

tence of one month and \$10. On the other matters a court-martial general was held, before which he sought my services as counsel. I was informed of the trial date by telephone and on finding that it conflicted with a trial I had at Everett was informed that it would be necessary to try it on January 23rd, I believe, or go over to February 23rd. Aryan says he instructed them that he wanted counsel from the outside and desired the trial postponed, but he was tried on January 23rd and given 7 months in the Alcatraz-Island (San Francisco) penitentiary, and a dishonorable discharge. He charges that his superiors have failed to treat him justly and regularly, aside from the principal controversy, in refusing to forward his letter to the Secretary; in trying him before a summary court-martial to which he had objected; in entering pleas of "guilty" which he never entered; in disregarding charges of irregularity he has filed against his superiors and in sending him to the California prison on a 7 months' sentence in order to get him out of the way here. He has been warned that if he remains obdurate in the prison he will be struck with the butt of a rifle and laid out and no one will ever hear of him again.

The only talk I have had with him was here in the station yesterday, but his letters have been numerous. He is a "passive resistant" and harmless enough; he is entitled to certain rights and claims that these have been violated. I believe in his unselfishness and fearlessness sufficiently to make his written statement to me the basis of a request to the President for a Board of Inquiry.

THORWALD SIEGFRIED.



THE LAND QUESTION AND THE TARIFF IN EARLY UNITED STATES HISTORY

Philadelphia, January 29.

Most Singletaxers that I have met are outspoken and thorough free traders. This state of mind arises naturally from the principle that land being the only source of wealth, the imposition of taxes other than on it, is worse than useless in securing a just distribution of opportunity. I have not, however, been able to get from any Singletaxer an explanation of how the so-called "tariff revision" bills are likely to give any substantial relief to the proletariat; and even the latest phase, that under which we are now living—which may, perhaps, without making too bad a pun, be called the "Underwoodrow Wilson" bill—does not seem to promise anything substantial for which a believer in land taxation hopes.

General Hancock said, in 1880, that the tariff was a local issue, for which he was roundly abused by the beneficiaries of the system and their henchmen, but with the history of tariff revision hearings before us it needs no ghost to come from out the grave to tell us that he was right. It may be of interest to present some features of tariff legislation in the early stages of the history of the Federal Union.

As in all other countries in which legislation is systematized, tariff problems existed in the United States from its beginning. In fact, in the spring of 1789, when Washington arrived in New York City

to be inaugurated, Congress was discussing the tariff on Jamaica rum. Most of the early tariffs were for revenue only, or at least, principally. At the close of the first quarter of the 19th century, when extension of the United States had brought in a very diversified territory and conflicting interests, especially the growth of manufactures and the exhaustion of the public land in the northeastern States, attempts were made to secure sectional advantages by means of duties. The relation of the land question to tariff legislation from 1828 to 1833 has been made the subject of an interesting paper by Raynor G. Wellington, in the annual report of the American Historical Association, Vol. 1 (1911), p. 165. He points out that at this period (John Quincy Adams' administration) the economic issues may be considered as exhibiting four phases, according to territorial divisions: Northeast, southeast, northwest, southwest. Natural condition—soil, climate, topography, mineral wealth—had rendered these districts materially different in economic endeavor; sociologic conditions—race, social standards, and labor supply, especially as to wage or chattel slavery—had emphasized these differences. The northeastern States, having established industries, wanted abundance of labor that wages might be kept down, and therefore wished high prices fixed for the public lands in the West to prevent emigration. They also wanted a high tariff and public improvements at Federal expense. The southeastern States wanted also to keep their laborers on the land, and, therefore, wished the western public lands to be kept at a high figure, but they did not want a tariff, and were bitterly opposed to Federal support for internal improvements, probably because they could expect but little of the contents of the "pork barrel," and also because they were, owing to danger to the "peculiar institution," strong States-rights supporters. The western sections wanted low prices for public lands to induce immigration; the northwesterners wanted a high tariff and public improvements; the southwesterners the opposite. Out of such a medley nothing could come but a compromise unsatisfactory to all parties, and the "tariff of abominations" of this period was the result.

John Quincy Adams was the last President of the old Federalist type, and, with the exception of Pierce, the only one born in "Yankee land." The tariff of 1828 roused the South to fury, and, as is well known, a few years later the first rumble of the "war between the States" was heard. South Carolina attempted to nullify the tariff act. From that time until now, a succession of tariff revisions has kept the country in a ferment, and no man knoweth the end thereof. As diversity of interests increase, the "local issues" will be accentuated and quite recently we have been treated to the spectacle of Democratic Congressmen refusing to support a bill, the passage of which the party platform promised, because the interests of the "deestric" have not been given full consideration.

