

State will be sufficiently encouraged, and provision also made for the approaching shortage in revenue caused by the expiration of the financial sections of the Commonwealth constitution. Embodied in this bill will be found provisions for the assessment and taxation of unimproved land values."

It is stated that the bill will provide for the taxation of the unimproved value of land without any exemption. This remains to be seen.

Commenting upon the above item on the Government policy the *Argus* says:

"The Ministerial statement is that a land tax will be necessary for the purpose of revenue, apart altogether from its use as a political penalty upon landholders; and if this statement can be justified, it will remove the objection which must attach to a merely afflictive tax."

This partial approval by the *Argus* of the policy of taxing land values instead of industry is an encouraging sign of the times. I hope in my next to give some details of the measure, and to be able to report satisfactory progress in Parliament.

A. C. NICHOLS.

EUROA, Victoria.

HON. Tom L. Johnson was nominated for Mayor by the democrats of Cleveland. The vote stood 15,039 to 1,317. Herman G. Baehr was nominated by the Republicans.

"WHEN Bjornson and Tolstoy go there will be no great men left in the world," says Richard La Galliene.

ARE you still a Single Taxer? A pertinent question addressed to a number of those once active in the movement.

AN interview with John J. Hopper adorned by a portrait of this prominent independent and Single Taxer, and possible candidate for mayor of Greater New York, appeared in the *N. Y. American's* issue of August 30th.

THE JOSEPH FELS FUND OF AMERICA
(For the Review)

BY DANIEL KIEFER, CHAIRMAN OF THE
FELS FUND COMMISSION.

MR. FELS AND THE MOTIVE THAT INSPIRES
HIM—WORK OF THE COMMISSION TO DATE
AND SUM SUBSCRIBED—MANY SINGLE
TAXERS STRANGELY INDIFFERENT TO
THIS MAGNIFICENT OPPORTUNITY.

When Henry George gave his idea, embodied in the pages of *Progress and Poverty*, to the world thirty years ago, he expressed the hope that it would attract some man of power who, by the championship of his cause, would compel universal consideration of its truths.

In Joseph Fels, the millionaire manufacturer of Philadelphia and London, this hope is fulfilled. Mr. Fels is rendering the Single Tax movement in various countries substantial financial aid and thereby imparting to it a needed stimulus.

He has offered to the Single Taxers of America the sum of \$25,000 annually for five years, an equal amount to the British League and varying sums to the Single Tax organizations of Germany, Denmark, Hungary, New Zealand, the Australian states, Canada, etc. These contributions are conditioned upon the raising by the Single Taxers of these countries of an equal amount. Mr. Fels proposes to match every dollar so raised up to the stipulated sums.

In a recent interview granted by Mr. Joseph Fels to an English magazine writer, on being asked what was the real underlying reason of all this effort outside his business in support of a theory, he answered: "My reason? Beyond the fact that I believe this would be a reform which would settle most if not the whole of the problem of poverty, I have another reason. When I turn my toes up to the daisies, and go to enrich the flowers, my money will be no help to me. I feel I had better put it where it will do the most good now while I have breath and a few brains left to apply it."

For several years he has been lending his aid, by voice, pen and means, to our cause

in the British Isles. Largely owing to this opportune assistance the British democracy has seen the light of a great truth and is now engaged in a tremendous struggle with privilege.

Perhaps Mr. Fels' activity in England has had more to do with the progress made on the Budget fight than would be believed, and it is because of the encouragement of this success in England that he is eager to apply similar methods here, in Canada, Australia, Switzerland—wherever there is an opportunity. The whole point and pith of his tactics is to concentrate all resources, attention and work upon the one, two, three or more spots where the conditions and the previous fighting offer the best hope of making a demonstration by the practical application of democratic principles of economics. This on the theory that one demonstration will save a hundred arguments.

The American Fels Fund Commission, appointed to raise money to duplicate the Fels Fund and to expend it in the promotion of the Single Tax, has, largely as the result of two circular letters, raised to date nearly twelve thousand dollars.

Over one thousand individuals have already contributed to the Fund and it is hoped that the third circular letter, a copy of which is published in this issue of the REVIEW, will bring responses from a still greater number.

