

Wedgwood, T. F. Wilson. P. Wilson Raffan
(Hon. Sec.).

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Appended to the Memorial as presented to the Cabinet was the following statement of what "it is claimed by the advocates of the taxation of land values policy throughout the country that the advantages of the above reform will be":

(1) To take the burden of rates off dwelling houses, factories, mills, workshops, plant and machinery, mining works, shops, warehouses, offices and all industrial and business premises, and all farm buildings, drainage, fencing and other agricultural improvements. (2) To break down the barriers which land monopoly now opposes to municipal, industrial and agricultural development and enterprise, and thus to cause the land everywhere to be used in ways more advantageous to the workers. (3) To make it possible for more, better and cheaper dwellings to be provided in towns and villages, to make small holdings and allotments obtainable on fair terms, and generally to free industry of all kinds—agriculture, mining, forestry, building, manufacturing, engineering, public works, transport, distribution—from burdens and restrictions, and extend the field for the remunerative employment of labor and capital in town, suburb and country. (4) To secure for the agricultural industry a genuine measure of relief. (5) To make national services a national burden, and thus give effective relief to rural districts from the excessive burden of rates which now falls on them in providing for what are largely national requirements. (6) To cheapen the cost of living for the mass of the people, and take away the only plausible argument for tariff mongering and the pretence that Protective taxes can be imposed which will not increase the cost of living.

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A New Educational Proposal by Joseph Fels.

In a London cable dispatch of the 13th to the New York Herald an educational proposal by Joseph Fels, the millionaire manufacturer of Fels-Naptha soap, is described at length. We quote from the Chicago Record-Herald of the 14th, which, with credit to the New York Herald, reproduces the dispatch in its cable news:

Joseph Fels, the enthusiastic American Advocate of Henry George's economic doctrines, and sworn enemy of indiscriminate charity, is back in London after a trip to the United States, more convinced than ever, if that is possible, that the new world, like the old establishment on this side of the Atlantic, is not being run on right lines. "The system is all wrong," he said, in the course of an interview.

Like many great reformers, Mr. Fels starts with a series of negatives. "I do not believe in anything being taxed that is made by human hands. I would like to wipe out all taxes on that part of capital which is produced by labor. There is no such thing as monopoly of labor; there is monopoly of land. I do not believe in charities; they are agents of pauperism, and one of the hardest things I find is to convince the man with a full stomach that believes people are lazy by nature that they are lazy by reason of being forced to be lazy."

But Mr. Fels is a reformer. He comes forward with a corrective, and in a sentence this is his political creed: "If there were a fair per cent tax on land values, I believe that within five years four jobs would be running after three men instead of four men running after three jobs. We cannot get rich under present conditions without robbing somebody. I have done it—that is 'robbing'—and am still doing it, but I propose to spend the damnable money to wipe out the system by which I made it. And if we had an educational fund of \$1,250,000 a year we would upset the world in twenty years as to the present deplorable economic conditions. I will be one of twelve to supply the funds."

Mr. Fels, therefore, makes money to educate the world in the theory that private monopoly of land is the root cause of all social misery, and he has personal abuse for no one. The Pierpont Morgans and Rockefellers of the United States are, he believes, individually honest men, but the system under which they do business makes them unintentional robbers. "That system," he says, "permits a few men to own all the land on which all the rest of the people must live, and on which they depend for the necessaries of life. And I repeat, the system must come down; it must be abolished."

Then he holds tight to all his previous denunciations of charity. "All charity is bad—absolutely destructive. It is bad because it can only breed a demand for more charity. And charity is bad because it is an expression of the curse that rests upon the nations. Among all monopolies the basic monopoly is that which has been applied to the land. My plan for ending all monopoly goes directly to the foundations of the basic monopoly and especially to the unearned value of land monopoly."

Referring to the agitation in America against the increased cost of living, Mr. Fels said: "I sometimes think that we Americans are the most easily fooled and tricked people on earth. We have been fooled by a tariff so long that even the recent great advance in the price of all necessaries of life, concurrently with the growth of immense fortunes of tariff beneficiaries and deepening poverty on the part of the working classes, has not aroused us to the realization of its iniquity. Landlordism in the United States is just the same as it is in England. The effects are as bad. If they are not so apparent, it is purely because we have had, until very recently, vast areas of free land."

The substance of the interview, buried in the body of it, appears to be the offer by Mr. Fels to make one of twelve persons to raise a fund of \$1,250,000 a year to educate the public opinion of the world out of the economic superstitions which, to paraphrase Lloyd George, "make a few the owners of the earth and all the rest trespassers on the planet of their birth." Mr. Fels is already contributing for this purpose annually (p. 761), \$25,000 in the United States, \$25,000 in Great Britain, \$5,000 in Canada and various other large sums in Australia, Denmark and elsewhere.

