

merely to a fiscal reform; there are others who do not believe that it is a scientific or sufficient tax system in itself, though admitting much of the fiscal argument in its favor; there are others to whom the main feature is the reform in land tenure that they believe such a system would bring about; but whatever these minor differences, they are in substantial agreement that the "Single Tax" means a philosophy of economic justice and not a little change in the machinery of government.

For Mr. Joseph Fels or others to give their money for the initiative and referendum, individually or collectively, is entirely their own business. But to call this "Single Tax" work, which implies the doctrine for which Henry George worked so long, conveys an erroneous impression to the public, and is calculated to once more sidetrack the Single Tax movement into the wilderness of political expediency.

So long as the Joseph Fels Fund Commission is permitted to retain unchallenged its self-appointed leadership of the Henry George movement, and to distract attention of his followers to political reforms, just so long the great and necessary propaganda work will be neglected. And this work is vital.

There never was a time when there was more demand for a sane, and clear and non-partisan presentation to the public of the fundamental truths contained in the works of Henry George. Yet, after twenty months, and the expenditure of many thousand dollars, the Commission has done nothing to make Henry George's writings more available than if the Commission had not existed.

Nor has the Commission made any attempt, with all its advocacy of democracy in government, to make such an enrollment or organization of the followers of Henry George, as would enable them to have some say in determining the policy of the movement. That policy is still being determined by the five members of the Commission.

Let me repeat so that the point will be clear. I am not asking that any who have seen the great truth proclaimed by Henry George shall stand aloof from other movements towards human betterment, but I hold that an organized movement to promote the principles of the Single Tax

should not be sidetracked into municipal ownership, popular election of senators, initiative and referendum, playgrounds or municipal art, or any of the other movements to increase human happiness.

I have no complaint of the choice which Mr. Fels or anyone else makes as to the purposes for which they wish to spend their money. That decidedly is their business so long as the results do not raise a positive obstacle in the way of progress. But when the dazzling bait of \$25,000. a year is held up before the followers of Henry George and proclaimed throughout the United States in flaming headlines, and the fund thereby established and holding itself out to be the centre of the Henry George movement, is diverted into a side issue, the matter is one that concerns all of those who have at heart the ultimate establishment of the philosophy of Henry George as a rule of social conduct.—A. C. PLYDELL, N. Y. City.

(Mr. Daniel Kiefer, Chairman of the Fels Commission, will reply to this communication in next issue.—Editor SINGLE TAX REVIEW.)

#### STRONG WORDS FROM JOHN PAUL.

(From a recent letter.)

(Mr. John Paul is editor of *Land Values*, the organ of the land value or Single Tax movement in Great Britain, and one of the foremost leaders there. Our readers are asked to read carefully these words of John Paul in connection with the editorial that appears on page 34 of this issue of the REVIEW.—Editor SINGLE TAX REVIEW.)

We have often been invited, beseeched, and implored, to turn into political fights, on the ground that we could not get Taxation of Land Values until this or that piece of political machinery was effected; or until some obstruction was removed, e. g., the House of Lords. But we just kept on all the same digging away at the ground, and evoking the public sentiment for the Taxation of Land Values, just as if the House of Lords was contained in a page of "Alice in Wonderland." I dare say in this attitude we were likened to the "mad hatter," and that ignoring "the facts of the case," we were asking the question, "Why is a Raven like a writing desk?" We were certainly called some very bad names, and often threatened with some kind of "boil-

ing oil," to be followed by political annihilation if we "did not act sensibly," and shape up like sane men to the work as it actually did exist in the political world. But we just smiled the more, and went on with our propaganda.

Whether the trouble was Home Rule for Ireland, or Home Rule all round, Temperance, Disestablishment, House of Lords, Municipal expansion, Payment of Members, Old Age Pensions, or more efficient voting power, we simply said: All right. You go ahead with these affairs, we are here to educate the public mind on the land question, and the need for taxing land values, and we mean to do it.

But I must say again, that I have a great deal of sympathy with the difficulties with which our American friends are faced. What they say is quite true, "that we here do not understand the American situation;" and therefore, you will have to discount a lot of our reflections on the conduct of their campaign at any point.

May I say in passing, that my experience of the Single Taxers who come here from the United States is, that they are all good men—every man of them. They come with good credentials, and they are straight, uncompromising believers, and I am always glad to meet them. They just have one general weakness; they are devoting themselves more or less to the Money Question; to the Referendum; to home rule in taxation; the Trust question, etc.; and they tell you with confidence that something is going to happen in the United States soon. They don't just know what is going to happen, but they are going to get right there. At this point I can never quite see where our ideas come in. But, of course, I say again, I am in dense ignorance of the American hang of things.

