

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Fels—His Life Work

Ten years ago this month we had to record the death of Joseph Fels. The news of his passing was heard with dismay by his colleagues of the United Committee, and wherever our people were together in the cause he lived to promote. He is still remembered for his own sake, for his great service, for his splendid devotion, for his energy, and for his generous support at all points of the agitation. He came first to the United Committee in 1908, just when he was most wanted, and in his six short years stay with us he achieved something that will endure for the everlasting good of the movement. His work tells. He was a follower of Henry George without qualification. He loved to work in the vineyard. PROGRESS AND POVERTY was to him, as he openly declared, one of the "Bibles of the World."

He was an out-and-out Free Trader, as Mrs. Fels reveals in her life of the man (JOSEPH FELS; HIS LIFE WORK—"dedicated to the devoted band of colleagues in all lands who are carrying on the work which Joseph Fels loved so well and gave of his best to promote").

"It was not only, as he judged, that a protected industry was a parasitic industry, and thus an industry never standing on its own feet by virtue of its native strength, but what to his cosmopolitan temper was far more serious, a protective system was supremely hostile to international fellowship. He pointed out again and again, that a nation's trade was the expression of a nation's mind, that the more closely nations enjoy commercial intercourse, the more they come to understand each other. By breaking down isolation it broke down misunderstanding, than which there was no more fertile cause of war."

The Protectionist defeat at the general election in December last would have given him the greatest encouragement and fully justified his attachment to the cause in Great Britain.

As a Single Taxer he stood for real Free Trade, and he fearlessly told our conventional Free Traders that the sentiment for the further advance was not to be looked for in their half-way house but in Henry George's classic PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE. He resolved to break through the "isolation" that seemed to him to be the standing disability of the Henry George movement. The bent of his mind from the very beginning was in the direction of our people getting together the world over; and our International Conference at Oxford last year for all that it counts, and it counts for much, can be taken as a tribute to the foresight of the man. In his tireless visits to our Continental co-workers, to say nothing of his constant campaigning in his own country and in Canada, he more than any other laid the foundation of our international affiliation.

He was at times almost passionate in his insistence on the urgency of breaking into this new ground. In his visits to Tothill Street he would, after the immediate business in hand was ended, turn with eagerness to our overseas correspondence, to the letters and the official documents then beginning to assume proportions. Again and again he charged the writer to develop this side of the work; almost his last words were: "Whatever you are doing or going to do, I want the international side of our affairs placed here as a special department of the work and it must not be neglected for anything else."

In the circumstances we have done what we could to be loyal to this trust; our International Bureau of Information speaks for itself each month in LAND & LIBERTY. The spirit of Joseph Fels is over it all.

J. P.

Announcement

LAND-VALUE POLICY

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By JAMES DUNDAS WHITE, LL.D.

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