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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

The Work of Joseph Fels.....	433
The Rockefeller Idea.....	433
Appealing to Public Opinion.....	434
Looking After the Laborer.....	434
Mexican War News.....	434
Slavery Interests at Their Old Game.....	434
Lack of Appreciation.....	435
Tainting the News.....	435
Just Judges and the Recall.....	435
The Coal Strike and the Conservation Policy—Phillip P. Wells	435

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS:

Free Tolls and Democracy—Alfred H. Henderson....	436
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NEWS NARRATIVE:

The Colorado War.....	437
Mexico and the United States.....	438
Washington Happenings	439
Tax Reform News.....	439
English Politics	440
Federal Suffrage Amendments.....	440
Woman Suffrage Day.....	440
Mrs. Fels and the Joseph Fels Fund.....	441
News Notes	442
Press Opinions	442

RELATED THINGS:

Joseph Fels—Wiley Wright Mills.....	445
At the Washington Conference—Alice Thacher Post	445
Joseph Fels, Evangelist of Freedom—William Lloyd Garrison, Jr.	445
The Vision and Joseph Fels—George Hughes.....	446
The Worker for Justice—A. P. Canning.....	447
Joseph Fels, Lover of Man—Nathan Krass.....	447
Jew and Also Christian—Herbert S. Bigelow.....	448
Joseph Fels—Laurie J. Quinby.....	451

EDITORIAL

The Work of Joseph Fels.

A large volume indeed would be one that would contain all that has been published, and publicly said concerning Joseph Fels. Much of this consists naturally of expressions of personal friends and co-workers. But there is also much of a sympathetic nature from sources outside of his particular line of work, and these expressions are the more significant. They are indications of the interest he succeeded in arousing where none had been known to exist before. This shows that, while much of the effectiveness of his work was visible when he passed away, there is still much more to come to light. All who have striven to spread some great truth continue thus to help the world to progress long after they have left it. The time is still far in the future when it may be truthfully said that the work of such men as Henry George, Tom L. Johnson or Joseph Fels has ended.

S. D.



The Rockefeller Idea.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., with apparent sincerity, claims to stand for the "inalienable right of every citizen to work without interference whether he be a union man or a non-union man." But sincere as he probably is, he is certainly mistaken. He is, in fact, a bitter opponent of the right to work, as is every man, rich or poor, who upholds the system that gives to a few legal control over opportunities to work. Monopoly of Colorado's coal lands is a denial of the inalienable right of every man, union and non-union, to work on that land without permission of land monopolists. Monopoly of other natural resources works the same way. Mr. Rockefeller does not see this. He only sees a denial of the right to work when some workers, in endeavoring to force him to use his monopolistic power more leniently, stop other workers from submitting to his terms. He would have all men who prefer slavery to starvation free to accept slavery. But he would

not have them allowed a third choice, to which they are as justly entitled; the choice of applying their labor to unused natural opportunities from which private monopoly now debars them. He criticizes the labor organizations for denying the right of men to accept slavery, while he sees nothing wrong in denying them the right to accept freedom. That is the Rockefeller idea of the right to work.

S. D.



Appealing to Public Opinion.

Defenders of things as they are complain that the Colorado miners, instead of resorting to arms, should have appealed to the "all-powerful tribunal of public opinion." Public opinion is an all-powerful tribunal, and all cases must in the end come before it; but like our legal courts, it is sometimes very slow in arriving at a decision. The Colorado miners, like the West Virginia and the Michigan miners, have been pleading for justice for many years; but Public Opinion has been so occupied with wars, tariffs, the high cost of living, and the thousand and one other ills of society that the voices of a few thousands of miners could not be heard. It was only when they began to kill and be killed that the tribunal of Public Opinion took cognizance of their case. This looks like a drastic method of getting justice, but it is certainly not wholly the fault of the miners.

S. C.



Looking After the Laborer.

A widespread popular fallacy was voiced by the late George F. Baer, when in all sincerity he said: "The rights and interests of the laborer will be looked after and cared for, not by the agitators, but by Christian men, to whom God, in His infinite wisdom, has given the control of the property interests of the country." At the time he said this the protective tariff doctrine had even wider acceptance than it has today. Many who derided Baer were upholders of this doctrine, which is based on the assumption that the laborer is incapable of looking after his own rights and interests, and hence needs a benevolent guardian. There are others who feel that Mr. Baer somehow voiced a fallacy and yet would only substitute for the guardianship of the "Christian men" some other human guardianship. These are the ones whose idea of social justice is enactment of restrictive and palliative laws, putting the laborer under the guardianship of public boards and commissions, in preference to destroying privilege, and thus enabling him to care for himself. The rights and interests of the laborer cannot be properly looked

after and cared for until the laborer will be free to perform that duty himself.

S. D.



Mexican War News.

And now it turns out that those harrowing tales from Mexico City were "exaggerated." Americans were not murdered in the streets, nor shot in their homes, nor thrown into dungeons. The little excitement that followed the landing of troops at Vera Cruz was about such as the rough element in our own cities is fond of manifesting whenever excuse offers. Refugees whose safety imperiled the peace of nations, and whose "sufferings" made columns and pages of "copy" for imaginative war correspondents, are protesting that the American authorities, and not the Mexican, forced them to leave, and are demanding to be sent back.



Such is war. If men will lie and steal and murder in times of peace—and our police and courts bear evidence to this fact—shall we expect less in times of war? There are three factors that make for war with Mexico, two of them honest but misguided, and the third, dishonest and sinister. There are a vast number of people who have confused flag-worship with patriotism, and who feel that even a foreign war is not too great a price to pay for flag-homage. Another class, equally honest and sincere, is the young men of the country who feel the need of some outlet for their surplus animal spirits, and seize upon war as an excuse for wild adventures. But the third class, more eager for war than either of the other two, is neither patriotic, nor seeking adventure. It is composed of those who profit financially at home by war, or have investments abroad. Every dollar's worth of property in Mexico owned by Americans will be worth more under the American flag than under the Mexican flag. And there are men and women so eager for profit that they are willing, nay, eager, to have war with Mexico in order that their mines, ranches, railroads and other properties should be enhanced in value. Are we to allow any or all of these classes to force us into a needless war?

S. C.



Slavery Interests at Their Old Game.

The Mexican war of 1846 was waged to increase the predatory opportunities and power of the chattel slavery interests. For a similar reason the industrial slavery interests of today are urging another Mexican war. But civilization has made some advance in sixty-eight years.

S. D.