

of Single Taxers, if not indeed one of their number, now is the time, if ever, to make a move like the one contemplated.

With competent leaders who are confident, brave and resourceful, repeated disappointments and even hopelessness of immediate triumph are of themselves not necessarily disheartening. Mistakes in tactics are to be expected, differences as to policies are possible and even some of the objections which have been urged against independent political action may appear to have been justified. Yet, if advantage is promptly taken of the unusual awakening now manifest throughout the country, and of the striking object lessons presented in New York City and State, active campaigning cannot fail to wield an important influence which may lead to eventual success. If the leadership is wise, and the movement is not permitted to degenerate into a scramble for office, I feel assured that we shall receive sufficient encouragement to maintain the struggle until we get a permanent footing. In any event, the effort is worth making.

It is true that we are numerically weak, but I remember Altgeld's remark in Brooklyn that, "while there are not many avowed Single Taxers, each one is a host." If we do not propose too ambitious a programme at the outset, I feel confident that we will attract to our standard many radicals who have no faith in the Democratic party, many who vaguely deem themselves socialists, and that a considerable number of honest men in the Republican party would be glad of an opportunity to break away.

If we remain content to sit still, urge objections to political action and point out anticipated danger, we shall certainly never arrive anywhere within the lifetime of the veterans of 1886. There is assuredly more to be gained than we can possibly lose by such an effort. I am therefore, disposed to lay aside the various reasons that have been urged against independent political action, and, were I to live again in New York City, I would be glad of the opportunity to lend the movement my active support.—ALFRED J. WOLF, Fairhope, Ala.

IS ENTHUSIASTIC.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I assure you I am heart and soul in favor of a Single Tax organization for political purposes. You can count on me and my personal friends to aid this movement. I feel sure that we are in need of an out and out Single Tax organization for political purposes and I feel confident that the men who are behind this movement are bound to win out.—MARK M. DINTENFASS, Philadelphia, Pa.

CRITICISES THE FELS FUND.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Your statement in your last issue that the members of the Fels Fund Commission are disappointed at the fact that they have received but few contributions, is rather amusing to one who has watched the methods of organization of the Fels Fund Commission and the work it has been doing from its very inception.

That it has received but few contributions and has not the confidence of the Single Taxers in the East, is not very surprising. To begin with, we of New York feel that it is the most autocratic and undemocratic body that ever attempted to carry on a campaign of this kind.

The American Single Tax League is representative of the men and women who were present at the conference held in New York City some three years ago, its object being to keep in touch with the various local bodies throughout the Union and to stimulate their work along their own lines and to outline a general policy to be pursued throughout the United States, if that be possible. The Fels Fund Commission, however, is a self-appointed, autocratic body; instead of stimulating the work of the various local organizations, it has attempted to supersede them; Single Tax work has been discouraged all along the line since the formation of the Fels Fund Commission.

The Commission needs a new start, and to my mind, the way to begin would be to call a conference of Single Taxers of the United States under the auspices of the

American Single Tax League and make the Commission or Board of Trustees, whichever may be agreeable to those present at the conference, an elective one or at least appointed by the President, who himself is elected by such conference. Such Board of Trustees or Commission should do the work the present Fels Fund Commission is attempting to do, or at least should have restricted itself to—to carry on a campaign in Rhode Island, Oregon, or wherever at the moment it seems most advisable—leave local work to the local organization, and impress upon contributors that contributions to the Commission does not relieve them from helping in so far as their means will allow, the work of the local bodies.

N. Y. CITY. WM. LUSTGARTEN.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FELS COMMISSION REPLIES

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:—

Lloyd George in his speech on the Budget made this declaration: "THIS IS A WAR BUDGET." He then proceeded to explain that he meant a war on poverty. Single Taxers over the whole world have approved and applauded this declaration. The Fels Fund is also a war budget of the same kind.

In carrying on a war of any kind those who are responsible for results, would only bring about certain failure if they published their plans or neglected to take all precautions against letting their plans become known to anyone interested in thwarting them. Of course, such precautions necessarily involve secrecy even against many entitled to confidence. A Single Taxer who utters such complaints as Mr. Lustgarten sees fit to express is about as reasonable as would be a citizen of a country at war, who would complain because the war department had not published its plans broadcast or taken him into its confidence.

Mr. Fels, as a practical and sensible man, as well as a Single Taxer who wants the Single Tax so badly that he is willing to avoid spectacular display in order to get it, realized the need of placing the control

of the fund in the hands of a body that would not be hampered too much. The selection of the members was accomplished after consultation with officials of the American Single Tax League, and as many prominent outsiders as could with prudence be consulted.

If Mr. Lustgarten's ideas should be carried out more money might possibly be raised, but the result of its expenditure would only be another failure or at most a "near victory," of which the movement has already experienced a sufficiency.

However, I am told by some who know that at the Chicago Single Tax Conference held in 1893, when about the same idea that Mr. Lustgarten is urging for the raising of funds, was adopted it resulted in a greater failure by \$12,000 to \$15,000 than that now shown by the Fels Fund Commission.

The Fels Fund Commission holds that one victory actually won even at the cost of suppressing brass bands and shouting in advance, is worth a dozen "almost wons" preceded by sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. It should not require much argument or thought to convince Single Taxers of so self-evident a truth.

DANIEL KIEFER.

CINCINNATI, Ohio.

THE LAND VALUE TAX PARTY IS BORN.

A short, sharp, business like convention was that which met on Saturday at 11 o'clock in the parlors of the Women's Trade Union League, 43 East 22nd street, this city, to organize a political party for the Single Tax. The attendance comprised between 70 and 80.

Wm. F. Casey opened the convention by citing Cushing's Manual and describing in brief terms the usual mode of organizing deliberative assemblies. Jerome O'Neil was nominated for temporary chairman by Mr. Bastida.

Mr. O'Neil on assuming the chair spoke with great seriousness. "I have worked in this movement since Henry George came from San Francisco which was before the great campaign of 1886. In looking back