

with a view of having a permanent investment with a fair earning capacity secured to it by the furnishing of its service to its patrons at reasonable prices. The company has consistently refused to sell at various times. Proposals from a buyer never receive consideration until the seller is assured of the power and ability of the purchaser to buy. The company has every confidence in the continued stability of its investment, expecting to make in the future, as in the past, a reasonable return thereon. I will take pleasure in submitting this correspondence to the directors of the company at their next meeting.

[See vol. x, page 778, and vol. xii, page 1025.]



Singletax Campaign in Seattle.

Under the direction of a campaign committee of the Seattle Tax Reform League—consisting of G. E. Tilton, G. A. Pidduck, Mary A. D. Brennan, Lucy R. Case and Thorwald Siegfried, the latter as secretary—a vigorous campaign has begun in Seattle for the adoption on referendum at the city election of March 5 next, of the Erickson amendment to the city charter. This amendment, submitted by the City Council, would add the following Article to the charter:

Section 1. The assessment, levy and collection of taxes on property for all corporate or municipal purposes of the City of Seattle shall be uniform in respect to persons and property therein; provided, that from and after the first day of July, 1912, no tax for corporate or municipal purposes in the City of Seattle shall be levied or imposed on any improvements on, in or under any lands in the City of Seattle, nor on any form of personal property except leasehold interests in land; but, from and after the first day of July, 1912, all taxes within said city for corporate or municipal purposes shall be levied on and collected from the assessed value of leasehold interests in land, public service corporation franchises, and on and from the assessed values of all lands and all other natural resources in said city, except such lands as are used only for municipal, educational, literary, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes already exempt from taxation by law; provided, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the imposing of licenses on certain occupations within the City of Seattle in the exercise of the police power or affect any charter provision or ordinance regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Section 2. No tax or fee for corporate or municipal purposes shall be imposed in the City of Seattle upon any trade, labor, business, person, industry, or profession under the pretext of a license or the exercise of the police power except where the imposition of such tax or fee is for the avowed purpose of limiting and discouraging the pursuit or object so taxed; and all ordinances imposing such taxes shall state clearly that the purpose is to limit and discourage the pursuit or object so taxed.

In promotion of their campaign the committee named above solicits outside help in the form of "short letters from prominent public men" who

have faith in this reform, "addressed to the people of Seattle," and funds for effectively pushing the seven weeks' contest before them. Local papers are full of the subject, with letters and editorials both for and against. "Seattle," writes the secretary of the committee, "has in more ways than one stimulated thought and action throughout the country and we hope to make it take a lead on behalf of the exemption of improvements and personality from taxation two months hence."



George F. Cotterill of Seattle.

At the direct primaries for the same election at which the Singletax is to be voted on in Seattle, George F. Cotterill, for many years a leading Singletaxer of the State of Washington, is to be one of the three or four candidates for Mayor. The others are Thomas A. Parish and Mayor Gill. The two highest at the primaries will be the candidates at the election. Mr. Cotterill, though born in England, has lived in the State of Washington 27 out of the 46 years of his life. By profession he is a civil engineer and this is his vocation; but he is also what Professor Lewis Jerome Johnson of Harvard calls a "civic engineer." He has been twice defeated for Mayor of Seattle as a party Democrat, before the city's elections were made non-partisan by the Commission form of government; but even as a Democrat he was elected State Senator in a strong Republican district and as such served efficiently in the legislature.



Joseph Fels in Canada.

Joseph Fels is devoting himself to Singletax work in Canada. His activities there appear to be especially notable. On the 14th he occupied the pulpit of a Methodist church in the morning and that of a Unitarian church in the evening. One of the largest meetings in the history of the Empire Club greeted him on the 16th. On that day also, as reported by the *Toronto Globe* of the 17th—

he held a two hours' conference with about thirty business men, including builders, architects, real estate brokers, and contractors, in the Builders' Exchange, at which he explained to them the principles of Singletax. Afterwards Mr. Fels interviewed other business men, and secured the promises of about twenty men and firms who expressed themselves as willing to put up an amount of the tax on their business for one year to contribute to a fund to do away with that tax. These men and firms paid taxes on their business ranging from about \$30 to \$500 annually. One or two large wholesale houses paying taxes of approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000 also declared their willingness to fall in line on condition that fifteen or twenty other large firms would do the same. Mr. Fels will contribute an amount equal to the whole amount raised. Speaking of the meeting

