

the end in view appeals to their reason, and to their sense of justice; but the moment they become conscious that they can attain their end by force, without regard to reason and justice, they are soon led to destruction by the ambition of unscrupulous leaders. The labor problem is not a class problem. It is the problem of society itself. And any plan that does not consider the welfare of all, and appeal to the conscience of the great mass of society is doomed to failure.

S. C.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### THE FELS FUND CONFERENCE.\*

Washington, January 18.

There is no question of the success of the Fourth Annual National Conference of Singletaxers under the auspices of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission at Washington on January 15 to 17. No less than twenty-five States were represented, besides those who came from outside the boundaries of the United States. The attendance from outside the city in which the meeting was held certainly far exceeded that of its predecessors. It also excelled in the businesslike manner in which its proceedings were carried on.

The Conference came to order at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 15th. In opening, the Chairman of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, Daniel Kiefer of Cincinnati, called attention to the fact that this was the first Conference to be held with Singletax legislation actually on the statute books within the United States. Alice Thacher Post was unanimously elected permanent chairman, and Stanley Bowmar, secretary. Rules limiting all speeches to five minutes were adopted. To this fact, as well as to the efficient and fair manner in which this rule was enforced, much of the success of the meeting was due. The reports from the "storm centers" probably told little that was not before known to those attending. The situation was reviewed in California, Oregon, Colorado, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. As in all conferences of this nature resolutions were introduced bearing on all matters in which the participants were interested. The one receiving the most attention was introduced by Mr. Louis S. Murphy of the city of Washington, and was as follows:

WHEREAS, the conservation of our forests is vital to the prosperity of every citizen and every industry and to the continued welfare of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the taxing annually, as a land value, of the value of standing timber is unjust, encourages the premature cutting of the forests and discourages the practice of forestry by which a new forest crop may most surely be secured, and

WHEREAS, the Singletax movement stands for conservation in its most fundamental and comprehensive form,

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this Conference that the Singletax as applied to forest lands should provide for:

(1) An annual tax on the value of the bare land for

\*See vol. xv, p. 1160; vol. xvi, p. 1211; current volume, page 29.

that purpose to which it is best adapted by its location and physical character, and

(2) A "cutting" or "yield" tax on all timber matured in the virgin forests, such tax to be based on the stumpage value of the timber when cut, and

(3) The exemption from taxation of all planted or other forms of "second growth" forests grown and matured under man's supervision.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Thomas G. Shearman. But the object of the Conference was business, and though there was no apparent dissent from the object of the resolution, it was evident that time required to discuss details could not be spared, and a motion prevailed to appoint a committee of three to discuss the matter by correspondence and report to the next Conference.



A resolution received considerable attention endorsing woman suffrage and urging the House of Representatives to create a special suffrage committee. Objection to this was raised on the ground that it was not germane; in spite of this it was endorsed.

Another resolution recommended the application of the Singletax in the District of Columbia. It was adopted as a matter of course.

Greetings were sent to the Land Values Group in the British Parliament, to Senator James W. Bucklin lying on a sick bed at his home in Grand Junction, Colorado, and to Congressman William Bremner of New Jersey.

Some feeling was aroused by a resolution to endorse the LaFollette "Seamen's Bill." The Conference was placed in the embarrassing position of endorsing a measure not germane to its object, or of defeating a resolution with the object of which, practically all present were in sympathy. The matter was finally laid on the table.

A letter from C. B. Fillebrown of Boston was read urging that political action be abandoned and that a policy of pure propaganda be substituted. The discussion on this was altogether one-sided. All speeches were in opposition, and a resolution to endorse the recommendations made was unanimously defeated.

The time and place of holding the next conference was discussed but not acted upon. The claims of San Francisco during the Panama Exposition of 1915 were most energetically pushed, and seemed to be favored by a large majority.



● An address to the public was decided upon and a committee appointed to draw it up. The address follows:

**Address to the Public,  
from the  
Single Tax Conference  
held in**

**Washington, D. C., January 17, 1914.**

It is a self-evident truth that laws should be so framed as to leave people free to do their best and not their worst for their fellowmen.

