

conjure with in the city in which he was the only great moral and political leader of a generation.

And now that the local organization lies sorely wounded, and the democratic party of State and Nation is without an issue, a mere incoherent aggregation, drifting whither no one knows and none of its leaders seem to care, the suggestion is made that Single Taxers proceed to profit by the opportunity that seems to be offered. A small but active knot of our believers here think that we should now form an organization, secure as complete an enrolment as is possible of all those who will subscribe for the programme of the taxation of land values, and offer the democracy the choice of being crushed utterly, or climbing again to power though the acceptance of the principle, for which not alone the status of political parties, but the conditions of men's minds, are prepared.

Party ties hang loosely. Even the Socialists, or a great number of them, are ready to go with any party that promises social betterment. This was perhaps shown by the falling off of the Socialist vote in this city. And the Democratic party, broken, discouraged, knows not which way to turn. The party is without real leaders, and has no animating principle. One section is led by stupid and corrupt leadership and the other is betrayed by false economic lights.

Here is our opportunity. We have a truth that will help them. With it they may climb again to power, if power is their chief desire. Show them what it has done for the Liberal Party of Great Britain, a party which a few months ago was facing the inevitable defeat foreshadowed in every by-election.

Perhaps a question may arise, what about Republicans? Do we wish to be democrats—we mean, of course, do we wish to wear the label and thus possibly alienate those who wear the Republican label? Let us reflect that among the Republicans are a great many genuine democrats. We shall not lose any republican democrats by enrolling ourselves under true democratic banners. For it is to democracy—in the generic sense—that we must appeal. But finally, by way of caution to our Single

Tax friends, let us secure concessions before volunteering our support. Hitherto we have offered all and secured little or nothing. When it is remembered that politicians hold us in somewhat wholesome respect who yet have but small conception of the vote getting power of a great principle, it is incredible that political activity in the past should have gained for us so little. What we have gained—in this country at least—has been by the propaganda of education. Maybe we have now arrived at a time when a propaganda of politics may secure for the movement some distinct advantage. At least, it would seem that the weakness of the Democracy may turn out to be our opportunity.

J. D. M.

THE GRAND JUNCTION CHARTER.

Until last April Grand Junction, Colo. was, and for many years had been, in the absolute control of its Public Utility Corporations, Saloons and Machine Politicians. Public Service Franchises were given away by the city council with no decent regard or protection to the public rights or welfare. Whatever such corporations demanded they received, and the protests of our citizens were without avail. The saloons and bawdy houses openly advertised their business and defied public sentiment. The machine politicians and partisan newspapers of both political parties were in accord and confident of continued success. Along ordinary political lines there was no hope of better municipal government.

In this emergency two opportunities, two democratic tools existed, viz., local option for the saloons, and the constitutional right of our cities to secure a municipal charter directly from and by the people. The people organized separately along both lines, but with effective co-operation.

At once the organs of plutocracy took alarm, and a most strenuous campaign of misrepresentation and personal abuse of the friends of reform was instituted, with the author of this article as chief target. The *Grand Junction News*, a daily paper, took up the fight for the people and made

a most brilliant and fearless campaign. The result was that on April 6th, 1909, the city went dry and a charter convention was authorized by majorities of about 450 out of 2700 votes cast. The friends of good government then nominated a ticket of 21 representative citizens for delegates to the charter convention, and the opposition did likewise. Later the opposition withdrew their ticket after becoming convinced of the impossibility of electing it, and the friends of the charter were elected June 8th.

The convention organized with the author of this article as President and ex-officio member of every committee. The convention was harmonious and in earnest. Aug. 7th they finished their work, and on Sept. 14th the charter was adopted by a majority of 534.

The first sentence of the Prefatory Synopsis prepared by the convention is the key note of the charter. It is as follows:

"The intent and purpose of this charter is to establish a free and independent city, and to restore to and vest in the people of the city, so far as the constitution of the State will permit, their natural, inherent and inalienable right of local self-government, with all its powers, duties and responsibilities."

The State constitution makes the charter cities independent of the State legislature on all municipal questions. Just where the line will finally be drawn between municipal and State rights the courts will have to determine.

The general plan of the charter is based upon what is known as the commission form of government adopted first by Galveston, improved by Des Moines, and still farther improved by Berkeley. The most democratic provisions found in any of these charters were adopted, *viz.*, five and ten per cent. of electors for Initiative and Referendum petitions, 20% for recall petitions, 30 days before ordinances go into effect, etc.

There are many new features of the charter, the principal ones being the Preferential Ballot, Indeterminate Franchises for Public Utilities, the election of each commissioner as a sole officer directly to his

particular office, limitations on the contractual powers of the council, prohibition of intoxicating liquors, defining the duties of each department, making the Mayor the Judge of the Municipal Court, abolishing of poll taxes and most occupation taxes, no letting out of paving and water works extension by contract, uniform and equitable water rates not exceeding cost, elimination of many kinds of graft, in fixing public utility rates and in taking over public utilities, no value of the franchise to be allowed for or considered, etc.

The charter is now in operation, and the first election thereunder was held Nov. 2nd, 1909. We did not adopt the Single Tax for the city, having no power to do this under our State constitution. But in so far as possible the natural order of pure democracy was established. We expect splendid results.

JAMES W. BUCKLIN.

AN INTERESTING CHARACTER SKETCH OF JOSEPH FELS.

Modern Business, for August, published in London, Eng., contains a long and interesting sketch of Mr. Jos. Fels from the pen of George Edgar. A striking half tone of Mr. Fels is the frontispiece of this number of *Modern Business*.

From this article we learn that Mr. Fels was born in Virginia fifty-four years ago and that he spent the first thirteen years of his life in a country village in North Carolina. At this time his family went to Baltimore where after two years schooling he started work. His parents were Germans who were among the expatriated during the Revolution of 1848. His father was a manufacturer of toilet soaps in Baltimore. The business soon grew to large proportions.

It was not until 1894 that Mr. Fels started the manufacture of Fels Naphtha. Mr. Fels in the interview with the writer of this article speaks entertainingly of his advertising methods and of the engagement by him of the well known John E. Powers at a salary of \$100 a day. Mr. Powers once had charge of Wanamaker's advertising. Mr. Fels, in answer to inquiry, com-