

Los Angeles and then by the State legislature. Submission of the Charter to the people will be made at some date not yet reported prior to December 7th, and not improbably prior to November 27th. By the requirements of the Charter, as soon as the legislature shall have approved it the Board of Freeholders must prepare the Administrative Code and submit it to the city Council not later than April 5th. Thereupon the Council must submit it to the people of Los Angeles at the next primary election, to occur on the first Tuesday of May. But the provisions of the Code proposed for submission are not subject to the will of the Freeholders. Initiative petitions, if any are offered, must be submitted at the same time; and the ordinances proposed, whether by the Freeholders or by Initiative, must be submitted, not as one ordinance or code collectively, but in groups or separately. The Administrative Code will not be amendable by the Council after adoption by the people, nor in any other way than by Initiative. It will be in effect a part of the Charter, since it will prescribe the particular machinery for executing the general provisions of the Charter. As the Charter leaves open the method of electing officials, advocates of Proportional Representation* intend making a campaign for the embodiment of their system in the Administrative Code. The work of drafting the Charter and of making the preliminary draft of the Code has been done chiefly by Lewis R. Works, Leslie R. Hewitt, John W. Shenk, W. B. Mathews, Meyer Lissner and Charles Wellborn, under the advice of other Freeholders and an advisory committee, and with the tireless help of John J. Hamilton, the secretary of the Board.



Another Post-mortem Victory for Tom L. Johnson.

A decision of the Supreme Court of Ohio on the 22nd sustains Tom L. Johnson's fight against the land-grabbing policy of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Cleveland. It will be remembered that at the time of Johnson's first election as Mayor of Cleveland there was an injunction against the completion of this grab by the then Mayor. The Council had already authorized it and their ordinance only awaited his signature. This injunction expired so soon after Johnson's election that the signing of the ordinance by his predecessor was regarded as a certainty, it being usual then for a Mayor-elect not to enter upon the duties of his office until several days after election. Ascertaining that this was a custom only, and that he might take office at once, Johnson qualified immediately, and taking possession of the office hardly an hour before the injunction expired, he vetoed the ordinance. The case has been in the Ohio courts ever since, Mayor Baker having inherited it officially and pushed it to a successful conclusion. As re-

ported by the Cleveland Press of October 23, the decision ousts the Pennsylvania Railroad from Lake-front property lying between W. Ninth St. and the Cuyahoga river, and "gives the people of Cleveland a grip on the harbor situation which probably will result eventually in entire control." [See The Public of April 13, 1901 (vol. iv), page 2; current volume, page 998.]



Joseph Fels Fund and Singletax Conference.

The fourth annual meeting of the Joseph Fels Fund of America is officially announced to be held at Boston, Mass., on the 29th and 30th of November and the 1st of December. Coincident and co-operative with this meeting, the Commissioners of the Fund invite the assembling of a third unofficial Singletax conference of the United States. [See vol. xiv, pp. 1209, 1215, 1261; current volume, pages 76, 176.]



Following is the substance of the official call:

To Singletaxers: The third annual unofficial conference of Singletaxers in conjunction with the meeting of the Fels Fund Commission will be held at Boston on November 29th and 30th, and December 1st. Meetings at the Twentieth Century Club rooms; headquarters at the Bellevue Hotel.

This meeting will be the most important of any that have yet been held.

The fact that the Singletax, or some needed preliminary reform, will be an issue in a number of States at the elections on November 5th, the results of which will by that time be known, will make it necessary for this Conference to discuss many matters of importance. Reports will be received from the leaders in all the places where the fight is of special interest to our movement. Notable among these are W. S. U'Ren and Dr. W. G. Eggleston for Oregon, and Dr. William P. Hill, William Marion Reedy, Wm. A. Black and John Z. White for Missouri. Representation from California is also expected. Account will be taken of progress made, and plans for future work will be considered.

This announcement will, we believe, prompt those who were present at last year's Conference to make every effort to be present this year. We wish, however, this year to see new faces. Every Singletaxer, whether or not a contributor to the Fels Fund, is cordially invited to be present and to participate.

The Fels Fund Commission aims to spend wisely the money entrusted to it and is therefore desirous of having the suggestions, advice and criticism of all Singletaxers. But aside from their importance as councils of war, these gatherings are helpful to the cause through encouragement and inspiration imparted by the personal meeting of workers from widely separated places.

Public sessions will be held mornings, afternoons and evenings, according to the will of those present.

A public dinner will be one feature of the Conference. This will probably be on Saturday, November 30th. The details are yet to be arranged, but the price per plate will not exceed \$1. It would

*See Public of September 20, page 903.

aid materially in completing arrangements for the Conference if we might know approximately how many are expecting to attend the Conference and how many to be at the dinner. Early information on both points is requested.