The tariff has frequently worked out so that it has been a misfortune if the source of an important raw material is discovered in the country. At present, great desire exists for an increased supply of platinum. In all probability, if a lean platinum ore should be found within our borders, it would increase rather than decrease the cost of the metal, for the vested

interests that would control the mine would immediately ask for a duty sufficient to protect the mining from competition with the "pauper" platinum of Europe.

HENRY LEFFMANN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

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, March 3, 1914.

Mrs. Fels' Acknowledgment.

So many are the messages, telegrams and resolutions expressing sympathy and condolence received from all parts of the world by Mrs. Fels that individual acknowledgment is at present impossible. The Public has therefore been requested to convey to all of these her appreciation and thanks.



The Funeral of Joseph Fels.

In accordance with the wishes of the family, the funeral services of Joseph Fels were simple. Wednesday, February 25, 1914, will be remembered sadly hereafter by many who loved the man because they knew him and worked with him, and by many in various parts of the world to whom, though they knew him not in the body, his untimely death in the harness came as a shock and disaster. The services were held at the home of his brother, Maurice Fels, 4305 Spruce Street, Philadelphia. At two o'clock in the afternoon, Rabbi Henry Berkowitz, of Rodef Shalom Synagogue, recited the beautiful Ninetieth Psalm, "A Prayer of Moses, the man of God," beginning, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations."

And how appropriate was the close of that prayer when uttered over the body of Joseph Fels, "Establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it!" The Rabbi said:

Face to face with the solemn realities of death these sublime utterances of the ancient Hebrew Psalmist touch our hearts as they have thrilled the souls of unnumbered generations by their searching admonitions on the lessons of life.

Silence rests like a benediction upon him who, stricken in the meridian of his days and at the zenith of his endeavors, now reposes in the soft embrace of painless sleep. The work of his hands has slipped from his grasp; the busy mind has suddenly halted in its earnest planning; the eloquent lips are hushed; the glowing heart has ceased its throbbing; and we stand in the presence of this supreme mystery, awed, benumbed and humbled. Thousands upon thousands in this and other lands

are present with us in spirit, chastened by the sense of sudden loss.

Other lips will recount in due season and adequate words the sum of the services he has rendered. For us this hour is sacred to the sorrow of the bereft. Within this intimate circle of his dear ones and closest friends we can but struggle to voice the grief with which his passing sears the bleeding heart. For these have seen him in the home and amid familiar associations cherishing vivid dreams of noble achievement, like Joseph of old, whose name he bore. They have seen him stirred by a mighty conviction until he was carried away by it, like one of the Prophets of old; and on the high places of earth he fearlessly proclaimed the truth as he saw it, as he felt it, as he believed it. Some of that resistless power entered into his soul which moved the prophet Amos to leave the quiet of his daily pursuits and to face princes and potentates, declaring,

"The lion hath roared, who will not fear?"

"The Lord eternal hath spoken, who will not prophesy?"

In the safe shelter of his daily activities here in this quiet city, Joseph Fels heard the leonine roar of the mighty industrial system. His heart throbbed with fear because of the social injustice and the economic wrongs devouring the people everywhere through poverty, misery and vice. Unlike the thoughtless, luxury-loving and indifferent, he would not remain deaf to the divine call he heard within. He gave himself to his cause unreservedly, body, mind and soul—with the gifts of his time, his money, his tireless energy and his boundless zeal and enthusiasm. Truly he was touched by somewhat of that same consecration which has fired with ardor the souls of priests, prophets and heroes. The test of such a consecration is found in weights and values not material, nor even intellectual, but spiritual. The world of today attests his sincerity, his singleness of purpose and generous self-sacrifice, his hatred of shams and shallow conventions. Bluntly he exposed what he held to be false, to search out truth. He stood for morals, for principles, for character. And now death has set its seal on the supreme measure of self-sacrifice a man can offer in the service of humanity.

If religion be, as it is in its highest conception, the passion for Righteousness which springs from faith in the ultimate triumph of good; if a religious life be, as it is in its highest conception, one filled by a deathless hope in what is highest and best, and inspired thereby with courage for struggle, fortitude for trial and unflinching effort even unto death, then I believe Joseph Fels was a religious man. He may have been indifferent to the organized forms of religion, but he cherished the pride of his people in that great historic heritage in whose Scriptures he found the sources of the doctrine he proclaimed.

"What is excellent," said Emerson, "as God lives, is permanent."

The excellencies of the life we mourn cannot perish. The friendships he made yield abiding treasures to those whom he cherished. Love is strong as death. These are the consolations which must sustain the living, giving fortitude to those who bear his name, and to whom he was bound in the closest ties of devotion.