

The Bulletin

BLYMYER BUILDING
ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL SINGLETAX LEAGUE

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Opening Announcement

In the closing number of the Joseph Fels Fund Bulletin the probability of a publication to succeed it was mentioned. The probability has become an assured fact. The organ of the new National Singletax League of the United States herewith makes its initial bow.

The need of such a paper is evident. An active organization must have an official medium of communication with its members. And the National Singletax League is to be a very active organization.

The Bulletin will endeavor to keep its readers informed concerning all activities in which the League may be engaged and, to the extent that space will permit, concerning other matters related thereto.

How We Stand

The prospects of making contributions to the fund reach the desired \$50,000 mark continue encouraging. The total subscribed to date is something over \$33,000, yet we never do so well but that we can and should do better. This is no time to rest and congratulate ourselves on what has been accomplished. Until the Singletax has been placed beyond recall upon the statute books there must be no cessation of effort.

FINAL COMMISSION MEETING.

The final meeting of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission took place on January 3, at the headquarters of the American section of the International Joseph Fels Fund Commission, 122 East Thirty-seventh Street, New York. The following letter from Mrs. Fels was read:

To the Members of the Fels Fund Commission:

When you were called together some years ago and you organized the work for gathering and expending funds for the furtherance of the Singletax movement in America, my husband found that each one of you brought to the work singleness of purpose, deep devotion and enthusiasm, and a wide knowledge of men and affairs. All subsequent experience on his part and on mine served only to deepen this sense of you.

Today the work of the Commission is being closed. I want to thank each one of you personally, and the Commission collectively, for the spirit of good fellowship and the unflinching helpfulness which you brought to my husband, and which later you brought to me to help lift the burden of three very difficult years.

I know that in bringing the work of the Commission to a close none of us for a moment lays aside his devotion to the cause which we have so deeply at heart. I want to say for myself that I am more

convinced than ever of the righteousness of our cause and of its inevitable triumph; and that more than ever then the foremost object of my life is to help toward the realization of the dream to which my husband dedicated the latter years of his life, "the best and happiest years" as he called them. I shall have continued and constant need of your help and your suggestions, and hope, accordingly, I may call upon you in the many emergencies that must arise.

With the dissolution of the Commission, I proposed that a National Singletax Association should take its place, organized on democratic lines and representing the Singletax leadership of the country. I asked the privilege of appointing a provisional committee to organize the national association, and I asked that you gentlemen of the Commission should form the body of that committee. Then, feeling that any close association of myself with that committee might seem to interfere with its really representative and democratic work, I refrained from participating in its deliberations or contributing to its funds. But now you are about to pass on to the full organization of the new National Association. That gives me occasion to express my deep interest in the organization and to tell of the constant keen sympathy with which I shall follow and be with it. Also I wish at this time to contribute another mite in the shape of a thousand dollars.

Chairman Daniel Kiefer reported that Mrs.

Fels' contribution brought the total subscriptions to the new national organization up to \$33,000. In addition Mrs. Fels contributed substantially to the preliminary expense of the new organization.

The fact that the Singletax Endowment Fund, organized to receive bequests for Singletax work would continue after dissolution of the Commission made necessary appointments of trustees. The following were selected: Daniel Kiefer, Mary Fels, Charles H. Ingersoll, Lincoln Steffens, Jackson H. Ralston, Frederic C. Howe and Bolton Hall. This Fund thus becomes a permanent institution, in no way affected by the termination of the Commission.

The Commission adjourned to participate in the meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Singletax Association.

FORMATION OF NEW ORGANIZATION.

The Provisional Committee of the National Single Tax Commission met at 2:30 p. m., January 3, at 122 East Thirty-seventh Street, New York, in conference with such friends of the movement as could conveniently attend. Those present were Dr. Mary D. Hussey, James A. Robinson, Robert C. Macauley, Mrs. Jane Marcellus, Charles T. Root, C. H. Mann, S. W. Simpson, L. O. Macdaniel, John Filmer, Maurice Fels, Mrs. Joseph Fels, Dr. J. W. Slaughter, Bolton Hall, Dr. Elizabeth E. Bowen, S. Danziger, Stoughton Cooley, Stanley Bowmar, George J. White, E. Yancey Cohen, Lincoln Steffens, Frederic C. Howe, Harry Weinberger, Frank Stephens, Charles H. Ingersoll, John S. Codman, Cornelius D. Scully, Otto Cullman, Gussie Cullman, Daniel Kiefer, Rosa Kiefer, Harry H. Willock, A. B. du Pont, Alex Y. Scott, Mrs. Alex Y. Scott, James H. Dillard, R. F. Devine, Benjamin Doblin, Amy Mali Hicks, Laurence Dunham, A. J. Moxham, George Creel, A. C. Pleydell, William Ryan, George Foster Peabody, Henry P. Boynton and Alice Thacher Post.

