

if we single taxers, or we givers of charity, or we orthodox Christians, thought our gods slept.

Single taxers did say to me that Mr. Fels was not explicit enough. To this I replied by asking them had they missed a single word he said, and they were silent. Two socialists said he was absurd, and then began laboriously to combat the stinging remark that "socialism is a state of mind," and to affirm that socialists also see the importance of the land question. Men who did not declare their particular god, said to me that this had been a novel experience for them, and their faces showed that they were going to carry it around for some time to come.

This man Fels turns neither to right nor to left; he begrudges himself the smallest unnecessary expense; the money could be used to help U'Ren in Oregon, or John Z. White in Rhode Island. He neither recognizes fatigue nor convention, but like Elijah has no other thought than the destruction of false gods and their prophets, and the setting up as the sole controller of social destiny, the single tax in its fullness.

+

For several years I have been writing to my "Beggar Knight." His photograph up beside Henry George and Tom L. Johnson and "John Z." and Bigelow, looks at me now. I saw and spoke to him for the first time on Friday evening, and behold he had but stepped down from my wall and begun to speak longer letters than he writes, begging us to increase our satisfaction by larger giving.

My brothers, this chain by which we are bound; this Jehovah which we do, or do profess, to worship; this understanding of the natural laws of God which Henry George has left us,—it is a possession like unto no other which I have seen in this world. To understand this Jehovah, is to know Daniel Kiefer before you ever see him. And to see Daniel Kiefer, and to find that this is so, is to add cubits to one's joy in living.

When a man has spent time in the society of Berens of England, of Fels of Philadelphia, or Kiefer of Cincinnati, he has become much older, though unconscious of the fact. Each is as different from the other as well may be. But each knows no God, serves no God, but the great Jehovah; and the life of each is untrifling service of the only God.

+

Well, and I have a little headache, too. I am convinced that those of us who do recognize Jehovah, have work to do. It makes my head ache trying to plan how I shall do it; that is, what lies in my road. When a man has seen Kiefer and heard Fels, this should stick in his mind. The Fels Fund is the best solution of how to use our energy to hasten the coming of economic justice. I was appalled to learn how little had been raised for the fund from single taxers. I fairly gasped as I saw how great were the needs of the men in Oregon, where our hope is the brightest. I am going to saddle up and follow my "Beggar Knight." I am going to become despotic in soliciting dollars for that "dynamite scatterer" to match withal.

GEORGE HUGHES.

A MONOPOLY-WALLED TOWN.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 19.

Returning to Los Angeles, a distance of 128 miles, from the Fels-Spreckles 50-year street car franchise fight,* I traveled with a railroad officer whom I overheard defending Mr. Fels' position on the land question. We became interested in each other when he learned that I had been in the "scrimmage" in San Diego. "Along here," he said, "I will show you something." We were skirting the ocean to our left with the Coast Mountains to the east of us.

"Right here," he began, "just north of San Diego, and stretching eastward some thirty-five miles to Temecula, then extending northward to Santa Ana, is about 96 miles of the most beautiful land and climate in the world, owned by six men. These six men sub-let the land to tenants who make all improvements, pay a quarter rental, and the improvements revert to the owner at the expiration of the leases. This which we are passing through is the Santa Marguerita ranch, 268,000 acres, 'owned' by Jerome O'Neil, and sub-let to tenants. It extends from this little town of Oceanside to Temecula—about 35 miles east, and then far enough north to take in the amount."

Farther north he pointed out Irvine's San Joaquin ranch with its 110,000 acres just south of Santa Ana. Scattered between these were some 50,000 acres belonging to Foster and Molten. The rest of the 96 miles belonged to the two other fellows. He did not recall their names—a man down here who only has ten or fifteen thousand acres is hardly worth remembering.

"There," he said, "is Magee's ranch, sub-let to him. He has been there twenty-two years and is no better off than when he first came. He is representative of the great majority of the renters on these big estates."

During the ride I had shown to me the territory where 16,000 acres of beans had been planted and harvested last year. There had been an average of sixteen 100-lb. sacks to the acre,—or 256,000 sacks (25,600,000 pounds), of which one-quarter, or 64,000 sacks (6,400,000 pounds), marketed at 4½ cents per pound, meant \$288,000 that year in rent to the "owners" who, by holding the title, kept the land from slipping into the sea. Holding the title and receiving the rent was all they did!

From the remainder the cost of plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting and marketing had to be paid before there was anything left for the "farmer who farmed the farm" instead of farming the farmer. This bean affair is only a small part of the great income from these ranches. The hill and mountain side was dotted in many places with cattle, horses, sheep and hogs chewing the rich grass into tons of silver and gold for tribute to the title holders. Hay, grain, town sites and such things also belong to them.

