
NEWS NOTES

—The interruption of the Tehuantepec Railroad route by Mexican hostilities has caused Governor Goethals to begin a barge service through the Panama Canal about May 10.

—Theodore Roosevelt ended his trip through unexplored Brazil at Manaos, one thousand miles from the mouth of the Amazon, on the 30th. The party took passage on steamer down the river on the way to New York, where they are expected about May 20.

—Attention has been called to the fact that the new theory of gravitation announced by Professor T. J. J. See on April 24 is apparently the same as suggested in 1910 by L. G. Bostedo, then of Chicago, but now of Toledo, Ohio. [See current volume, page 419.]

—“Red” week, an eight-day campaign of the German Socialist Party, has resulted in adding 70,000 new names to the roll, and bringing the number of paying members to more than 1,000,000. The membership of the party has increased from 384,327 in 1906 to 1,052,000 in 1914.

—Reports from Santo Domingo state that another revolution is under way. President Jose Borda Valdez has been overborne by the revolutionists, and is trying to make his escape by sea from San Diego. The American Consul reports foreign subjects safe. [See vol. xvi, p. 1045.]

—Rehearings were granted on April 29 by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals to Olaf A. Tveitmoe of San Francisco, Richard H. Houlihan of Chicago and William C. Bernhardt of Cincinnati, iron workers convicted of conspiracy to dynamite at Indianapolis in December, 1912. Rehearings were denied at the same time to William Shupe of Chicago, George Anderson of Cleveland and Peter J. Smith of Cleveland. [See current volume, page 301.]

—The California State Railroad Commission on April 29 gave the Pullman Company thirty days in which to correct a number of abuses. One of these is the payment of inadequate wages to porters, which compels travelers to pay tips in order to receive service. The company is severely denounced for this in the commission's report. Other conditions to be improved are overheating of cars, tipping of conductors to obtain lower berths, disturbing of passengers by making up of berths at an unnecessarily early hour, neglect of women passengers, and of tourist passengers, poor sanitation and speculating in tickets by porters. [See vol. xvi, pp. 753, 1040.]

PRESS OPINIONS

Joseph Fels.

Harper's Weekly (New York), March 14.—Joseph Fels will be missed. He was a man of insight. . . . His heart was most centered in a principle that, in modified form, commends itself more and more to students of taxation. He was one of the few persons of wealth in this country who have not been

satisfied with philanthropy, but have opposed the very sources of extreme wealth, fighting the monopolies and concentrations that produce inequalities. Fels lived in obscure hotels. He traveled in third-class railway compartments. He made friends of the humble. He had the fervor of a conversion that came late in life. To him the root of all evil lies in the monopoly of land. The unearned increment was to him an almost personal devil. He went about the world fighting for the Singletax, talking to everybody about it, depleting in the cause a fortune made honestly in selling soap. He believed the Singletax would make an end of poverty. Few men live as happily as he lived through the closing years of his busy existence. He believed he had found his answer. His conscience was clear; his path lay straight ahead; his influence was powerful. The radical program of the British Government was in part stimulated and hastened by him. The group of land reformers in our country were largely nourished by him. He scorned charity in his public speeches and practiced it in his private life. He was sincere and generous and glowing. He was a Jew, and he had the virtues which we are pleased to call Christian.



Herbert Quick in the Fargo (N. D.) Courier-News, March 2.—Joseph Fels belongs to the great school of Hebrew prophets. “The land shall not be sold forever,” saith the Lord, “for the land is mine,” wrote Moses, and Fels lived to sow the world with this Mosaic truth. He never forgot that the land is God's, not man's, and that God means it for us all, and not for some of us. “The earth hath He given to the children of men,” did not mean to Fels some of the children of men. “The earth belongs in usufruct to the living; and the dead have no right or power over it,” is Jefferson's way of putting it, and Joseph Fels delighted in the power his wealth gave him to preach this redeeming truth. . . . A great man. A living spiritual force. How can his place be filled—in America, in Britain, in Japan, in the nations of the continent of Europe?



W. S. U'Ren in the (Portland, Ore.) Journal, February 23.—There is nothing in my life of which I am prouder than my association with Mr. Fels in the Oregon campaigns of 1910 and 1912, not only for Singletax, but for the people's power in government, and in cleaner politics. . . . I think it would not be possible for any man to be more devoted to an ideal for humanity than Joseph Fels.



Boston Journal, February 24.—Joseph Fels, philanthropist, who “did not believe in philanthropy,” is dead. . . . Three years ago in Boston he said that he did not believe in charities, for they were the agents of pauperization. He added that he intended to spend “the damnable millions I have made to wipe out the system by which I made it. We cannot get rich under present conditions without robbing the public.”



Milwaukee News, February 24.—Many very rich men have given liberally to various charities, but