Mrs. Post was chosen as chairman.

The meeting at once began discussion of plans of organization. The discussion took up the entire time of the session until 5:45 p. m., when a motion, made by Mr. Howe was adopted, requiring appointment by Daniel Kiefer of the following committee, to report the next day on organization proposals: Frank Stephens, Harry H. Willock, H. P. Boynton. The meeting then adjourned until 8:15 p. m.

* * *

At the evening session letters from Louis F. Post and others offering suggestions concerning organization, were read and referred to the Committee on Organization.

A resolution was adopted creating an Advisory Committee to be apportioned among Singletaxers of the States in proportion to number on the Fels Fund list and such additional names as the committee might secure.

A motion carried by 14 to 9, to encourage an effort to secure publication in the Congressional Record of "The Crime of Poverty."

Adjourned until January 4.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30, and the Committee on Organization reported the following:

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL SINGLETAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

1. The name of this organization shall be The National Singletax League of the United States.
2. Its object shall be the furtherance of Singletax.
3. Its membership shall be those who enroll.
4. There shall be a National Committee, consisting of members receiving the votes of two hundred or more members of the League. Such votes shall be in the form of continuous, assignable, transferable proxies.
5. The National Committee shall elect a National Chairman, each National Committeeman voting the number of proxies which he holds.
6. The National Chairman shall have full executive power, shall choose his own advisors and hold office until his successor is elected.
7. The National Committee shall have power of initiative and referendum on the motion of any National Committeeman, and each National Committeeman shall vote the number of proxies held by him.
8. This constitution may be amended by the action of the National Committee.

After considerable discussion the constitution was adopted, and the committee was thanked for its work.

A resolution carried, instructing Daniel Kiefer, pending election of a National Committee, to act as chairman and appoint other members of a temporary Executive Committee.

A discussion then took place on general methods and plans of the new organization, the establishment of a periodical, the calling of a national conference, support of The Ground Hog, and use of the Congressional Record.

Finally a motion prevailed that the chairman appoint an Advisory Committee to take up the entire question of publicity.

Adjournment was then taken until 2:30 p. m.

At the afternoon session a motion was made to reconsider adoption of the constitution. The motion carried, but after much discussion a motion to adopt the constitution, as carried in the morning session prevailed.

On motion, the matter of calling a conference or conferences of Singletaxers was referred to the Executive Committee.

The following resolutions were adopted as drawn by a committee consisting of Frederic C. Howe, Lincoln Steffens and Bolton Hall:

The Conference wishes to express its appreciation of Mrs. Fels' devotion to the realization of the dream of Joseph Fels, which is the waking thought of each of us, and which we in common with her, see coming to realization through our common efforts.

In view of the increasing body of new women voters, we regard it as particularly auspicious that we have a woman so prominent as a leader.

We recognize that her aid in organization and support of the infant National League foreshadows continued mutual helpfulness and cooperation.

And finally, we wish to express our appreciation of the dignified headquarters, so admirably adapted to its purpose and selected and provided by Mrs. Fels.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Post for her excellent work as chairman.

Daniel Kiefer announced appointment of the

Advisory Committee authorized at the morning session for consideration of publicity matters.

The conference then adjourned sine die.

The Advisory Committee was called to order at 4:30 by Chairman Daniel Kiefer.

Motion carried that all contributors to the Fund for 1917 be members of the national organization, and that they now be asked to send in their subscriptions.

Motion prevailed to send membership cards and a copy of the constitution to contributors as soon as possible.

Motion carried to continue the office at Cincinnati, as also all former activities without diminution.

Adjourned.

RHODE ISLAND ENDORSEMENT.

"The Rhode Island Tax Reform Association has formally and heartily endorsed the Preamble and Resolutions of the Singletax League of Missouri," writes the president of the organization, ex-Governor Lucius F. C. Garvin.

