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PRESS OPINIONS

He Offers the Fox to Protect the Poultry Yard.

Puck (humorous), June 15.—President Taft, recognizing in Socialism the greatest problem that confronts us, pointedly suggests that the Republican party, because of the skill it has shown in handling great issues, should be retained by acclamation to handle this one. It is a beautiful notion; especially when we recall that the Republican doctrines of Privilege and Private Monopoly are largely responsible for Socialism's growth.

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The Progress of Lynching.

The (Cleveland) Gazette (Negro), July 16.—Not to be outdone by Ohio mobocrats who last week furnished the lynching of a young "white" Kentuckian, at Newark, who had shot to death a bartender also "white" "distinguished and chivalrous" residents (mobocrats) of Rayville, La., battered down jaildoors (Sunday) and took out another of their own people and lynched him on the spot where he had recently slain the marshal of the town. Thus does the lynch-murder disease grow in the class or race that inaugurated and has carried it on, until now the mob must have victims from among its own. This is just as we predicted many years ago. We said that Negro victims only could hardly be expected to satiate the mob's desire for blood as time went on and the mob-spirit grew stronger and bolder. Within a week we have had a Northern and a Southern demonstration of the correctness of this prediction.

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How Joseph Fels Appears to Our Danish Friends.*

Ret (Danish organ of the George Movement, Slagelse, Denmark), June 24. (Translated for The Public by C. M. Koedt.)—At last we have had the pleasure of seeing our good American-English friend, Mr. Joseph Fels, on Danish ground. On the 10th of June he was received in Copenhagen by Sophus Berthelsen, Dr. Villads Christensen, Jacob E. Lange, Folke Rasmussen and Miss Ida Wenersberg. Mr. Fels proved to be a man of small stature, modest and quiet, plain and straightforward in appearance. He has a gray streaked full beard, and a profile which somewhat reminds one of Henry George; also a pair of beautiful, knowing and sparkling eyes, which attentively follow everything, and in private conversation indicate an animation and an amiability which gain him many friends.

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Conservation—Fleckless and Proficuous.

The St. Louis Mirror (William Marion Reedy), July 14.—Fleckless is all the talk of conservation, if it only means locking up the government land from use. We don't want the land locked up. We want it used. We want the users to pay for it what it is

*See The Public of July 8, page 635.

worth and then to pay an annual tax of a certain substantial percentage upon each acre, at its actual value, as coal, iron, copper, asphalt, lumber or oil land. Without the application of the single tax principle to the further disposal of the at present unalienated public domain, conservation is ridiculous. The land must either be used or not used. If used, the people must be paid for it at full value. If not used, the holding of it out of use by the government simply helps to keep up the price of other land and its products controlled by the great syndicates. Conservation without taxation simply plays into the hands of all the forms of monopoly now basing on private monopoly in land. Simply holding out the land helps out the schemes of the speculators in land. The public lands should be brought into use, and their natural resource value should be taxed into the public treasury. There is no other way to make conservation effective against the private monopolists and in favor of the people.

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Bryan and Roosevelt Abroad.

The (London) Daily News (Lib.), June 23.—Mr. Bryan is in the surely unanticipated position of having been talked clean off the stage by the leader of a party which, a few years ago, was deriding Mr. Bryan as a conspicuous sufferer from a tendency of words to the mouth. Mr. Roosevelt has talked more, we suppose, since he first became President than Mr. Bryan has done in all the years during which he has been prominent in politics. And there have been other forms of self-expression. While Mr. Bryan had his newspaper, "The Commoner," Mr. Roosevelt had his Presidential messages to Congress—the longest ever known; and now Mr. Roosevelt has a newspaper, too, and he may be depended upon to use the opportunity. Mr. Bryan, it is true—though we would not say that he had gone extraordinarily deep—has always gone deeper than Mr. Roosevelt. He has struck notes of high enthusiasm and ringing challenge which are not in the register of his more loquacious rival. While Mr. Roosevelt has been earnestly and didactically business-like, Mr. Bryan has mingled much more of the style of the prophet with his nevertheless strongly practical utterances. The United States have shown which they prefer. It is not the man who was ready to confess to the Conference the other day that "it had seemed strange to him that nations whose people were followers of the Prince of Peace could not find a peaceful way of settling the differences that might arise between them."

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Ohio Politics.

The Commoner (Dem.), July 15.—Some of the corporation papers in Ohio are rejoicing over what they call Mr. Bryan's defeat. The turning down of the resolution in favor of nominating a Senator was not a defeat for Mr. Bryan; it was simply an exposure of the corporation tendencies of some of the Democrats in Ohio, and exposure of the inconsistencies of still others. Mr. Bryan can afford to be turned down by any State convention that cares to go on record as the Ohio convention did. He has been turned down many times before and there are