

cultivate their own public spirit by participating in public affairs. There is a lamentable lack of public spirit in the majority of men. We have repressed the mothers; therefore we have second-class men.



Chairman Kane introduced Mr. Post as "the life-long friend of Joseph Fels." Mr. Post spoke with great feeling of his friend, dead in fact but living in spirit and truth, as a "rich man of brotherly love" who had lived in City of Brotherly Love. In that larger sense, Mr. Post showed how Fels, though a Jew by birth, was broadly Christian in spirit and had obeyed the injunction to give all he had to the poor, but not in the form of charity. He had given toward the establishment of a principle which he believed would make poverty unnecessary for any human being. His was the brotherly love that is based on "brotherly rights." From George, Fels had learned what the tap root of poverty is and he sought to eradicate that root. That was the monopoly of the earth by a few. Said Mr. Post:

. We may not live to see his hopes realized. That is no more our affair than it was his. He has done his duty with reference to the rights of others and passed on. We meet here in order to draw inspiration from his life as well as to honor his memory. \* \* \* The rich man who spends his income for the right, as God gives him to see the right, living modestly that he may have the more to spend for that purpose, is a man to be applauded. He is a man whose memory the good people of a city should be glad to perpetuate. Joseph Fels was such a man. His career of true philanthropy is additional proof of the right of this city to the democratic name it bears—the city of brotherly love.

Mr. Post asked point blank, who is responsible for social injustice? and then answered: "You and I and every person in this hall—all are responsible and all are obliged to find the reason why."



But the great climax of a great meeting came with the closing address by the English member of parliament. Tall, broad-shouldered and at ease, but with a certain British pugnacity and a voice full of vibrant power, Mr. Wedgwood stirred the audience to prolonged applause by his fluent and forceful appeal. "I am here," he began, "because I loved Joseph Fels. I loved him, not because of his money, but because he was a fighter for freedom and against injustice." Then he went on to speak of the prevalent notion that in America at least men are free and to say that the men who work know they are not free. He referred to the freeing of the chattel slaves and added: "For God's sake, men and women, open your eyes to the wage slavery of the present day." He spoke of how Fels had stood always for free speech on the theory that only so can the public make a wise choice between what is true and what is false.

But the main point of Wedgwood's address was that the meeting should not be allowed to adjourn without a statement of the economic ideas for which Fels stood, which he proceeded to give. First he repeated the iron law of wages under which men must work on the terms of the employer, or not at all; second, that no change can be effected so long as the heritage of all, the land, is the prop-

erty of the few; and third, every worker must be enabled to receive the full product of his toil. He called on all to join in the work of breaking down the wall that still stands as a barrier between the worker and the raw material.

Finally Mr. Wedgwood spoke of the great work Fels had done in England, thus: "In England he did this. He enabled us to carry a general election on the land question, and he enabled us to carry a budget which gave us valuation of the land separate from the improvements thereon. Having spent two millions in getting that valuation, we don't expect idle land to remain idle when once it is booked. Our object is, of course, to get all local taxation removed from houses on improved land and based instead on the land values." In the course of this campaign Fels had used as one weapon the famous song to the tune of "Marching Through Georgia" which had been sung all over England by young and old, as follows:

"The land, the land, the ground on which we stand;  
"The land, the land, why should we be beggars with bal-  
lots in our hands?  
'God gave the land for the people.'"

The speaker said that Fels had given England a new national song, that he had left his mark in England and had given the English a new Doomsday Book.

EDWIN S. POTTER.



## THE ELECTION OF HI GILL.

Seattle, March 5.

Some aspects of the election of March 3d in which Seattle gave Hi Gill a majority of 13,000 for the mayoralty have more than a local significance.

A purely personal factor was that Gill claimed to have been awakened by his recall two years and a half ago to realize that his previous administration had been used by designing friends for their personal gain; yet his "reform" did not swing 7,000 votes.

In the primaries, with nine candidates running and a nomination conceded to Gill, forty-four orthodox ministers out of the city's 225 churches undertook to pick Gill's opponent in the finals by endorsing Griffiths, although Winsor, a Socialist and a Unitarian, seemed about to lead the field. The resentment caused by the ministerial endorsement put Griffiths into fourth place. Many of the non-radical votes thus lost to Griffiths went naturally to Trenholme, a candidate generally supported by the same interests that favored Gill, and between whose views and those of Gill there is to be found but little distinction except that of superficial conformity on the one hand and indifferent frankness on the other. The result was that Trenholme was nominated over Winsor by a few hundred votes and the ministers and the people had a devil's choice, so that about eight per cent of Tuesday's vote deliberately failed to vote on the mayoralty candidates.