Unfortunately two mistakes have been made. First, the earth, and all its resources, has been treated, not as a gift to all mankind, but as an article of bargain and sale. Consequently, the majority of mankind has been disinherited. Thus we abnegate the glorious doctrine of the brotherhood of man.

The second great mistake is the ignoring of the peculiar value of the land, the value which increases not through the efforts of the owner but with every increase of population, thus leading to land speculation.

When the farmer raises twenty or fifty bushels from the seed of one bushel, it is at once evident that this increase of value is due to industry and indicates an increase of wealth.

But when an acre of land increases in value from one dollar to millions of dollars as it has in our large cities, this indicates not an increased quantity of land but an increased scarcity of land caused by the crowding of the multitude. While labor is making value, the speculators are taking value. Therefore, while one does the work another takes the wealth.

By ignoring the essential distinction between these two values, we are splitting society asunder.

While labor toils continuously through all the ages to maintain sufficiency of food, clothing, shelter and other commodities, another part of humanity, by the appropriation of land values, is enabled to live, not by toiling, but by spoiling. With every increase in the population, the owners of the valuable sites can demand a greater and greater tribute. Thus is society divided into toilers and spoilers, into palaces and slums, begetting a civilization, not of brotherhood, not of fellow helpers, but of severance and hostility—a condition fatal to the stability of true freedom, of true religion, and of a successful civilization.

To tax people for producing is to penalize the honest use of the land and to encourage its dishonest use or rather non-use; is to discourage the energy that begets prosperity, and to encourage the speculation that begets poverty.

Therefore, this Conference declares: first; for the repeal of laws taxing personal property, buildings, improvements on land, and second; for the enactment of constitutional amendments and laws which shall concentrate all taxes on the site value of land and thus take community values for community purposes.



The Conference closed with the adoption of two well-deserved votes of thanks. One was to Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe of Washington, who had practically alone made arrangements for the Conference. The other vote was one of deeply felt appreciation to the chairman, Mrs. Post, whose fairness and ability had contributed more than anything else to thorough carrying out of the object for which it had been called.



Those attending who registered names and addresses were as follows: Alabama—P. Y. Albright, Fairhope; Arkansas—Nathan B. Williams, Fayetteville; California—J. Stitt Wilson, Berkeley; Miss Helen Todd, San Francisco; Colorado—J. W. Bogardus, Colorado Springs; J. B. McGuaran, John J. Tierney, Denver; George J. Knapp, Edward Keating, Pueblo; Connecticut—Mary Bone Ely, W. J. S. Coggeson, Greenwich; Delaware—Frank Stephens, Walter Sweeting, Don Stephens, Arden; John F. Thomas, Francis I. du Pont, Wilmington; District of Columbia—Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, H. P. Boynton, T. P. Lyon, Thomas E. Hall, Louis S. Murphy, Lucy R. Swanton, W. I. Swanton, Lily A. Ross, Mrs. E. S. Tenney, John J. Tenney, C. B. Hemingway, I. L. Cole, George B. Rose, A. P. Davis, W. H. Ramage, Mrs. W. H. Ramage, Mrs. Gertrude Mackenzie, Alice T. Mengert, George A. Warren, Jno. J. Crowley, Charles Neuburgh, W. W. Campbell, Judson King, P. L. Reed, L. Shidy, Mrs. L. Shidy, N. C. Weir, S. T. Doud, Fred-

