

What the individual produces belongs to him absolutely; society has no right to take any part of it for public purposes. Certainly not until it has exhausted the land-value fund. The laborer's right to himself carries with it the absolute right to his product. The land-value fund created by society belongs to society, and no individual has any moral right to claim or take any part of it. That fund is ample for all public purposes, and should be used for public purposes; its appropriation by individuals is confiscation, as the appropriation of any part of the individual product for public purposes is confiscation.

The products of individuals are private property; the values created by society are public property. The right of the individual to his private property cannot be secure while society permits individuals to claim and appropriate for themselves the public property of the community. The great conservation movement in America is a "Hands Off" warning to the confiscators of public property. How suddenly inactive in the grab game the grabbers will become when we abolish all taxes upon labor and labor products, and take for public purposes the community-made value of land.

JOSEPH FELS.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 13, 1911.

Direct Election of United States Senators.

In the Senate on the 12th a proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution relative to the election of Senators by popular vote was adopted by 64 to 24, more than the necessary two-thirds. This amendment, however, is not the same that the House adopted, and which the Senate committee reported back to the Senate. The essential difference is that the Senate amendment leaves to Congress the control of times, places and manner of holding popular elections of Senators, as now provided by paragraph 1 of Section IV of Article I of the Constitution. It amends Section III of that article with a substitute for the first paragraph and part of the second. As adopted by the Senate, Senators would be elected, two from each State, by those voters of the States respectively who have the qualifications of voters for the lower house of the State legislature. In other respects the amendment only adapts the present requirements

of the Constitution to the proposed change from legislative to popular elections.—[See current volume, pages 369, 394, 418, 422, 441.]

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There were three votes on the question. First came a motion to substitute the amendment described above and proposed by Senator Bristow, for the then pending amendment proposed by Senator Borah. The latter would have left control of "time, place and manner" to the States. It was defeated by a tie vote, which Vice-President Sherman's vote determined against the Borah and for the Bristow amendment. The second vote was on Senator Bacon's motion to amend the Bristow amendment by giving absolute control to the States, except in cases of inability, neglect or refusal to act. This motion was defeated by 43 to 46. The third and final vote was on the Bristow amendment. It was adopted, as stated above, by the necessary two-thirds—64 to 24. The matter now awaits action by a conference committee of the two houses.

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Canadian Reciprocity.

By a vote of 10 to 4 the Senate finance committee decided on the 8th to report the Canadian reciprocity agreement back to the Senate without recommendation. They attached to it, however, an amendment offered by Senator Root to the effect that the print paper clause shall not become effective until all Provinces of Canada grant free exportation of those products. The committee adopted the Root amendment by 8 to 6, as follows:

Yeas: Lodge, Smoot, Gallinger, Clark, Heyburn, La Follette, Bailey and Simmons; nays: Penrose, Cullom, McCumber, Stone, Williams, Kern.

Senator Lodge's motion to report the reciprocity agreement favorably was lost by 6 to 8, only Senators Penrose, Lodge, Cullom, Stone, Williams and Kern supporting it. Senator Heyburn moved to report the agreement adversely, but Senator Smoot changed his vote and this motion was defeated, 7 to 7. The bill finally was reported without recommendation by 10 to 4, Senators McCumber, Clark, Heyburn and La Follette voting in the negative. [See current volume, pages 225, 401, 529, 531, 535.]

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The Lorimer Case.

When the action of the Senate committee on privileges and elections in naming a sub-committee to prosecute the investigation came up in the Senate for confirmation on the 7th, it was confirmed. [See current volume, page 536.]

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Roosevelt and Taft.

At the Baltimore banquet on the 6th in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ap-