held in the Builders' Exchange, Mr. Fels said to The Globe that this was the first meeting of this class of business men he had ever known which had been held to discuss the placing of taxation on land values alone. Under ordinary conditions these men were opposed to what he proposed, but while he would not say that he had convinced those at the meeting, he believed that the majority of them would ultimately come over, and favor the taking of the tax away from businesses and placing it where it belonged. In taking a ride around the city yesterday afternoon Mr. Fels was struck with the fact that one-third of the superficial area within the city limits was now vacant and had never been built upon. "When I was in British Columbia," said Mr. Fels to The Globe, "I saw Premier McBride, and I asked him what he thought of taxation of land values alone. He said he himself did not believe in it, but he realized that it would have to come eventually." Mr. Fels has a busy week ahead of him, and will visit seven Canadian cities in as many days. In each of these cities he proposes to try to start such a movement as he has started in Toronto. This morning he goes to Stratford, where he will address the Board of Trade. Thursday he will speak to the Canadian Club in London. Friday he returns to Toronto and will address the Empire Club, and in the evening he will speak at a public meeting in Peterboro'. Monday the Ottawa Board of Trade will hear him. Tuesday he will speak at Montreal, and Wednesday in Quebec.



The United States Warns Cuba.

In a note presented by Arthur M. Beaupre, American minister at Havana, to President Gomez on the 16th, the United States threatened a third armed intervention in Cuba. The note ran as follows:

The situation in Cuba causes grave concern to the United States. That the laws intended to safeguard free republican government shall be enforced and not defied is obviously essential to the maintenance of law, order and stability indispensable to the status of the Republic of Cuba. The President of the United States therefore looks to the President and government of Cuba to prevent the threatened situation, which would compel the United States much against its desire to consider what measures it must take in pursuance of the obligations of its relations to Cuba.

The note was called out, according to the dispatches, by a situation developing from an agitation started last fall by the Veterans' association of Cuba, especially led by General Nunez, who was supposed to be working for the Presidency of the Republic, in succession to Gomez. The veterans began by demanding the dismissal from the civil service of all men who had been identified in any way with the Spanish régime during the early days of the fight for Cuban independence. This despite the fact that for nearly fourteen years such men had been holding various offices in the government service without protest from any quarter. They also demanded that members of the Veterans' association be more freely appointed

to government places. President Gomez declared that he would not dismiss efficient men to please the Veterans, but in response to insistence he made some concessions. The Veterans thereupon made further demands and defied President and law. The effect of the American note, which does not seem to have been unwelcome to President Gomez, has been in the direction of unifying all factions, and of halting the Veterans' plans. With the nullification of their program the hopes of General Nunez apparently vanish. An agreement between the government and the Veterans' association was signed on the 20th, by which the Veterans bind themselves to relinquish their opposition to office holders accused of former hostility to Cuban independence. [See vol. xiv, page 584.]



Ecuadorean War Over.

The short civil war in the South American republic of Ecuador, following the death of President Estrada on December 22, has apparently come to a close. Upon the death of Estrada two provisional governments created themselves—one organized by the Liberals at the capital city of Quito, with General Plaza as provisional President, and General Julio Andrade in command of troops; and the other organized in the seaport city of Guayaquil, with General Montero at its head, and Generals Flavio Alfaro and Eloy Alfaro in command of troops. In a desperate battle to the northeast of Guayaquil on the 18th, in which over 1,000 men were killed and wounded, the Quito faction was victorious, and on the 22nd the Montero troops at Guayaquil capitulated to the Plaza troops from Quito. [See current volume, page 63.]



The German Elections.

Second elections for the Reichstag were held in 77 districts of Germany on the 20th and in 80 on the 22d, with the result (some districts yet to vote) of giving the political parties in the Reichstag the following relative strength thus far, as reported in dispatches of the 22d, and in comparison with the Reichstag recently dissolved:

	Previous Reichstag.	Next Reichstag.
Socialists	52	99
Centerists	109	91
Conservatives	68	43
Liberals	54	37
Radicals	50	35
All others	42	57

Second elections will be held on the 25th for the remaining seats. [See current volume, page 61.]



Singletax Work in Switzerland.

The Tax Reform Association of Bern and the neighboring town of Thun, Switzerland, was