

ing with the political situation. The cutting off of supplies is said to be Mr. Asquith's own suggestion.

Probably one of the most reliable indications of what the Government's programme is likely to be, may be seen in the London letter of the *Yorkshire Daily Observer* of today (March 15th), and with this I conclude:

THE MINISTERIAL PROGRAMME.

The Opposition raiders upon Treasury bench secrets were easily baffled today in their endeavors to elicit details of the proposed procedure and to ascertain in advance the full resources of the Government. The Prime Minister very properly refused to say more than he has said several times already—that after the veto resolutions have been sent to the Lords the House of Commons will be asked to give a summary assent to the Budget before any adjournment for the spring recess. The intention of the Government to obtain this assent of the House of Commons to the Budget is, he indicated, not contingent upon anything that may happen to the veto resolutions in the House of Lords. The statement merely repeats what was already, to any careful reader of the Prime Minister's earlier statements, the plain import of them. The programme thus indicated, however, does not necessarily imply that the Budget, after ratification by the Commons, will be immediately sent to the Lords independently of any action of theirs in the matter of the veto. The House, I understand, may pass a bill through all its stages and still retain it if they think fit within their own control. There is no automatic submission of a completed bill to the Upper House. Beyond this point the secret of the intentions of the Government rests with themselves, but there are those who find in the Prime Minister's good-humoured repulse of his questioners some ground for believing that the cards he holds are stronger than is generally understood. There is no actual authority for the statement, but it is regarded by some as not impossible that the Budget—as being in virtue of the lapse of the financial year already an accomplished fact—may receive the ratification of the Crown even though

assurances in the matter of the veto should be withheld.—F. SKIRROW, London, Eng.

WORK OF THE FELS COMMISSION.

A meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Fels Commission was held in New York City in the latter part of February, Mr. Hall acting as moderator. There were present Messrs. Post, Murphy, George, Steffens, Fels, Miller, Ingersoll, Lewis, and Dr. Mary Hussey. Matters of interest to the movement were discussed, among which were the proposed Antwerp conference. Mr. Ingersoll was appointed as a committee of which Mr. John J. Murphy is to be one, for the purpose of using the machinery of the American Single Tax League for the purpose of raising money for the work of the Fels Commission to duplicate the offer of Mr. Fels. It ought to be said that the members of the Commission are disappointed at the fact that only 1441 contributors to the Fund have yet materialized.

A great work remains to be done, and funds are sorely needed. Letters have been sent out three times to the 20,000 names on the list with the result as given in a recent issue of the *REVIEW*. This seems to the Commission a very inadequate response to the call. Part of the work that is being done is before our readers. The Oregon situation is promising well, and fuller reports will follow in due time. This work is in the hands of Mr. U'Ren. In addition to the work in Oregon and Rhode Island, where a campaign is on to secure local option in taxation, it is selecting the literature that will soon be prepared and printed. The Commission has arranged with W. G. Eggleston, who is a well equipped newspaper man, and a Single Taxer of long standing, for the organization of a militant and comprehensive publicity bureau, which shall be located in the city of New York. Besides this the *Public* and the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* are being aided.

Of course, there is bound to be a difference of opinion as to what the Commission should or should not do. Its opinion that that work is most important that will secure the Single Tax in one state is well

known. Having secured the Single Tax in one state the Commission believes that the result of its operation will be worth all the time and money that might be spent in the work of paid speakers, writers and tract distributors, for which some of the friends of the movement believe the whole fund should be spent.

At the recent meeting held in New York it was suggested by Mr. Steffens that the advisory committee of the Fels Commission meet together when convenient, and this will be done, preferably when some member of the Commission itself is in town. At this meeting, it was resolved also that Mr. Hall be appointed a committee of one to select some suitable person as a collector for the Fels Fund, so that the real effectiveness of personal solicitation may be given a trial.

A RECENT number of *Puck* contained two pictures—one of land about our big cities that is shown under cultivation, another of the same land dotted with real estate signs and unoccupied save for these. The caption is "One Reason Why We Pay More for Food," and under it the following:

"Formerly the land about our big cities produced vegetables, eggs, and dairy products daily. Now the same land is held by real estate speculators, and it doesn't produce anything."

IN a review of "Social Service" which is entirely non-committal in the *N. Y. Times Saturday Review of Books*, it says: His book is supplementary to Progress and Poverty. It is frequently lucid and often interesting."

THE San Diego (Cal.) *Sun* reprints from the Single Tax REVIEW the speech of Hon. George Wallace of Jamaica, L. I. which was delivered at North Hackney, under the caption "Americans Aid in British Budget Contest."

IN a recent issue of the *Sunday American* the editor remarks "No man who is good for anything need cringe to any other man." The writer knows better, of course. Every man who wants a job must cringe to those who have a job to give.

FOR POLITICAL ACTION

Dissatisfied with the present lack of activity in this city among Single Tax circles of agitation, a number of our comrades have banded together for the purpose of bringing the Single Tax into politics. The conviction seems to be strongly entertained that the present social unrest gives the needed opportunity for the formation of a Single Tax political party, which even if it does not place candidates in the field, may act as a balance-of-power party to secure the nomination and election of candidates favorable to the cause, or the passage of measures looking in our direction.

There have been several small committee meetings, and following these, three dinners, each of which has been attended by between fifty and sixty well known and active workers in the cause. Invitations to these dinners were sent to Single Taxers in this city whose names and addresses are on various lists, and announcements made at the Sunday night meetings of the Manhattan Single Tax Club. At the first of these dinners the suggestion of separate political action was discussed, and developed an astonishing unanimity of sentiment as to the advisability of entering the political field with all banners flying. At the succeeding dinners only those were invited who were known to be in sympathy with this object and they numbered all but three or four of those present at the first dinner and who still doubt the wisdom of this course.

A significant feature of these gatherings was the presence of some of the veterans of 1886 who have not been seen at any of our meetings for many a long year.

We express no opinion now as what may come out of this movement. Nor shall we comment at this time on the reasons given for opposing it.

We will say, however, that Single Taxers should be allowed to work for the Single Tax in their own way, without obstacle or hindrance. Numerically the number of those in this city in favor of independent political action of some sort is overwhelming. We confess ourselves utterly astounded at the response that this movement has met with. We had some reason to know