

themselves off from one of the finest fellowships that ever enlisted in the cause of human freedom. Go, if you must, gentlemen, but be sure that the cause of your going is adequate. Remember, it is a discreet man who takes no offense unless he is sure offense was intended; it is a generous man who accords his fellows the same motives as his own; and it is a wise man who can separate the essential from the non-essential.



Once more, now, let us laugh long and loud and deep; and then let us get to work in the cause of justice.

S. C.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AFFAIRS IN MISSISSIPPI.

Jackson, Miss., July 15.

We have some very serious situations here in Mississippi which the singletax would solve. One is, we have a great iron and coal mine which the people refuse to turn over to the big interests. They are trying to find some way that the people can get their share of the proceeds of these mineral deposits. At the last legislature the legislators flatly refused to let some Boston bankers come into the State and work this mine. Another situation we have is that all the vast southern part of Mississippi, the richest country in the whole world, is in the hands of three or four corporations. This land is perfectly wild, no one on it. The corporations will not allow any one to come on it, but are waiting for a rise in land values. They say they are trying to "colonize" it. If you will look into the Acts of the Legislature since 1906 you will see that the Legislature has made constant war on the corporations, and all to no effect, of course. And the corporations have made constant war on the people of the State. We have one British corporation which owns about 500,000 acres of the finest cotton land of the Delta, the greatest cotton country in the world. The whole people of the State were infuriated when they found out that our laws permitted such a thing to happen as this. So we go ahead and make a law prohibiting corporations from owning land for agricultural purposes. The result is that the great corporations are buying land and holding it in the names of individuals. And I am lawyer enough to know that there is absolutely no way in the world to check these holdings save by way of the singletax.

ROBERT S. PHIFER, JR.



PROGRESSIVE ADDRESS ENTHUSES CATHOLIC GATHERING.

Erie, Pa., July 16.

The Pennsylvania branch of the American Federation of Catholic Societies has been convening here, and on Sunday evening last a public meeting was held in the Majestic Theater. The theater was crowded, many being obliged to stand, and the audience numbered fourteen or fifteen hundred.

The main address was by Hon. James Manahan, Congressman-at-Large from Minnesota. A Catholic himself, and speaking before an almost exclusively Catholic audience (several prominent priests and bishops being present also), Mr. Manahan delivered an eloquent and convincing address which would satisfy the most exacting Singletax critic.

Although he occupied more than an hour, he held the interest of his hearers to the end, and on the way out several remarked that they wished he had spoken even longer.

The Bishop of the local diocese, before pronouncing the benediction, expressed briefly his approval of and thanks for what had been said. The address was a logical argument for progressive, democratic Singletax principles from beginning to end, although the term "Singletax" was not used, and he did not mention Henry George.

Among other things he said that being a Westerner he did not realize what poverty meant in large cities until he came East. He contrasted the crowded conditions of London and New York with the millions of acres of lands in the West that are idle. There is something wrong. He then said:

"We all need the necessaries of life—food, clothing and shelter. Let us see that these material things are supplied as a first requisite. We can then expect progress forward and upward along moral and spiritual lines.

"We are dependent upon the natural resources, and yet we have given away the most of our public domain.

"The main point of my message to you is the importance that all of us (non-Catholic as well as Catholic) give more attention to the affairs of government, to our laws and legislation.

"Some feel it a disgrace to be involved in politics, but politics should concern us all. Government and morals cannot be dealt with apart from each other. If we as citizens at the ballot-box vote for bad laws, the effects come back to us in our home and social environment.

"It is idle for us to waste our energies in combatting Socialism. Socialism is only one indication of injustice and unrest. We should give less attention to such symptoms. We should get at the bottom cause and remove that."

The speaker then described how his eyes came to be opened to the actual state of things.

As attorney for some Minnesota farmers, he was fighting the railroads for a reduction of rates. Examining a prominent railroad official, he was fortunate enough to obtain from him in open court, an admission that his railroad and others had been using money in Wisconsin and Minnesota to influence legislation. It was just the sort of evidence that he needed, and on the strength of it he subpoenaed J. J. Hill, and was actually able to get Hill present in the court to testify. When court opened the judge stated that the case had developed beyond the jurisdiction of that court, and had been placed in the hands of the Attorney General of the State. What it amounted to was that Hill controlled the legislature and courts of Minnesota, and the people's will was thus subjugated. Representative government had ceased to be.

This revelation led Manahan to investigate further

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