Mr. Fels arrived at the conclusion, years since, that if modern civilization should endure, great changes in social and political life would be necessary. A thorough study of the social question brought him into agreement with Tolstoy, who said: "Henry George has indicated the next great step in the progressive movement of the world." He realized that the public appropriation of ground rent and the remission of all other forms of taxation would banish involuntary poverty, minimize the ills to which humanity is subject, prolong life, bring universal peace and prepare the way for the brotherhood of man. Realizing the supreme importance of the subject, as well as what he conceived to be his own duty in the matter, his practical mind seized the opportunity which his great wealth gave him

of strengthening the arms of those in all lands who are intelligently striking at the roots of privilege.

The American Fels Fund Commission, influenced by the concensus of opinion of leading Single Taxers throughout the country, has decided not to scatter the fund promiscuously, but to concentrate it on states where the movement is sufficiently advanced to promise early success.

The line is being drawn between democracy and privilege. As a result the great political parties in America are disintegrating. To arouse the whole people to political action, a great moral issue is necessary. The Single Tax will supply this issue, provided the followers of Henry George can show practical results in a single State. The Fels Fund makes this possible. Therefore it seems to us the duty, as it should be the pleasure, of every Single Taxer to rally, to the extent of his ability, to the support of this movement and the strengthening of the hands of the Commission.

(The Fels Fund Commissioners feel justified in the complaint they make against the general run of American Single Taxers. With no definite statistics at hand, the belief is that there are at least fifteen to twenty thousand avowed Single Taxers in the United State and that they should only have heard from one thousand of them is the cause of their complaint.) They feel that if you, reader of this, have not sent in your contribution you should do so. They are not assessing anyone or dictating the amounts of their contributions. They insist that no contribution is too small to be appreciated by them. The suggestion has been frequently made to the Commission that they hire solicitors to go about drumming up funds. They do not want to do that. They believe it a waste of the contributor's money, and of their own good time. Furthermore, that it is not democratic.

We have to date a little less than \$12,000.00 pledged. It has been suggested that the fund be completed by estimating what would be a fair quota for each State. This seems a good plan, but we are not yet in possession of sufficient data to enable us to make a fair estimate. If the States were to contribute equal amounts, the full

sum would require but little more than \$500 a year each. It would seem that so small an amount ought to be raised in every State without difficulty and if our friends in each would make \$500 a year their minimum, the larger amounts which some of the States could easily raise would carry us well beyond the required \$25,000.00. Inasmuch as Mr. Fels agrees to match every dollar, we should then have much more than the \$50,000.00 a year we are now looking forward to. Following is a list of the pledges so far received, classified by States:

	No. of Con- tributeors.	Amount.
Alabama	13	\$62.00
Arizona	3	15.00
Arkansas	9	78.00
California	67	632.25
Colorado	24	185.00
Connecticut	9	59.00
Delaware	7	32.00
Florida	2	7.00
Georgia	4	17.00
Idaho	1	5.00
Illinois	101	1484.00
Indiana	10	157.00
Iowa	18	70.00
Kansas	17	75.25
Kentucky	4	306.00
Louisiana	12	62.00
Maine	10	129.00
Maryland	29	392.00
Massachusetts	80	585.50
Michigan	35	410.70
Minnesota	22	92.00
Mississippi	1	5.00
Missouri	41	396.50
Montana	5	18.00
Nebraska	11	49.25
Nevada	3	8.00
N. Hampshire	3	22.00
N. Jersey	39	658.00
N. Mexico	4	14.00
New York	113	2042.15
N. Carolina	5	9.00
N. Dakota	4	32.00
Ohio	90	1367.50
Oklahoma	4	9.50
Oregon	23	267.00
Pennsylvania	75	1110.00
Rhode Island	6	28.00
S. Carolina	1	1.50

S. Dakota	7	61.00
Tennessee	5	36.00
Texas	20	235.00
Utah	1	5.00
Vermont	1	2.00
Virginia	6	20.50
Washington	27	153.00
West Virginia	2	27.00
Wisconsin	23	167.50
Wyoming	5	14.00
Belgium	1	50.00
Canada	1	15.00
Canal Zone	1	10.00
Mexico	1	4.99
Total	1006	\$11694.19

The Fels Fund Commission are in want of volunteers to perform for love of the cause the work of raising this fund, and they believe that they can meet that kind of support if they can once get it into the heads of Single Tax men and women that it is their business and not that of the Commission only. The Commission believe that everyone who puts up a dollar for this fund will send with it his interest in the work, and that is what they are wanting. Considerable can be done with the money they have. They believe they can and probably will get some more big contributions, but that is the way the big political parties were financed and owned, and if money was all that was wanted they could get it. But it isn't only money they are after; it is the moral support of the work undertaken that should come with every contribution.

