

to discover how it was that this one man should possess such power. He found it was because the people had voted away their privileges and had allowed "the powers of taxation" to pass largely into the hands of individuals of whom Hill was an example. As the owner of the Great Northern System he was able absolutely to exercise "the taxing power" by manipulation of freight rates as he chose. Those who were loyal to Hill were called statesmen and prominent citizens. Those who opposed him were demagogues and disturbers. Mr. Manahan was one of the demagogues.

The above is one example of how "the taxing power" is used to collect tribute from all the working people of the country and to pass it along to the few. The taxes we pay into the public treasury are only a small part of the whole. We pay a tax in the form of a monopoly freight rate, for instance, on about everything we buy in the store, only we don't realize it. It applies to beef shipped from the plains to Chicago, and from there to our home towns. All such taxes are ultimately paid by the final consumer.

The people of this nation have by the ballot, voted the taxing power into the hands of a few, and this is responsible for our widespread poverty and our general unrest. But the people, by using that power of ballot, can bring the taxing power back where it belongs, in the hands of the people, so that all will get the benefit. Hence the need that we all realize the importance of law, of taking more interest in current legislation. The spirit that actuates the people, determines the conditions under which they shall live, and the welfare of mankind.

In connection with the Hill case, Mr. Manahan declared that he studied law in college and then practised for twenty years before he realized that really he had not known anything about law.

In closing, the speaker advocated votes for women as a matter of course, and paid a beautiful compliment to the women as having ever been a decided influence for good, as being the embodiment of sympathy and devotion to ideals.



This outline of Mr. Manahan's address shows his courage and straightforwardness in presenting what he believes to be the truth and his firm stand for right and justice. These together with the very favorable reception of his ideas by his audience, convince me that the occasion is worthy of more than mere casual notice.

The predominating idea, as expressed by Mr. Manahan, and by the other speakers as well, was that all should get together for the betterment of all and for the application of Christian principles. The duty of ministering to man's material and moral needs, as well as to his spiritual needs, was emphasized, and also that Catholics, while remaining true to their religious faith, can and should at the same time, be patriotic American citizens.

JAMES B. ELLERY.



Some men are such slaves to precedent that they are willing to follow it to the jumping-off place.—The Caxton.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

RABBIS' CONFERENCE PASSED FELS RESOLUTION.

Cincinnati, July 14.

The comment on the action taken by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, with regard to the death of Joseph Fels, on page 655 of *The Public*, rests on incorrect information. The resolution expressing admiration for his work was not tabled, but adopted by a large majority. The question whether the theory for which he stood was right or wrong, never came up for discussion. The opponents claimed that as Fels was not connected with any synagogue, and as he had often expressed his view that churches, as they are, are useless institutions, it was not proper for a ministerial body to claim him for the religious organization, to which he, by birth, belonged. The resolution as submitted by the undersigned, as chairman of the committee on contemporaneous history, follows:

An expression of gratitude is also due to the memory of Joseph Fels, the noted philanthropist, who died at Philadelphia, February 22, 1914. The main work of Fels lay in a field on which this Conference can and will not express a definite opinion. Whether the economic ideas which he advocated, and for which he spent so liberally from his means, will, or will not, be the panacea, as which they are proclaimed, is not for this Conference to judge. It remains a fact, however, that Fels, as well as his much admired master, Henry George, were inspired by the economic theories of Moses, who declared: "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine," and by the fiery preachments of Isaiah, who denounced those "that join house to house, that lay field to field till there be no room." In addition, Joseph Fels was active in aiding the unfortunate of his people by his generous support of the Jewish Territorial Organization. Your committee suggests that this Conference express its sorrow at the untimely demise of Joseph Fels, and convey its expression of sympathy to the widow.

GOTTHARD DEUTSCH.



Shreveport, La., July 17.

An injustice was done to the Central Conference of American Rabbis in referring to Dr. Stephen S. Wise's remarks about their timidity in expressing themselves on the subject of employers and employees. The report of a committee on this question was a vague and weak philosophy of the subject and was in such a form that no self-respecting body could possibly accept it. It was while this report was threatened with defeat that Dr. Wise uttered his passionate strictures. However, as I pointed out at the time, the question was not whether or not the rabbis were willing to place themselves definitely on record as to this question but simply as to whether this particular report could be endorsed. I called Dr. Wise's attention to the fact that it was his privilege, in lieu of the report, to formulate any definite proposition or resolution he might see fit and that he would find that the rabbis would rise to any height of courage demanded by any cause of truth, righteousness or justice. The report was defeated, and as no one was prepared then and there to act upon my suggestion and present any definite proposition to be acted upon, a commission was appointed to study the social and economic question in all its bearings and report at the next conference.

The rabbis of reform Judaism are not afraid of expressing themselves on any question that