

tion," and it quotes the Honorable Charles H. Lugrin as saying:

The Royal Tax Commission of British Columbia, of which I was a member, went to work with open minds and without preconceived ideas as to what they were going to do. The conclusions we reached were forced upon us by our knowledge of the conditions of the country and of the evils of some of the taxes now levied. I confess that at the outset I was even in favor of the poll tax, against which our Commission is now unanimous. The same thing applies to the tax on improvements and personal property. We felt from our investigation of the Province that they were unjust, that they could not be fairly levied, and that it was only right that they should be abolished. And we believe that this will be done by the legislature. The city of Victoria, after carefully observing the results in Vancouver, has now also abolished the tax on improvements, and I am satisfied that within two years neither personal property nor improvements on land will be taxed anywhere in British Columbia. That this will encourage enterprise and investment in the Province goes without saying. In the communities that have adopted this system of Singletax there is no influence that can be brought to bear that could lead them to depart from it.

[See current volume, pages 109, 155, 161.]



#### Land Monopoly in England.

The London Daily News of May 2 reports the abandonment by Joseph Fels of his experiment in small holdings at Mayland, in Essex, near Althorne, England. Including the cost of the land, about 700 acres, the experiment has cost nearly \$250,000. Upon purchasing the land Mr. Fels had it divided into 5 and 6-acre lots, on each of which he built a brick house with five rooms and bath, besides farm buildings. Three acres of each lot were laid out with fruit; the remainder was prepared for general market gardening. Only about a third of the original small holders remain in possession and liberal opportunities are afforded them for acquiring full title. The rest of the property is to be disposed of at once. "I am giving up the experiment," said Mr. Fels, "simply because I am convinced that under present conditions of the land question in England no experiment either public or private, can assure that the cultivator, whether large or small, shall get what belongs to him—the full result of his labor." He explained, as reported in the News:

I have come to a full realization of the hopelessness of trying to promote agriculture in a country the land of which is monopolized by a few ground landlords, who are beginning to be called here, as in America, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, and other countries, "land hogs." This ownership by the few of the land of the many makes for monopoly and special privilege in more directions than at first would seem possible. Perhaps my special scheme has been quickened in its failure by my inability to give it the per-

sonal attention that such an undertaking would seem to deserve. While I frankly acknowledge this, it is in no sense the principal cause of failure, if failure it may be called. It was by no means a complete failure, for scores of men and women have been trained to country life, but it simply has not been a commercial success. Perhaps the distance from market—50 miles from London and over three miles from the railway station—had something to do with this, and yet these are only minor objections and would be easily overcome under free conditions. Not being a farmer, I cannot say under present conditions how commercial success could be obtained. But I do know that if the present taxation upon labor, machinery, and buildings were lifted, as it will be, and placed upon land values, where it belongs, monopolists and other idle persons, such as myself, would not be looking around to play the philanthropic game, the benevolent wheeze, or the charity act to benefit the poor, but would be getting off their backs, and these people would be teaching themselves agriculture and other pursuits unaided by our alleged superior wisdom.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The first Mississippi Valley Conference on Votes for Women met at Chicago on the 21st. [See current volume, page 278.]

—On his return to London on board the "Mauretania," Joseph Fels addressed his fellow passengers on "Getting Rich Without Working."

—The trial of Clarence S. Darrow, on charges connected with the McNamara trials, began at Los Angeles on the 14th. [See current volume, pages 255, 338.]

—The Ministerial bill for disestablishment of the English Church in Wales, passed its second reading in the British House of Commons on the 16th by a vote of 348 to 267.

—The Twelfth International Congress of Navigation will convene in Philadelphia on May 23d. It is expected to bring together representatives of more than thirty nations.

—The meat-packing firm of Armour & Co. of Chicago was indicted on the 17th by the Federal grand jury at Chicago for criminal violation of the Federal meat inspection laws.

—At the Methodist General Conference at Minneapolis on the 18th a proposal to abrogate the church rule against dancing was defeated by a vote of 446 to 369. [See current volume, page 443.]

—Floyd Allen, one of the mountaineers accused of killing the judge sitting at a Virginia trial, was convicted of murder in the first degree on the 17th at Wytheville, Va. [See current volume, page 278.]

—An equity suit was begun in the Federal courts at New York on the 18th by the United States Government for an injunction against a coffee-cornering scheme as in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

—The Federal troops of Mexico continue to gain ground on the revolutionists. Guadalupe, 32 miles east of Juarez on the Rio Grande, was taken by the Federals on the 20th, and they are threatening the