eric Neuburgh, Mrs. Margaret C. Lohr, Mrs. L. B. McCortney, Washington; Georgia—Charles Jack Shipp, Cordele; Illinois—Theo. J. Amberg, Frank Parker Stockbridge, Otto Cullman, Charles F. Hunt, Annie W. Hunt, George C. Olcott, Stoughton Cooley, Stanley Bowmar, Louis F. Post, Alice Thacher Post, Samuel Danziger, Eleanor Danziger, Chicago; H. Martin Williams, Woodlawn; Anna B. Detwiler, Evanston; Louis Fitzhenry, Bloomington; Indiana—George A. Briggs, Elkhart; Iowa—R. N. Douglass, Postville; Kentucky—Miss Dorothy E. Van Hoene, Covington; Maryland—J. H. Ralston, Hyattsville; E. Smith, Charles J. Ogle, Jno. Salmon, Francis I. Mooney, Phineas Heath, Baltimore; Western Starr, Westover; Massachusetts—H. C. Joy, Harvey S. Chase, Boston; E. K. Eyerly, Amherst; Franklin E. Smith, Chicopee Falls; Frank Grant, Westfield; Michigan—W. R. Hall, Manistee; Frank Warren, Detroit; Minnesota—S. A. Stockwell, Minneapolis; Missouri—Vernon J. Rose, Mrs. Vernon Rose, Kansas City; William Marion Reedy, John P. Hermann, St. Louis; Nebraska—Doris Stevens, Omaha; New Jersey—Chas. H. Ingersoll, Dr. Mary D. Hussey, A. L. Colton, East Orange; George L. Record, Jersey City; Edmund B. Osborne, Mountclair; Charlotte V. Schetter, Orange; New York—J. T. McRoy, Amos Pinchot, W. J. Bloch, Bolton Hall, H. Weinberger, Frederic C. Howe, Benjamin C. Marsh, W. C. Wallace, F. C. Leubuscher, Amelia Leubuscher, Albertine Geeser, Amy Mali Hicks, Henry George, John H. Scully, Frank V. Scully, John J. Hopper, New York City; Gustav Bassler, Brooklyn; Kate E. Bradley, Ilion; L. O. Macdaniel, Mrs. L. O. Macdaniel, Syracuse; North Carolina—Alex J. Field, Raleigh; Ohio—A. B. du Pont, Robert L. Crosser, J. B. Vining, E. W. Doty, William Gordon, Peter Witt, Mrs. Peter Witt, Cleveland; Daniel Kiefer, Mrs. Daniel Kiefer, Daniel Kiefer, Jr., Miss Florence Humenkamp, Reverend L. J. Hoeck, Mrs. C. F. McLean, Cincinnati; George Edwards, Youngstown; Pennsylvania—Joseph Fels, Mrs. Joseph Fels, Maurice Fels, Haines D. Albright, John Goldsmith, David C. Emsley, Edward Coyle, Henry Gibbons, W. L. Ross, Philadelphia; Franklin Smith, Glenolden; F. W. Garrison, Haverford; Charles S. Prizer, Middletown; P. H. Mahaffy, Cyrus Shepherd, Warren Worth Bailey, Johnstown; J. J. Dean, Newcastle; Walter Stewart, Charles Corkhill, Reading; Edmund Yardley, Mark Roberts, E. C. Keyser, William D. George, Janet L. Brownlee, Pittsburgh; Robert L. Gibson, Williamsport; Rhode Island—Lucius C. F. Garvin, Westville; W. B. Johnson, Providence; Washington—Dr. Thomas Daviess, Seattle; Virginia—Mrs. Jean Y. Bierman, Richmond; William C. Lee, Barcroft; West Virginia—Belle S. Roberts, Mrs. Herbert Quick, Berkeley Springs; Nova Scotia—John Buchanan, Berwick; Ontario—George J. Bryan, John J. Carroll, W. A. Douglass, Toronto; W. Charles Busch, St. Catharines; Great Britain—George C. Lansbury, London.



The evening sessions were devoted entirely to propaganda speeches and these were all well attended. A banquet was held on Saturday evening after final adjournment, attended by more than 300. The speeches upon this occasion were by some of the best talent the movement possesses. William Marion Reedy as toastmaster proved to be eloquent

as well as witty. Then there was Herbert S. Bigelow, Henry George, George L. Record, Amos Pinchot, Louis F. Post, Joseph Fels, William Kent and others.

S. D.



## HENRY GEORGE SENTIMENT IN BULGARIA.

Chicago, January 8.

In the spring of 1912 I went to Bulgaria, my native country, on a short visit. The war broke out before I could get away and I was compelled to join the army and march against the Turks. Last October I returned to Chicago.