"The rental figures that I have given you," said my informant, "show the returns on this 16,000 acres of bean land to be \$18 per acre per year, or 5 per cent on \$360 per acre for the entire 16,000 acres. I wonder what taxes they pay on this \$2,160,000 of land value which is probably not more than 2 per

*See this volume of The Public, page 180.

cent of the holdings of those six men!" "This," he resumed, "is the condition of the country north and east of San Diego. To the south is Mexico; to the west the Pacific. The city itself, with some 40,000 people, thoroughly monopoly ridden, by a vote of two to one gives a 50-year cinch on its streets and avenues of approach to its chief monopolists, and bottles up its God-built natural harbor and places the cork in the hands of special privilege. Fels and Scripps, the champions of popular liberty, this city turns down just as the Panama canal is about to pour its stream of population and wealth along the coast. I tell you—no capitalist of brains will care to invest there with Vancouver and Los Angeles to the north. Self-respecting workmen will shun it as an Idaho miner does the bull-pen. In its recent action San Diego has sounded the death knell to its progress."

That is the way he put it and that is the way it appears to many of us. But a slumbering giant is in the north, and his awakening bodes good to neither the slothful slave nor the crafty master of monopoly in the near future.

EDMUND NORTON.

+ + +

SEATTLE.*

Seattle, February 22.

In March of last year the people of Seattle adopted a charter amendment which provides for a modified form of commission government. Therefore the city's legislative body consisted of four councilmen at large and one from each of the fourteen wards. Under the new amendment the Council is to consist of nine members chosen from the city at large at a non-partisan election.

The first election under this amendment is to occur March 7, and candidates were nominated at a non-partisan primary election held February 21. Eighteen candidates were nominated in the primary election and from these nine are to be elected.

The primary campaign was intensely interesting. Many of the candidates advertised themselves widely through printed circulars and the advertising columns of the newspapers. All manner of clubs and organizations were formed for the purpose of investigating, cross-examining, reporting on or endorsing candidates. Of these probably the most prominent was a Citizen's Committee of 150 personally selected by a few active citizens and consisting chiefly of reputable business men. The Seattle Municipal Ownership League has taken an active though not a conspicuous part in the campaign. A unique and effective organization for testing and determining the qualifications of candidates is the Seattle Quiz Congress. This organization invited all the candidates before it to submit to cross-examination by members of an audience, meetings being open to the general public. Forty of the candidates responded. Questions were passed upon by a referee to determine whether they were proper, fair, clear and courteous. The referee selected was Prof. J. Allen Smith, head of the department of political economy of the University of Washington and author of that very excellent democratic text book, "The Spirit of the American Government." Questions and answers were taken by a stenographer and preserved for future reference.

Despite the fact that the local newspapers completely ignored the existence of this organization it held seven meetings, attracted large crowds and did effective work in disclosing the weak points in the political armor of many of the candidates. At the closing meeting of the congress a straw vote was taken for the purpose of testing the sentiment of those in attendance.

The various political clubs of the city put out advisory ballots, as have also each of the three daily newspapers and many churches and church organizations. Needless to say no two of the ballots were the same, although there was a rough division of the sheep from the goats. The Royal Arch, an organization of liquor dealers, put out a so-called "Taxpayers' Ticket," though the source of its inspiration has been pretty generally exploited.

Mayor Geo. W. Dilling, who was chosen to succeed Hiram Charles Gill in the recall election of February 7 and was inaugurated February 11, has inspired widespread confidence. His first act was to remove Chief of Police C. W. Wappenstein, whose management of his department had brought so much reproach on the Gill administration. In Wappenstein's place Mayor Dilling appointed Claude G. Bannack, a captain in the department, who has won recognition for ability and integrity. Mayor Dilling gave Chief Bannack a blanket order to enforce the law and clean up the town, and the work is being done with vigor and spirit.

The second act of Mayor Dilling was the removal of Superintendent Richard M. Arms of the lighting department, who was under widespread popular suspicion of having administered his department in the interests of a private competing lighting company.

JOE SMITH.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, February 28, 1911.

The Chicago Primaries.

At the direct primaries in Chicago on the 28th (pp. 148, 171), the following vote on Mayoral candidates is reported:

Democratic.	Republican.
Harrison55,069	Merriam54,228
Dunne53,513	Thompson26,108
Graham38,541	Smulski24,167
	Murray2,823
	Scully1,210

The nominees for Mayor, therefore, of the Democratic and the Republican parties are Carter H. Harrison and Charles E. Merriam, respectively.

*See The Public, this volume, pages 151, 156.