The Missouri resolutions were published in full in the November issue. They declare that the Fels Fund Commission "has done more than any other organization for the education of the public in the philosophy of the Singletax," and resolves:

That the Singletax League of Missouri pledges its support to the organization known as the Fels Fund Commission, under whatever name may be chosen for its designation until such time as another national organization based upon representation of State organizations shall be established, and that the Singletax League of Missouri call upon all other organizations, societies, associations and clubs for the propagation of the Singletax, to join with it in loyal support of and co-operation with the Fels Fund Commission in the work it has done and is doing for the destruction of the privilege underlying all privilege—private monopoly in land; and be it

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be forwarded to Daniel Kiefer, chairman of the Fels Fund Commission, with the assurance that the Singletaxers of Missouri believe that the labors of the individual members of the commission have been productive of incalculable good to the cause and brought measurably nearer the day of the triumph of the principles of taxation formulated by Henry George.

HOW WASHINGTONIANS FEEL.

Resolutions adopted at general meeting of Singletaxers at the Raleigh Hotel, Wednesday evening, December 20, 1916:

Resolved, That we hereby express our entire approval of the methods of the Fels Fund Commission, and that it is the sense of this meeting that future work in Singletax propaganda should be carried on by the Provisional Committee along lines similar to those of the Fels Fund Commission.

Transcribed by S. G. EVANS,
Secretary, S. T. Assoc., D. C.

A FRIEND ON THE STAGE.

The prominent actor, James K. Hackett, is an economic as well as a dramatic expert, as the following interesting letter shows:

New York, January 2, 1917.

My Dear Mr. Kiefer:

Your invitation to attend the Singletax meeting tomorrow at Mrs. Fels' home is a terrible

temptation to me and I am, mentally, between business, sentiment and pleasure. Tomorrow afternoon I am booked to attend a performance at the New Amsterdam Theatre of "Miss Springtime," when the company about to open in Boston will have their tryout. I am a silent partner in that enterprise and of course should, by all ryme, reason and sense, be there. One must attend to his affairs if he possibly can, and as you probably know, I have been virtually incapacitated since last March through an accident and I really do not know to which "love" my mind will turn tomorrow. As the old adage says "When in doubt, do nothing." So, I might add, "Do not decide when undecided." Not that there is anything brilliant in this remark, but it carries the point. Please explain and if you have time and care to, and I should not appear at Mrs. Fels', will you be kind enough to read this letter, but use your own judgment, as time is precious and life exceedingly short.

I had the honor and privilege of stumping for Henry George in New York State when I was seventeen. I also had the honor and privilege of knowing him personally and of dining at his table two or three times. I once spoke from the same platform, even at that immature age with Mr. George and Tom Johnson. It is needless for me to say how much I wish the Singletax movement success. I had to tear it from my heart and brain when a very young man. Otherwise I suppose I would have become a professional philanthropist, but I am afraid I wouldn't have done as well as our friend Billy Sunday has done.

My compliments and my esteem.

Most sincerely,

James K. Hackett.

CHANGING THE TUNE.

A new objection to the Singletax has been discovered by the New York Times. Plutocratic papers used to shed bitter tears over the prospective ruin of the farmers by placing of all taxes on land values. For a while that story accomplished its purpose, as for instance, in Missouri in 1912. But now it is losing its force. North Dakota farmers can not be fooled by it. They realize that it is to their interest to exempt labor products from taxation and have demanded that it be done. So The Times has concluded it must find another story, and in its issue of January 4, commented on the North Dakota program as follows:

They are going to bring Henry George to North Dakota. State Socialism is to be supplemented by the Singletax. Hear the Master of the Grange.

"No more taxes on barns and fencing and farmhouses and sheds. Increase the tax of the unimproved land to equalize the taxes on the improved land. The speculators created by the railroad grants have held back immense acreage from cultivation, waiting for a big rise in land values. A hail tax and an increase in land tax will cause some of these speculators to reinventory their holdings."

Of course all this is not class legislation, it is non-partisan social equity for the benefit of farmers.

From which we see that the Singletax is designed to give the farmer an unfair advantage.

Some one should send The Times copies of the campaign literature put out by its plutocratic comrades in Missouri, Oregon and California, in which the Singletax is described as anything but class legislation for farmers. It is too much to

ask our plutocratic brethren to stick to the truth in campaigning, but they should avoid such contradictory falsehoods.

ACTIVITY IN MISSOURI.

