**Joseph Fels in Boston.**

As reported by the Boston Globe of the 4th, Joseph Fels, founder of the Joseph Fels Fund (Daniel K. efer, chairman, Cincinnati), when he addressed the Boston Chamber of Commerce on the 3rd, laid before that body the following, among other suggestions:

The best place for Boston docks is in the Lynn marshes—where a proper raising of the assessed valuation would build the docks without a cent of expense to Boston.

The Joseph Fels Fund Commission is to distribute 1,000,000 copies of Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade." When he urged his hearers to read it his advice was received with silence, whereupon he remarked dryly, "I didn't expect vociferous applause in Boston." (Laughter.)

Mr. Fels declared that Canada turned out the Liberals last Fall merely to show that the mass of people are in control, "as the people of Boston are not."

The Boston Journal of the same date gave this account of the speech:

Mr. Fels spoke all around his hobby, the so-called Singletax, or land taxation, and by his blunt criticism of even the pet projects of the Chamber of Commerce and his spontaneous wit would first send a series of frowns across the face of his audience and then send them into outbursts of laughter. "I do not know just how many bricks are lying around among you, gentlemen," he said, "but I am going to say it just the same. I would recommend that all of you read Henry George's book, 'Protection or Free Trade.' It is a wonderful writing by a wonderful man." Then he paused and, not hearing a sound, he said in a dry manner, "I expected this outburst of applause." He was immediately accorded one, not for suggesting free trade, but for his wit. Mr. Fels handled the $9,000,000 dock scheme without gloves and promptly dropped the subject with the remark that the men who own land in the vicinity of the contemplated docks, and who will grow wealthy from the increased land value, furnished ideal examples of what he meant by Singletaxes or, as he called it, "the untaxing of communities."

**Russian Reprisals in Persia.**

The Russians continue to exact heavy toll from the Persians for the natural resistance they offered last month to the Russian advance. Court-martials have been held, and leading Persians have been tried in batches, and then exiled or shot or hanged. Among those hanged at Tabriz on the 2nd was Shehat ul Islam, head of one of the religious sects in a position equivalent to that of archbishop. Others hanged in the same city were three leading divines, and all the principal members of the local Assembly. The Russians are destroying the walls of the citadel of Tabriz, which is centuries old. A modern note in this tale of atrocity comes from news in the English papers of December 6, to the effect that in face of the Russian advance then threatening, the Persian Women's Society had wired to the Suffragists' Committee in London, stating that the ears of European males were deaf to the Persian tragedy, and calling upon the English women to help them. [See vol. xiv, page 1312.]

The subdued cabinet notified W. Morgan Shuster, the ex-Treasurer-General, on the 6th, of the appointment of a commission composed of four Persians and Mr. Mornard, the Belgian ex-director of customs in Persia, to take over Mr. Shuster's duties, Mr. Mornard to act as provisional Treasurer-General. That Persia under Russian and British control becomes prey for syndicates is indicated in a dispatch from London on the 2nd, according to which British, French and Russian bankers were to hold a meeting in Paris last week to organize a syndicate, with a capital of $500,000, to carry out a survey of a proposed trans-Persian railroad. The dispatch continues: "Great Britain and Russia have both already approved the scheme. The proposal contemplates the construction of a line touching the seaport of Baku in Russian Transcaucasia, Astara on the Caspian sea, Teheran, the capital of Persia, and Gwettar on the Arabian sea. It will continue through Baluchistan and connect with the Indian railroads going to Kurrachee. No difficulty is expected in raising the capital, or in obtaining necessary concessions in Persia."

**The Republican Struggle in China.**

At his inauguration at Nanking on the 1st, as President of the Chinese Republic, Dr. Sun Yat Sen promised to disenthrone the Manchus, to reestablish peace, to promote trade and to devote his entire energy to the Chinese nation and aid the Chinese people to realize their aspirations. When the Manchus had finally abdicated and peace was restored to the nation, he would, he said, resign his provisional office. He announced that a strong central government would be organized, the entire administrative system remodeled and modernized, and a Parliament representative of the people be elected. The Provinces, he said, would be autonomous as regards local affairs, and each would select its own Governor. The army and navy would be made national institutions and be under the control of the central Parliament, which would also deal with the finances of the country. The whole fiscal system would be readjusted, but he was sure that the income of the country was sufficient to discharge its liabilities and to defray ordinary expenses. President Sun issued a manifesto to the foreign Powers on the 5th, in which he explained the aims and policies of the new Republic of China; set forth the wrongs

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