious assemblies, and also to secure newspaper publicity wherever he visits.

But the results of our work are not to be measured alone by accomplishments where it has been directly applied. Indirect results are to be seen in all directions. In Texas and Oklahoma, the tenant farmers are demanding taxation of land values as the means of emancipation. In North Dakota, the working farmers who own their farms have organized to push a number of reforms including exemption of improvements from taxation and increasing proportionately the taxation of land values. With this platform they have carried the primary election and forced the nomination of their candidates on the Republican ticket. In South Dakota, a legislature composed principally of farmers, has submitted a taxation amendment to abolish the general property tax. In the State of Washington, the State Grange under the leadership of C. B. Kegley, has taken a strong position in favor of exempting improvements and taxing land values. Kentucky and Maryland have voted to abolish the general property tax, and the latter State in addition has given to cities Home Rule in Taxation.

A Single Tax trend is noticeable among business organizations as well as among farmers and laborers. An organization of New Jersey manufacturers is working to secure legislation along our line. The Taxation Committee of the Fall River (Mass.) Chamber of Commerce has rendered a remarkable report, the result of a year's study of the tax problem, in which the Single Tax position is strongly championed. The Ornamental Glass Manufacturers in the National Convention at Milwaukee this year adopted resolutions capable of no other

construction than Single Tax. Then we have a great business movement, known as The Rotary Clubs, declaring in its code of ethics that "Society best holds together when equal opportunity is accorded all men in the natural resources of this planet."

Of special work done this year, mention should be made of our canvass of all whose names appear in the last issue of "Who's Who," as to how they stand on the Single Tax. One result has been to unearth many distinguished advocates of our principles whose views on the question were previously unknown to us. We have also learned of many more in sympathy with us, though not wholly in accord, and have aroused interest in many more who now want to study the question.

Our object in assembling here is to lay plans for further development of the work. The programme prepared is subject to your approval. You are as a body a law unto yourselves.

Our Canadian brethren are holding a similar conference on the other side of the Falls and it was hoped we might give part or all of this afternoon to attend theirs in a body. But our own programme is so full, we can ill afford to give up the entire afternoon. The meeting is now open and in your hands.

CANADIAN SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE

Delegates from many places in the Dominion were in attendance at the conference of the Canadian Single Tax and Tax Reform Associations which met at the Clifton Hotel on Saturday afternoon Aug. 19 and for a short time on Sunday morning. F. J. Dixon, M.L.A., progressive independent member for Centre Winnipeg, was the chairman of the conference, and Sydenham Thompson secretary.

The policy of the associations was contained in a resolution moved by W. E. Barker, Toronto, and seconded by C. A. Bowman, Ottawa, which read as follows: "We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community, the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community; leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual."

WAR REVENUE

A resolution dealing with the Dominion war revenue, moved by Henry Timmis, Montreal, and seconded by A. W. Roebuck, follows:

"Whereas the national debt of Canada already exceeds a half billion dollars, and at the present rate of expenditure, will, in all probability, reach one billion dollars at the close of the war;

And whereas the requirements for the Pension Fund for our disabled soldiers and their dependents will undoubtedly add many millions to the Canadian national expenditure;