The following resolutions adopted by Missouri Singletaxers at Kansas City explain plans in that State:

WHEREAS, In the spring of 1912 steps were taken for the placing upon the ballot in the State of Missouri a measure commonly known as the Single Tax measure; and

WHEREAS, The time of campaign was short; very little educational work was done on behalf of the measure, while the grossest misrepresentation was indulged in by the opposition, with no time for counteracting the same, and the result is well known. It is a matter of great gratification to all Singletaxers that our vote was as large as it was. In the five years that have elapsed since the inauguration of that movement, a vast amount of educational work has resulted, but this work will be lost unless it is kept up, and for that reason we propose placing upon the ballot at the general election in 1918 a Singletax measure; and,

WHEREAS, We do not believe it necessary that any active work, other than the distribution of literature and the formation of the nuclei of local organizations so far as possible, should be done in the immediate future, but we do believe that this distribution of literature, the dissemination of intelligence and the securing of the nuclei of organizations throughout the State is a work that should be quietly pursued, and that it will in no way conflict with the activities of other Singletaxers and friends in other parts of the State who may be working along different lines; therefore be it

Resolved, That the work that we now institute is only for this quiet propaganda; plowing the ground and sowing the seed preparatory to the campaign of 1918, and that the provisional committee and officers chosen at this time are purely provisional in character and only to serve until such time as the work shall have developed to a point where a State-wide conference or convention can be called, democratically chosen, and an organization selected on a democratic basis, when it shall take the place of this provisional organization; and, this provisional committee is hereby pledged to the calling of such a conference as soon as the same may seem generally desirable and harmoniously possible; and, be it further

Resolved, That meantime we desire to co-operate to the fullest extent in every movement that is looking toward the realization of those more democratic things, such as Home Rule, the unburdening of industry from taxation and general advance along the lines of economic reform; and, be it further

Resolved, That on behalf of the Homestead Loan measure, designed to aid the homeless of Missouri in establishing homes, and, on behalf of this movement, by means of taxation to restore the land of Missouri to its rightful inheritors, the whole people, on terms of equality of opportunity, we earnestly invite all men and women of every forward-looking school of belief to unite with us in this work of primary importance and under the banner, "The Land of Missouri for the People of Missouri."

PROGRESSIVE SOUTH AMERICA.

It is almost easier to get away from the proverbial call of duty than it is to take oneself beyond the range of the agitation for the Singletax. Even in South America one finds "el impuesto unico en el terreno," the Singletax on land, crying out to him from the pages of his daily newspaper, and, considering the readier idealism of the southern nations, one wonders whether, after all, the reform is not rather likely to get itself ac-

cepted earlier there than in the more crowded sections of the Northern Continent.—Christian Science Monitor.

FOR UNITED EFFORT.

Worth considering is the following from one who can always be depended upon in any effort:

It seems to me that a national organization along the lines of the Anti-Saloon League or the Liberal Association is better than a loose organization which makes the central organization merely an amalgamation of local clubs. The Anti-Saloon League have enlisted the financial support of a good many people who never attend local meetings and would not have helped the League had they not been convinced that it was a business organization, which was making good use of their money, and that the bulk of the money would not be wasted in mere organization expenses. There is no objection to members in the National organization forming a local organization, same as the American Society of Civil Engineers is handled. So far as I am concerned, I have no time for attending meetings of this kind. I live outside of the city and, besides, my energies are so thoroughly taken up that I do not have any strength left for it, and I would rather feel I was a direct member of an organization which was co-ordinating the efforts of all real democrats than to feel that my only relation to it was through the intermediary of a local club, the management and make-up of which I might not altogether approve of. I can contribute towards this the same as I have been doing towards the Fels Fund work, a continuation of which I understand this to be and, aside from that, my forte is what in warfare would be called "sniping." I count a day lost when I do not inoculate at least one man and sometimes more than that. I could help a little in some other ways, but these are the principal opportunities I have.

DR. HOWE TO LECTURE.

A lecture tour is being arranged for Dr. Fred-eric C. Howe, Commissioner of Immigration, member of the Advisory National Singletax Committee and of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, prominent as a lieutenant of Tom L. Johnson, an author of international reputation and formerly State Senator in Ohio.

His leave of absence during February and March will be devoted to this tour. Contracts have already been made with the State University of Texas under the auspices of which he will speak at Austin and other Texas cities from February 12th to 26th.

Dr. Howe has prepared addresses under the following titles:

After the War—What?

Some New American Problems.

The City of Tomorrow.

Municipal Ownership in America and Europe.

Town Planning and City Building.

Why War?

Standing at the Gates of Ellis Island: The Incoming Immigrant.

Confessions of a Reformer.

From Texas Dr. Howe plans to go westward to spend March on the Pacific Coast.

Those interested in making engagements should address for terms and other information, Daniel Kiefer, Blymyer Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.