Names and addresses of persons to whom a copy of this call might be usefully sent are solicited. Send them to the chairman of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, Blymyer Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, without delay.

The call is signed by Charles H. Ingersoll, A. B. du Pont, Lincoln Steffens, J. H. Ralston, Frederic C. Howe, George A. Briggs and Daniel Kiefer, constituting the Commission, the last named being its Chairman.

NEWS NOTES

—Revolution in Ecuador is revived. [See current volume, page 851.]

—The federation of the British West Indian colonies is under consideration.

—James S. Sherman, Vice President of the United States, was reported in dispatches from Utica, N. Y., on the 28th as in a dying condition. [See current volume, page 607.]

—Katmai volcano, which caused great damage on the Alaskan peninsula and adjacent islands last June, is believed to be again in violent eruption. [See current volume, page 567.]

—The Panama Canal will be ready for its first ship passage on October 23, 1913, according to announcement from Washington on the 23rd. [See current volume, page 900.]

—Premier Berntsen introduced in the Danish parliament on the 23d a franchise reform bill whereby women will be allowed to vote and be eligible for seats in the lower house on the same terms as men. [See current volume, page 757.]

—Charles Becker, lieutenant of police in New York, was convicted of murder in the first degree, on the 22nd, by a jury before Recorder Goff. The charge of which he stands convicted is instigating the murder of Herman Rosenthal, a gambler who was exposing police graft. [See current volume, page 794.]

—The general elections in Norway were reported on the 22nd as going strongly against the Ministry. Out of 123 seats the returns for 95 were then complete. In the case of 47 of these the results were indecisive, requiring another election. Of the others only fourteen seats were won by the ministry. The Radicals had captured twenty-nine and the Socialists five.

—France and Spain are reported to have come to an agreement on the subject of Morocco. Under the treaty which it is expected will be signed next week, Morocco will be divided into two "zones of influence" on behalf of the two European nations. The town of Tangier and a zone around it will be international territory, according to a desire expressed by Great Britain. Tetuan, holy city of Morocco, will be the Spanish capital. The French high

commissioner will be at Fez. The treaty provides for close co-operation of the armed forces of France and Spain. [See current volume, page 804.]

—Theodore Roosevelt began a civil suit for damages and instituted criminal proceedings on the 25th in Michigan against George A. Newett, editor of the Ishpeming Iron Ore, for libel. The libelous words, as reported by the Chicago Tribune of the 26th, appeared in the Iron Ore of October 12th, as follows: "Roosevelt lies and curses in a most disgusting way; he gets drunk, too, and that frequently, and all his intimates know about it."

—Contrary to expectations the local authorities at Little Falls announced on the 22nd that they intended to continue the prosecution of Mayor Lunn of Schenectady. One of his associates—Rev. R. A. Bakeman—sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 for violation of city ordinance in addressing a strikers' meeting—has refused to pay the fine, and on the 22nd was committed to the county jail at Herkimer. [See current volume, page 1021.]

—Some accident to the only son of the Czar of Russia, a lad of eight years of age, has occurred, and apparently the boy has been seriously if not very dangerously injured. All sorts of causes for the injury have been assigned, including attacks upon his person by knife and bullet on the part of revolutionists, but no story is properly authenticated. The suicide of Admiral Chagin and the attempted suicide of a woman friend of the Admiral, a few days after the condition of the Czarewitch had become public, have been connected with the happening, some of the many narratives placing the scene of the accident on the royal yacht Standart, and assigning to the Admiral a degree of responsibility for the safety of the heir to "all the Russias." [See vol. xiv, p. 1004.]

—Banishment to Siberia will soon be a thing of the past if the bill now being prepared by the Russian minister of justice, according to press dispatches, becomes law. The bill will abolish penal servitude in Siberia, and will substitute the same punishment in the penitentiaries of European Russia, without compulsory settlement of the convicts after serving their sentences, which is to be superseded by police supervision. Since the signing of the peace treaty with Japan, Sachalin has been unavailable as a penal settlement. The number of convicts in Siberia has been increasing, and there have been bitter protests from the respectable free population of that country. The authorities have recognized the fact that the dumping of convicts in Siberia is seriously hampering the development of that country, and that there must be an alteration of the system.

—Excitement in Cuba over the Presidential elections to come off this week has been running high. Riots occurred in Havana on the 24th, and two persons were killed. The issues of the election are said to be personal rather than questions of principle. General Mario Menocal is the Conservative candidate, and Alfredo Zayas, the present Vice-President, is the Liberal candidate for President, President Gomez having agreed at his first election that he would not be a candidate for a second term. According to Sumner Curtis, writing in the Chicago