

States of the Union. There might be established a series of lectures each session, lectures, for example, like the one I heard a few evenings ago delivered by Mr. Hamilton Holt. Most interesting and enlightening it was, and it would have been listened to with attention and profit by any group of young people. If lectures like this, telling the story of The Hague conferences and what has already been accomplished by the advocates of arbitration and peace,—if lectures like this could be delivered in every normal school in the country, the effect would be great. Then, too, prizes might be offered for essays on the subject in all these institutions. And another means of emphasizing the influence would be to present to these schools one or two handsome pictures illustrative of any striking building or group of men connected with the movement for international peace. Still other methods will suggest themselves, if the idea be once formed of the importance of interesting and influencing the future teachers of the children.

By all means an effort should be made to place in the hands of every student in all the normal schools the little pamphlet prepared by Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, and issued by the International School of Peace. This pamphlet, entitled "Patriotism and Peace, How to Teach Them in Schools," contains a number of practical suggestions and directions which the coming teachers of the land should be happy to receive.

Some maintain that the appeal to war with all its glare of glory will always be most potent with children in their studies in history. I do not believe this. Children will take on the interest which they find in their elders. There has already been considerable improvement in the character of some of the school histories. Some of them are beginning to make the pictures of poets as large as the pictures of generals, and by and by we may have pictures of artists and musicians, and maybe even of international arbitrators.

J. H. DILLARD.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### HENRY GEORGE, JR., IN ROCKEFELLER'S MOUNTAINS.

Great Falls, Mont., Mar. 6, 1911.

Mayor Charles F. Murphy of this bright and fast-growing town cannot for the life of him see why the land owners of a benefited area within the corporate limits should not pay for the sidewalking or the boulevarding of thoroughfares. The law allows it, but the land owners—more particularly the vacant lot speculators—oppose it. The Mayor intends to bring matters to an issue in the City Council.

I called on Mayor Murphy soon after my arrival, in the course of my long lecture tour under the management of Mr. F. H. Monroe of the Henry George Lecture Association, and found the chief magistrate of Great Falls a very progressive man.

He has been actively advocating the adoption of the commission form of government, after the Des Moines plan. The legislature has just passed and Governor Norris has just signed an act, for submission to a general vote of the people at the next State election, amending the Constitution so as to permit application of this principle to cities of the first, second and third classes. Inasmuch as Mayor Murphy is to run for re-election under the present charter next month, he may make this one of his issues. He is for commission form of government with its concentrated power, but associated with the initiative, referendum and recall.

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Meanwhile he is concerned about the extension of street roadways and sidewalks and lining them with trees and lights; and he cannot understand why the cost of these should not fall upon the land benefited. The struggle over the matter will come soon. If it should not be a lively one the reason will be that the opposition has fallen away—for the Mayor is a determined man.

Just what the Mayor thinks about the single tax per se, he did not tell me at my first meeting with him nor has he since; but he sat in a conspicuous place at my lecture in Carnegie Hall under the auspices of the Civic Club and proved himself a magnificent listener. In the course of the lecture I suggested that the people petition the Mayor to send a qualified commissioner to Vancouver, British Columbia, to examine into the remarkable tax conditions there, which, removing all tax burdens from houses and other improvements on land, had caused an increase of 86 per cent in such improvements within one year. The Mayor afterwards said the suggestion was a good one and that he would give it consideration.

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I have found out that Mayor Murphy has much reason for thought about taxation in this town.

The whole of the land originally belonged, and in large part still belongs, to what is known as the Town Site Company, another name for the water power company. It owns the land on both sides of this upper part of the Missouri river; and, owning this land, it owns the several large falls that the river takes within a distance of ten miles. The most famous is Great Falls. The others are Rainbow Falls and Black Eagle Falls.

These valuable falls were formerly owned by Mr. James J. Hill of the Great Northern Railroad. He appears to have transferred them to the Great Falls Townsite Company, and the Townsite Company to have transferred one of them, the Black Eagle, to the company that smelts the ores of the gigantic Amalgamated Copper Company, for which Mr. Hill's railroad carries the ores from the mines at Butte to the smelting works at Black Eagle Falls—one hundred and seventy miles. In other words, the amalgamated copper group (which means mainly the Rockefellers, and which recently swallowed the

Helnze and Clark interests at Butte, and in doing so fused with them under a new holding company named the Anaconda Company, is "the whole thing" about the central part of Montana and has the lion's share in other parts of the State.