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The Progressive Program in Spain.

In an interview published in the Paris Temps of

the 12th, which the Temps says was dictated, the Premier of Spain (p. 758), Mr. José Canalejas, is reported as saying, according to the dispatch of the Chicago Inter Ocean, that it is his intention to pass a law insuring neutral official education, not hostile or favorable to any creed or philosophy, but free from any dogma. He insisted that the policy of the government is not directed against the religious orders, but he would have them pay taxes, from which they were exempted by Conservative governments, and he would have the number of religious orders reduced. "If I cannot reduce the number of orders by an agreement with the Vatican, I will by law," he declared. Of the reports that the King's policy is inspired by the French government and the English royal family, to which he is allied by marriage, the Premier said: "One might as well say that the opinion of all foreign statesmen and the intellectuality of all the world weighs upon the King, for there is not a single publication in civilization which does not applaud the dawn of a liberal spirit and the laicization of Spain. The King in the present case obeys a profound conviction. He is a fervent Catholic, but his mind is open to grand ideas and he is a serious student of contemporaneous civilization. He is a Liberal, tolerant and truly constitutional, and without forgetting his royal prerogatives will follow popular impulsion. He gives his confidence to a ministry sustained by the majority of the Cortes." The Premier also announced that the government's object in hastening a solution of the religious question was to clear the way for the introduction of vast economic and administrative reforms for which the people are clamoring.

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The Coal Miners' Strike in Illinois.

A special convention at Indianapolis of the United Mine Workers of America emphasizes a serious conflict between the national executive board of that body and the membership of the Illinois district.

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Strikes in different districts followed refusals by coal operators upon the expiration of their labor contracts expiring March 31 last (pp. 492, 733), to renew them on terms satisfactory to the miners. Some of these strikes are still on, while others have been settled by the national executive board and terminated: but the Illinois strike, though settled by the executive board, is not at an end. According to the United Mine Workers' Journal of the 4th, editorially, the settlement contract between the national executive board and the operators, the result of joint arbitration—carried with it 3 cents a ton advance in every one of the Illinois mines, the same as other miners have got in other States, and others are fighting hard for, and, as yet, see no prospect of securing. In addition it gave to the miners of Williamson and Frank-

lin counties 2 cents extra, making the advance a straight five-cent one, the first advance they have got in four years. To about 24,000 or 25,000 others in the districts, paying the shot-firers it gave a cent and a half additional, making to them an advance of 4½ cents per ton over the price paid last year or for the last four years, and the highest mining price and best local conditions that were ever presented to them in the history of mining in Illinois.

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This settlement came regularly before the Illinois miners on referendum and was rejected (p. 733), by a vote of 12,075 to 80. Following is the substance of the explanation (embodied in a long series of resolutions bitterly condemning T. L. Lewis, successor to John Mitchell as national president) of local unions in session at Herrin, Ill., on the 4th, as published in the Chicago Daily Socialist of the 9th:

We condemn our national president, T. L. Lewis, first, for coming into the field as a dictator and wholly ignoring our State officials as well as the rank and file of the membership throughout the State; second, for holding out hopes to the operators for his interference at a time when more than one-third of the members had already signed with the operators and were receiving our Peoria demands; third, instead of seeking the advice of our district officers, who have been on the firing line all the time, relative to interference with the strike and thereby promoting harmony in our ranks, and a perpetuation of our just wage demand, for seeking always the operators first; fourth, in usurping authority without our request, to appoint a commission for arbitration purposes, when we had nothing to arbitrate; fifth, for appointing five interested operators and five board members, four of whom had no knowledge of the true state of affairs concerning the Illinois miners; sixth, for not allowing our district officers a seat in the deliberations of their board of conciliation, thereby making it a one-sided affair from beginning to end; and for the seventh clause—the right of appeal to the national executive board—thereby centralizing the power in their board and eliminating the sub-district and district officers. Further, for accepting such a compromise in view of the fact already stated that the operators had already signed up with more than one-third of our membership.

The resolutions demand the resignation of President Lewis and sustain John H. Walker, the State president.

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Refusing to accept the Illinois referendum, the national officers called the special convention noted above, and it met at Indianapolis on the 11th. Demands being made on the 12th by the Illinois delegates for the stenographic report of the executive proceedings before the joint arbitration board appointed by President Lewis, he ordered them printed for distribution. Motions by Illinois delegates on the 13th to suspend the rules and take up the Illinois question were ruled out