

Copy

30th March, 1906.

The Hon. Tom L. Johnson,
667 Euclid Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Johnson:-

Yours of the 15th has just reached me. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Now as to Fairhope, I have never in the remotest sense suggested that this Colony is going to upset things, and while it may not have appealed to you as a practical illustration of what a single tax might do, it is a first-class beginning of proof in that direction.

The Colony has about 2,000 acres now, it is administered on single tax lines to the fullest extent a small community within a State can be administered under existing laws. The land belongs to the body, the entire land rents and income from utilities now amount to about \$4,000 yearly, which is expended just as it would be expended in a single-tax country. All County schools and State taxes are paid by the community out of the land rentals, and the balance is used for road-making and public improvements. If free water, free schools (in addition to the State half-time schools), free library, free bath-houses, free telephone service, and the best roads of any small community in the South, free wharf for foot passengers and other public utilities, all paid out of land rentals, are not nearly what we are after, I would like to know what is! I may say to you, sub rosa, that I am quietly picking up additional tracts of land, and there is reason to believe that, within six months, the land will be doubled in acreage.

The fact that the existence of Fairhope is right there depressing land values in the immediate neighborhood is most significant, land a mile from Fairhope boundary averaging lower prices than much of the land five miles away.

I am expecting to go to Philadelphia again for two or three months early the coming summer, and will want to see you.

I hear Frank Stephens is doing a lot of lecture work. He has had a hard row to hoe of late.

With all good wishes,

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) Joseph Fels.