

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

touches on the domain of morality, righteousness, justice or human brotherhood and equality. They have the fullest sympathy with the classes who are suffering from our present ill-regulated social system. They recognize that in our present social system there are many things requiring correction, elimination and supplementation. They are eager to align themselves with all movements that promise betterment and progress. But they wisely refuse to commit themselves and their constituencies to any ill-digested philosophy or hasty recommendations on the subject.

On the question of Singletax many of the rabbis are evidently with you—possibly the majority of them are. But even this majority do not think it right as yet to force the minority to an acquiescence on this subject.

MOSES P. JACOBSON.

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, July 21, 1914.

Mexico and the United States.

General Victoriano Huerta appeared before the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, the afternoon of the 15th, and presented his resignation in the following words:

Deputies and Senators: Public necessity admitted by the chamber of deputies, by the senate and the supreme court, called me to the supreme magistracy of the republic. Later, when in this same hall I had the honor of addressing you in compliance with the Constitutional precept, I promised at all costs to bring about peace.

Seventeen months have passed, and in that brief period of time I have formed an army with which to carry out that solemn promise.

You all know the immense difficulties which my government has encountered owing to a scarcity of funds, as well as to the manifest and decided protection which a great power of this continent has afforded to the rebels—so much so that when the revolution had been broken up, seeing that its chief leaders were and continued to be divided, the power in question sought a pretext to intervene directly in the conflict, and the result of this was the outrage committed at Vera Cruz by the American fleet.

Success was had, as you know, in adjusting honorably, through our delegates at Niagara Falls, the petty Tampico incident, but the revolution continued with the support of whom we all know.

Yet, after the highly patriotic work achieved by our delegates at Niagara Falls, there are still some who say that I, come what may, seek my personal interest and not that of the republic. And as I need to refute this allegation with facts, I tender my formal resignation of the presidency of the republic.

The national congress must know that the republic, through its government, has labored in entire good faith and with the fullest energy, having suc-

ceeded in doing away with the party which in the United States called itself Democratic, and having shown how the right should be defended.

To be more explicit, I will say that the action of the government of the republic during its short life has dealt death blows to an unjust Power. Later on, stronger workers will come, using implements that undoubtedly will end that Power, which has done so much harm and committed so many outrages on this continent.

In conclusion, I will say that I abandon the presidency of the republic, carrying with me the highest sum of human wealth, for I declare that I have arraigned at the bar of Universal Conscience the honor of a puritan, whom I, as a gentleman, challenge to wrest from me that possession.

May God bless you and me.

[See current volume, page 685.]

Congress accepted the resignation, and called Licentiate Francisco Carbajal, Minister of Foreign Relations, to the Presidency. General Aureliano Blanquet, Minister of War, and General Huerta's strong man in the cabinet, together with other generals and cabinet officers, offered their resignations and left the capital. Generals Huerta and Blanquet proceeded to Puerto Mexico, where they were joined by families and friends, and sailed on the German cruiser *Dresden* on the 20th for Jamaica. No violence or unusual disturbance marked the transfer of power. General Huerta took the oath of office as provisional president February 19, 1913, after the uprising that overthrew the administration of President Francisco I. Madero, Jr. Civil war broke out at once. General Zapata, with an irregular force, operated in the territory south of Mexico City, but never was strong enough to meet the Federal troops in a pitched battle. General Carranza denounced the Huerta government, and raised the standard of revolt in the north, with General Villa as his chief military officer. Under the name of Constitution- alists General Carranza and General Villa prosecuted a vigorous campaign for the restoration of constitutional government in Mexico. President Wilson refused to recognize the Huerta government because of the murder of President Madero, and lent the moral support of the American government to the Constitutionalist cause. The military campaign was pushed with vigor, and marked by many bloody battles, as the Constitutionalist forces converged upon Mexico City. General Huerta resigned when it became evident that the Capital could no longer be defended against his opponents. The chief cause of his downfall was the passive resistance of the American government, whose refusal of recognition prevented his raising money abroad, and whose occupation of Vera Cruz helped to destroy his prestige at home.

Francisco Carbajal announced upon taking the oath of office that his sole purpose was to restore