

year. His Senatorial term expiring he was re-elected by a combination of silver Republicans, Democrats and Populists. He had been out of politics since 1909. [See vol. x, p. 2.]

—In an endeavor to be restored as governor of New York, William Sulzer instituted proceedings on February 23 before Justice Chester of the Supreme Court at Albany. He asked for a writ of mandamus compelling Controller Sohmer to pay him his full salary as governor. An order was issued by the court commanding Controller Sohmer to appear. Press reports say that these proceedings are to be formal. The application is to be promptly decided in the lower courts to enable the Court of Appeals to pass upon the matter as quickly as possible. [See current volume, page 107.]

—The Federal Vocational Education Commission—called for by Congress to consider the necessity for national aid to vocational education and to report a plan therefor by December 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter—was appointed by President Wilson on February 17, to consist of the following members: Senators Hoke Smith, Georgia, and C. S. Page, Vermont; Representatives D. M. Hughes, Georgia, and F. D. Fess, Ohio; C. A. Troffer, secretary of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education, New York; John A. Lapp, legislative reference librarian, Indianapolis; C. H. Winslow, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.; Miss Florence Marshall, principal of the Manhattan Trade School for Girls, New York City; Miss Agnes Nestor, Chicago, president of the Chicago Branch of the Women's Trade Union League. The creation of this commission was proposed in a bill introduced by Senator Hoke Smith, and passed by the Senate last June to prepare the way for a settlement of the differences between the Senate and the House over the Page bill, which proposed to grant, under certain conditions, Federal moneys to the States for industrial education. [See vol. xvi, p. 638.]

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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### A Modern Apostle.

Chicago Evening Post, February 24.—Joseph Fels stood in the apostolic succession of Henry George and Tom Johnson. To him the Singletax theory was a very gospel of economics, potential for the healing of many ills by which society is cursed. Believing thus, he devoted the later years of a successful business life to the preaching of this gospel. Both himself and his means were at its disposal. Out of his fortune he gave dollar for dollar for every contribution made by others to the cause. Lloyd George found in Mr. Fels a loyal and generous supporter in his land-taxation propaganda in England. For several years he was a center of persistent agitation, flooding England with literature directed against the evils of an oppressive landlordism. Returning to the United States, he toured the country, making addresses on his favorite theme and financing the Singletax movement wherever sufficient interest was shown to justify investment in its political possibilities. He lived long enough to see the seed he had scattered germinating in several States and bear-

ing fruit in Western Canada. The travail of his soul found some measure of satisfaction. The Singletax idea seems destined for increasing popularity, and much of its present impetus in such States as Oregon and Missouri must be credited to this little, forceful apostle of modern times, who in intensity of purpose and abandon of enthusiasm, as well as in dialectical skill, reminded us at times of St. Paul, his kin in race and spirit.



### Flight of the English Farm Laborer.

The (London) Nation, December 27.—A century ago the governing fear of the English Parliament was the fear that country life might lose its attraction for the country gentleman. . . . Last week a report was published by the Board of Agriculture on a question not unlike that. . . . Country life is again in danger of becoming intolerable, only this time it is not the country gentlemen who are threatening to emigrate. . . . The area of land farmed in England is decreasing, but the supply of labor is decreasing faster. . . . The plain meaning of this careful and important report is that while we have made country life agreeable enough to the country gentleman—so agreeable, indeed, that he is apt to think that any change must be for the worse—we have made it intolerable to the laborer—so intolerable that he is apt to think that any change must be for the better. And this emigration is not to be explained away as the mere attraction of towns and brilliant lights and cinematograph shows and the jolly confused life of the streets, for men fly from the English countryside to the most silent and isolated wilds in the West of Canada. The Report is a most striking confirmation of the sound statesmanship of Mr. Lloyd George's fundamental doctrine that the true agrarian reform must begin with the laborer. There is no suggestion of political bias or of any other bias in the preparation of this document. The inquiries were conducted by officials, the data for the conclusions were supplied by crop reporters, market reporters, secretaries to Chambers of Commerce, Co-operative Societies. The result is to corroborate all the main features of the Land Report.



### No New Freedom in the Postoffice.

Reedy's Mirror (St. Louis), February 13.—Mitchell Kennerley has been acquitted of the charge of selling indecent literature. This is good news. Kennerley published "Hagar Revelly," . . . a pretty strong novel but not strikingly indecent, only rather frank. . . . It is well to be able to record the vindication of the least commercialized of all publishers, and the defeat of the Comstockians. . . . The Comstockians have been viciously active in New York of late. They suppressed Viereck's International because of a cover design no more indecent than the designs on a half hundred calendars. . . . The postoffice authorities condemned it out of hand. The whole edition had to be denuded—no process of law was taken at all. It was simply an arbitrary confiscation and destruction of property on the strength of a postal regulation. . . . As bad as, if not worse than, this ruthless dealing with the International, was the holding up of the entire edition of