Seven years before I first came to this country, the name of Henry George was very popular among the intelligent people of Bulgaria. Tolstoy's friends, who were publishing in Sofia a monthly, "The Renaissance," printed therein articles about Henry George, his life and work. "Thou Shalt Not Steal," different chapters from "The Perplexed Philosopher," "Social Problems," and so forth, were published in Bulgarian. Tolstoy's "The Great Sin" ("A Great Iniquity") was translated and over a thousand copies sold. A year or so after, some of the men around "The Renaissance"—all young idealists at the time—were put in prison for two, three or four years for refusing to serve in the army (military service there is compulsory, as you know); others went abroad and joined different colonies of sympathizers in Western Europe and Russia. After five years of hard existence the monthly was temporarily dropped.

While in Bulgaria last year I learned that almost everybody among the intelligent people knew something about Henry George; but that knowledge has come to them mostly through the enemies of the Singletax, who never stopped to find out what it is really about. To enlighten the people on this question, Mr. Andreychin, the foremost among the friends of Tolstoy in Bulgaria, has undertaken to translate "Progress and Poverty," from the Russian version of Mr. Nickolayeff, of whom Tolstoy used to say that none in Russia was better fit to express in his language the teachings of Henry George. This translation of the great man's book cannot see the light for years to come on account of lack of money.

The Bulgarians are very tolerant, open-minded and progressive. The Romanians, Greeks and Servians, who have been free for about 200, 150 and 100 years respectively are far behind us on the road of Progress, though we were under the Turks up to 1887. In those countries there is not much religious tolerance or political freedom. In Roumania they blame the Jews for the misery of the country. In Serbia and Greece it is almost a crime to be a Socialist, while in Bulgaria that party is represented in Parliament by 40 members. Professor Dorsey from the University of Chicago, who was studying those people a few years ago, has a good word to say only about Sofia and the Bulgarians. In 1910 the Minister of Public Instruction in France called the Bulgarian system of education one of the best in Europe. We have been independent for only thirty years and there are no illiterate persons under that age. In no country of Europe—some cantons in Switzerland being probably the only exception—can the people express their will on elec-

tion day, without obstructions and political tricks. And the very fact that 4,000,000 people could rise up and deal the final blow to a great empire, under which rule they have been for over five centuries, in only twenty-six days, shows the strength, vitality and possibilities of such a nation,

Our people have been blackmailed and represented as savages and barbarians by the politicians of Greece, Servia, Roumania and Russia; but there are political reasons for this and I hope you are not under the influence of the false reports that were spread abroad at a time when we were surrounded by 1,000,000 bayonets and for two weeks could not communicate with the outside world.

C. M. STOYCOFF.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### THE PAGES OF HISTORY.

Johnstown, Pa., December 4.

#### History: Page One.

"Here is the moral of all human tales,  
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past:  
First freedom and then glory, when that fails,  
Wealth, vice, corruption, barbarism at last  
And history with all her volumes vast,  
Hath but one page."

—Byron.

Ridpath quotes these words of Lord Byron, and asks if his gloomy picture is justified. I believe it is not, and I would offer the following lines as—

#### Page Two.

Here is the startling moral, drawn from this tale of fate:  
Great were the unearned riches, taken by those called  
great,  
Wrested from those who earned them, through blood and  
tears and toil,  
To sate the greed of the war-crowned czars, the barons  
of the soil.

The spirit of justice was far-flown, from Carthage or  
Greece or Rome;  
The loveless heart of the baron, reaped hate from the  
joyless home;  
And life was the price that the nation gave, gave for the  
brotherless sin;  
When justice, the soul of the state, passed out, the  
shadow of death stalked in.

C. SHEPHERD.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, January 20, 1914.

### The President's Anti-Trust Message.

Before both Houses of Congress in joint session on the 20th, President Wilson in person read his message against private monopoly. He spoke in part as follows:

Gentlemen of the Congress: In my report on the state of the Union, which I had the privilege of read-