It may be that there you have to hit the Trusts a blow politically, help the Democrats to reduce the Tariff; settle up or modify the currency; effect the Referendum; and all the rest before you get an inning for our proposals. But these aspirations have a familiar sound in my ears, for have we not been told, over and over and over again, that until certain (similar) obstacles have been swept out of the way, it was useless and a lamentable

waste of time to talk about Taxing Land Values? What our "good-natured friends" forget or failed to recognize, was, that we were not wanting the Taxation of Land Values; what we were wanting was, that the people should understand all about the Taxation of Land Values; and in this I am happy to think that we have been more than successful. At least the politicians seem to think we have been successful, and in my enthusiastic moments, I am inclined to agree with them.

I notice in one of the typewritten letters you send me, that Mr. John Z. White says "The English chaps seem to know nothing of our Judicial (so-called) system. When we get the people here into the same mental attitude toward the Supreme Court that the English have toward the House of Lords, we will follow our friends' ideas, though of course it won't be necessary, for long before that day our battle will be won."

This is a very enticing looking statement. I wonder if Mr. White knows, or can reflect for a moment on how the people here were brought into "their present mental attitude" on the House of Lords question? I can assure him that it was not by concentrating on Home Rule for Ireland, nor Temperance nor Disestablishment of the Church, nor any of the other problems that formerly made up the political outfit of the progressive politicians here. The change was effected simply and solely by concentrating on the land question.

The Liberals tried during the past twenty years to make an issue with the House of Lords on Home Rule; on Temperance; on Disestablishment; and on Education; and their failure to do so is now part of the history of the country. And but for our concentrating on the land question, and creating the sentiment for the taxation of land values from end to end of the country, the Lloyd George proposals on our lines contained in last year's budget would have been ignominiously set aside; indeed they would never have seen the light of day. The public sentiment for the Taxation of Land Values saved the situation, and this we can regard as our reward for all the strong effort and purpose we patiently and impatiently exercised all the time the

Liberals would stay lost in the political wilderness. They (the Liberals) wanted to come out other ways than ours, but they had to come our way, or get lost again for another spell.

In an eloquent moment Mr. Gladstone once said, "Ireland blocks the way." These words rang through the Liberal ranks like a call to winter quarters, but we had no listening ear for that sort of "call." We couldn't just understand what we had done to Ireland that she should "block our way," so we just kept pegging away quite confident that what "blocked the way" to the Taxation of Land Values, was the ignorance of the mass of the people.

In due course when the Municipal Bills for the Taxation of Land Values came before Parliament from 1902 to 1906, the Irish Members of Parliament voted for them to a man. The Irish M. P.'s like other M. P.'s, waited till the question came to them; that is a way M. P.'s as a rule have; they always act when they are sure how their supporters wish them to act.

I could only smile when I read Mr. Eggleston's comment that "Neither Paul nor Orr are able to make sound judgments with reference to facts with which they are not familiar."

As I have already stated, this is all very true, but the words and their import recall old memories to me; they come like an echo of the past. How often have I not had it said to me, by the politicians here, of all shades of opinion, and by the Municipal Reformers, who wanted "to do something now" for housing, unemployment, and all the rest, that my enthusiasm for land values and my wilful ignoring of the "facts" constantly interfered with my "sound judgment."

I was once a candidate for the Town Council of Glasgow, and the general verdict after my first speech was that I knew all about the land question, and very little about other questions! That was very true, (I mean my ignorance of the other questions) but I consoled myself with the reflection that the fellows who pronounced this verdict were laboring under the common delusion that motion meant progress!

These were the halcyon days of my life. I came along daily through a perfect cres-

cendo of amazement at my own ignorance!

I have written these views as a Single Taxer, interested in our efficiency at every point, and as your friend and colleague. After all, we each of us have only a limited amount of time, energy, and money, to make for the "promised land;" and it is in this spirit, in the spirit of a deep abiding interest in all our mutual affairs as Single Taxers, that I have written.

When the politicians of the United States get that "move" on, it will be a bad day for us unless the "move" is in our direction. As it appears to me, this can only happen if the public sentiment for us is deep and wide enough to edge them our way; and I am convinced that unless the Single Taxers make this public sentiment, no one else will, for no one else can.—  
JOHN PAUL.

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#### ACTIVITIES OF THE LAND VALUE TAX PARTY.

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The Executive Committee and members of the Land Value Tax party have not been idle for the past two months. Wednesday night meetings have been regularly held at the corner of 125th Street and Seventh Ave., this city, and Messrs. Darling, Mitchell, Wallace and Kelly have made many speeches. On Labor Day a specially prepared circular letter addressed to the labor paraders was circulated to the number of five thousand. A special letter addressed to the diners was placed at the plate of every one present at the George Anniversaary dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club at Coney Island.

The constitution of the party is now ready for distribution to the party members. Those not affiliated can secure copies of this constitution by enclosing ten cents to the Treasurer, W. J. Wallace, 233 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark, N. J.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee has received the following letter from Washington State and it is printed as an interesting contribution from a believer in the independent party idea:

"I have noticed the formation of a Single Tax party. This meets with my ideas exactly, and I fervently hope it will meet with the success which the principle merits.