Among Gill's former supporters there was a considerable defection to Trenholme because of the fear that Gill's election would give a tremendous "boost" to the state-wide prohibition movement now under way; nevertheless Gill's election seemed a foregone conclusion from the moment it was known that he

was to be opposed by Trenholme. The campaign was none the less interesting, however, being enlivened by the supposed leaders of public thought in their endeavors to make the question of sex and liquor morally the controlling factors of the election on Trenholme's behalf; it was a union of the "peers and the beers," as Lloyd-George puts it. Finally the issue narrowed down to a public inquiry into the names of the supporters of the two candidates, as a result of which it was found that Gill financed his own campaign while Trenholme's contributions included \$500 each from the presidents of the traction monopoly, the largest brewery, the chamber of commerce and a principal bank—all of them supporters of Gill as against Cotterill in the election two years ago and as against Dilling in the previous recall election. The effect of the denouement, the day before election, was tremendous.

Gill is elected; his exploiting friends having supported his opponent, whom he personally detests, he may exploit the exploiters; for even the wrath of man shall praise righteousness. Gill's published statement after election is fair and humble enough; his family life is said to be clean and there is no valid reason why he should not make a mayor with whom we can move on toward better things.

Meanwhile the following deductions can safely be made from the results:

A ministerial endorsement is a two-edged sword, and a dangerous thing.

The support of political candidates by the beneficiaries of franchises and other means of exploitation is overwhelmingly unpopular.

Those moralists who seek only the primary virtues of personal decency cannot defeat one whom they conceive to be opposed to them except with a candidate having not only decency but a wider vision and purpose looking toward the improvement of the whole world and the eradication of the organized, legalized hatred of which too large a part of "business" is composed.

THORWALD SIEGFRIED.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

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Week ending Tuesday, March 10, 1914.

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### The President's Canal Toll Message.

Urging abolition of the exemption of American coasting vessels from Panama canal tolls, President Wilson on March 5 briefly addressed Congress. From the standpoint of expediency, the President urged the abolition, since otherwise, he said, he would not know "how to deal with other matters of even greater delicacy and nearer consequence." From the standpoint of justice he said:

In my own judgment, very fully considered and maturely formed, that exemption constitutes a mistaken economic policy from every point of view, and is moreover in plain contravention of the treaty with

Great Britain concerning the canal, concluded on November 18, 1901. But I have come to you to urge my personal views. I have come to state to you a fact and a situation. Whatever may be our own differences of opinion concerning this much debated measure, its meaning is not debated outside the United States. Everywhere else the language of the treaty is given but one interpretation, and that interpretation precludes the exemption I am asking you to repeal. We consented to the treaty; its language we accepted; if we did not originate it; and we are too big, too powerful, too self-respecting a nation to interpret with too strained or refined a reading the words of our own promises just because we have power enough to give us leave to read them as we please. The large thing to do is the only thing we can afford to do, a voluntary withdrawal from a position everywhere questioned and misunderstood. We ought to reverse our action without raising the question whether we were right or wrong, and so once more deserve our reputation for generosity and the redemption of every obligation without quibble or hesitation.

[See current volume, page 153.]



### Railroad Abuses.

Charges of falsification of accounts were made by the Interstate Commerce Commission on March 6 against the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company, and against the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound Railroad Company. The charges are as follows:

That the St. Paul Company exaggerated its income for 1910 by more than \$5,000,000.

That for 1911 the road reported a \$2,000,000 decrease in income which it falsely informed its stockholders was due to failure to obtain higher freight rates and to increased cost of labor.

That the Puget Sound Company falsely reported an income of more than \$2,000,000 for 1910 and used the fictitious showing of profit to boom the sale of its bonds to the public.

That the Puget Sound Company falsely reported a valuation of its properties which was \$100,000,000 in excess of the cash investment.

That by a reduction of the rate of depreciation the St. Paul has inflated its net operation income \$500,000 a year.

[See current volume, page 154.]



Clifford Thorne, state railroad commissioner of Iowa, appeared on March 10 before the Interstate Commerce Commission and charged the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the New York Central and the Baltimore and Ohio with juggling their book accounts to influence the commission in deciding on the request for five per cent increase in freight rates. The juggling process he described as follows:

In 1907 a new operating expense account, known as depreciation, was prescribed by the commission.