

bor Colony on the Suffolk coast, which occupies an area of 1,300 acres, and has cost Mr. Fels about \$200,000. He offered it to the Central Unemployed Body for London three or four years ago, rent free, with the option to them of buying within three years at cost. They bought it before the expiration of the term, and are now successfully operating it. Similar Fels experiments are described by the Sun letter, all of them successful. A kindred relief movement which Mr. Fels is promoting in London, is the cultivation of vacant lots by the unemployed. Unexpectedly large results have been achieved also along this line.

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Underlying these relief experiments, the Sun correspondent explains, is a scheme for building up a class of independent farmers. But Mr. Fels has encountered an immense obstacle in the difficulty of getting small holdings. He is therefore intensely interested, as may be surmised, in the movement for the taxation of land values. This reform would break up the great estates, for the owners could not pay the tax and keep their land idle too. To get in this entering wedge, Mr. Fels has placed \$25,000 at the disposal of the Land Values Taxation Committee of Great Britain, with the understanding that they raise from other sources another dollar for every dollar of this they spend. So effective has been the work of that committee that the insertion of a land value tax in the financial budget at the present session of Parliament seems now a foregone conclusion. By this bold policy, the Liberal party would at a single stroke provide funds for its old age pensions and break up the great domains into small holdings. Not only that, but the industrial pathway thereby opened would be widened and straightened and be cleared of many an obstruction to further progress.

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### British Politics.

A concise and clear statement of the present political situation in Great Britain was given by T. P. O'Connor in his London letter of the 23d. "The radicals," he says, "on the one hand, are crying for an immediate appeal to the country in a general election on the question of the curbing of the power of the House of Lords. They continue to criticise severely all the proposals of the Liberal Ministry, such as that suggested by Churchill, to postpone the general election two years more, and they hope to precipitate the election by such heavy taxes on the land and the landlords in towns especially as will compel the House

of Lords to reject the budget and make an appeal to the country in a general election inevitable. The immediate tariff reformers want the same result for different reasons. They still hope that if Lloyd-George should propose such extremely radical land legislation, the House of Lords will be compelled to reject the budget and make the election inevitable and immediate, but with protection and free trade as the chief issue. Significant preparations are evident everywhere for this momentous struggle. There are meetings everywhere and protectionists and free trade lecturers are scattered over the country, candidates of the constituencies are being chosen, and the present members are campaigning, while the speeches are becoming more bitter every day."

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It is regrettable that Mr. O'Connor can say, in this connection, that "Ireland looks on calmly, because, whatever the issue, she will be a sure gainer." For these are issues of a character so momentous that anything Ireland might by any possibility gain in the way of earlier home rule, should the landlord Tories win, would be more than offset by losses sustained along with the losses of those people of England who are sympathetic with the Irish people. When the issues of free trade and free land are at stake in England, Irish statesmen cannot look on calmly—not without indifference to the best interests of their own people.

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### Ferrero's Unconscious Repartee.

Among the banquets to which Ferrero, the Italian historian, has been invited upon his tour in this country, was one at the City Club in New York. Since Ferrero is not only an historical iconoclast, but also in the vagueness of rumor a mysterious species of socialist, it was thought best to flank him at the speakers' table with a competent plutocratic orator, prepared to follow Ferrero's speech with an oratorical anodyne if it got too socialistic. For this purpose John G. Milburn was chosen.

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Mr. Milburn will be remembered as the lawyer who defended Czolgosz for the murder of McKinley, doing so by direction of the court. But in order to appreciate what occurred at the New York City Club it must be understood that he is now one of the choicest of the choice collection of lawyers in the forensic pigeonholes of the Standard Oil crowd, and that this fact was well known to everybody at the City Club banquet except the distinguished guest.