This group originally owned all and still owns a large part of the townsite of the city called Great Falls.

It owns the huge smelters that have been built on the river banks, just opposite to where the new city park is to be.

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Therefore, when I flatly proposed in my lectures to apply the single tax to the enormously valuable Amalgamated mineral, water, town and railroad lands, I was listened to with the same kind of tense silence that I experienced once in England when I made a land-values-tax speech to an audience of farm laborers without realizing that the landlord's agent was present. Silence did not betoken lack of appreciation of the point. On the contrary it indicated the very reverse—the keenest sensibility of the point in the one case as in the other. In Great Falls it raised the all-important question of who should bell the cat—who should begin the war against this enormous multi-corporate landlord.

Doubtless Mr. Murphy would not say so—perhaps he does not think so—but nevertheless I think the thin end of the wedge of this taxation is his proposal to compel the vacant lot owners to pay for the benefits they receive in improving the streets of the city of Great Falls. A pebble started at the mountain-top may land an avalanche at the bottom.

These times are electrical and most men are thinking—thinking deeply. Surely my lecture in Carnegie Hall before prominent men and women (one plain man was there, a colored shoemaker who came forty-five miles to attend that lecture), my address Sunday morning before Rev. Mr. Beers' Unitarian congregation, and my afternoon and evening addresses in Rev. Mr. Giboney's Presbyterian church (under the auspices of the Young Men's Association)—surely these were listened to with the intense interest of people who are morally aroused.

Nor was a little complimentary luncheon just before I left less significant. It was given by Mr. John A. Curry, city editor of the Great Falls Tribune, an Eastern man by birth and newspaper training. Concededly first of those he had at his board was Ex-Senator Paris Gibson, by common consent the Father of Great Falls—81 years old but as hale and active as if 25 years younger, a man of the broadest and most far-sighted views, and from his New England birth, his varied experience, his scholarship and familiarity with books, offering to this present hurry-and-bustle generation an admirable type of the old style American gentleman, who, for all his modest, courtly manner, can nevertheless be a pioneer and a builder of empire. Then there was the determined, progressive type of new Democrat, Mayor Murphy; the liberal-viewed minister, Rev. Ezra Giboney; and several of the staff of the Tribune, including its keen and courageous president and editor, Mr. William M. Bole.

I take added pleasure in naming Mr. Bole and his paper, because, as I am informed, it was upon that same Great Falls Tribune that Dr. W. G. Eggleston, now doing such valiant work for fundamental democracy and the Single Tax under the auspices of the Fels Fund, did the early and persistent editorial spade-work which is coming now to its harvest in Great Falls and all that part of Montana.

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In a later letter I shall have something to say about the new United States Senator from Montana, Henry L. Myers; and also about the valuation of mines for taxation purposes, a subject suggested by my going down one of them in Butte.

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

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## THE FELS TOUR—FROM CINCINNATI TO PORTLAND.

Portland, Ore.

The speaking tour that Joseph Fels made through the United States and Canada was significant in more than one respect. First, here was a "protected" manufacturer protesting against protection and demanding absolute free trade; second, a land owner—an owner of valuable city land that has increased in value 300 per cent in six years—he told his audiences that it was a moral crime for him or any other man to pocket land values created by the people; third, a millionaire, he told the people that they should abolish the system that enabled him to become a millionaire; and, fourth, the men and women who heard Fels were much interested and largely sympathetic.

Of course, many who heard him did not agree with him. That was to be expected. But the fact that he had such good audiences in most of the places where he spoke, and had the sympathy of such large percentages of his audiences, is significant of the growth of democracy and of democratic ideas in the last few years.

That growth has been astonishingly large, and even the daily newspapers have discovered that Joseph Fels and his speeches are news. As a rule, this is more true of Canadian than of American newspapers. Canadian newspapers print the essential and