The Fels Fund Commission feel that if they could but impress upon Single Taxers and radicals generally how much more interested they are in the number than in the size of contributions, it would the more readily be understood why they are trying to impress everyone with the importance of their responding in some amount, no matter how small.

PROPERTY owners in Nashville, Tenn., have been notified by the City Council to construct curbs and sidewalks where needed in front of their lots. A large number are affected by this order.

THIRD LETTER SENT OUT BY THE
FELS FUND COMMISSION.

Dear Friend:

The purposes of this Commission have been set forth in two letters that have been sent you.

Prompt and favorable replies from those noted for interest in and fidelity to our principles was our certain expectation. But with only 1000 contributors it is disclosed that a vast number on whom reliance was placed have failed to answer. If in some cases our estimate of interest felt was a mistaken one are we to accept that as an explanation of your silence?

It has been suggested that we send out solicitors. Does this not seem to you a useless waste of money and a reflection upon the earnestness of men and women upon whom we are depending for sympathetic co-operation?

Should your contribution help to get the Henry George idea into operation in one state of the American Union, would you not feel it worth to you the little or the much that you can spare?

The expense of these letters is large. We send out thousands. If the subject does not interest you, kindly write us to that effect. We do not wish to annoy you with letters, nor subject our fund to unnecessary expense.

We respectfully ask some sort of acknowledgment, and hope that if you sympathize with our movement you will favor us with prompt reply, stating the amount you wish to give. We solicit only what we are sure you can afford.

Subscribe what you can—a dollar or less, or five, or ten, or a hundred or more. While we have subscriptions up to \$500, we have some at 50c. We are not scanning the size of contributions; we are counting the number of contributors. Remember that you may set the time for remittance so as to meet your own convenience.

Respectfully yours,

THE JOSEPH FELS FUND
OF AMERICA,

JACKSON H. RALSTON, Washington, D. C.

LINCOLN STEFFENS, Boston, Mass.

FREDERICK C. HOWE, Cleveland, O.

GEORGE A. BRIGGS, Elkhart, Ind.

DANIEL KIEFER, Chairman, Cincinnati, O.

Commission.

MANITOBA.

In Winnipeg the Manitoba S. T. League was reformed on Aug. 3rd. The present official board is thus constituted:

President—W. D. Lamb, Plumas, Manitoba.

Vice-President—Jos. Schectle, Winnipeg.

Sec.-Treas.—F. J. Dixon, Winnipeg.

The Executive Committee consists of the foregoing officers and Messrs. R. L. Scott, W. D. Price and D. Strachan.

THE Providence papers are giving more or less full reports of the open air meetings conducted by the Single Taxers of that city in Cathedral Square.

IN one of a silly series of articles in the *Evening World* is a list of "Maxims Which have helped Mr. Rockefeller to Business Success." The observance of one maxim, namely, that "You can fool all the people part of the time and part of the people all of the time," has helped some.

REMEMBER that those who want our help least need it most.

THE Third Conference of the International Tax Association took place at Louisville, Ky., Sept. 21-24. Lawson Purdy and James H. Dillard were down for addresses on special subjects.

JOSEPH SINTON is a persistent letter writer though 89 years old and invalided. Spite of his age and his feebleness these letters appearing in various publications show no lack of intellectual vitality. Commenting in the *St. Louis Mirror* on the increased value due to the building of subways, Mr. Sinton says:

"While the value of land increases with public improvements, the value of property which is the product of labor, does not increase with public improvements.

As nothing but land increases in value by public improvements and by increase of population, there would be no injustice if land only were taxed."