

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.

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#### AN INTERESTING CHARACTER SKETCH OF JOSEPH FELS.

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*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-

pares English with American publicity methods.

The following will be of interest to those still under the delusion that high wages are a handicap to the manufacturer:

"You are a believer in high wages?" I suggested. "Do you find the theory works well in practice—in America, for instance?"

"Yes; I do"—this positively—"I think it is clearly shown by our own experience. We pay the highest average wages of any soap manufactory in the world. We work the shortest hours—eight hours a day and half a day on Saturday. But we make soap cheaper than any firm in the world. In this we have been helped by labor-saving machinery, sometimes invented by our own people. Ours is one of the most, if not the most, successful soap company in the world."

Mr. Fels then said:

"I believe England has more freedom than any country in the world—not excepting America. I believe the way to liberty is more freedom, and I include in freedom—free trade. I believe when England wipes out the moiety of free trade she has now, her decadence will have started. She wants more free trade, but she must first awaken to the fact that there are inexhaustible reservoirs of wealth for public uses not at the moment being tapped."

"But what do you mean by the 'moiety of free trade she has?'"

"She has not got complete free trade—she taxes sugar, coffee, tea, wines, tobacco."

"And you have a reservoir of wealth to replace necessary taxes on luxuries for revenue?" I queried.

"Yes—the reservoir of land values."

Mr. Fels' confession of faith to his interviewer was explicit; "I am as consistent a follower as I know how to be of the teaching which is embodied in the writings of Henry George."

And when asked the reason of all the efforts he is making in behalf of this theory he replied—and we can imagine that quizzical uplifting of the eyebrows:

"Beyond the fact that I believe this would be a reform which would settle most if not the whole of the problem of poverty, I have another reason. When

I turn my toes up to the daisies and go to enrich the flowers, my money will be no help to me. I feel I had better put it where it will do the most good, now, while I have breath and a few brains left to apply it."

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#### THE CATHOLIC COLUMBIAN-RECORD IN ERROR.

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A well known Single Taxer of Indianapolis, Charles H. Krause, has a letter in the *Catholic Columbian-Record* of Columbus, Ohio, to which, in replying that journal makes a very serious misstatement of fact which we prefer to think is due to its real ignorance of a controversy now part of church history. We quote:

"Mr. Krause asserts that Rev. Dr. McGlynn was excommunicated for spreading 'a knowledge of the truth that God has made ample provision for the need of all men,' etc. There is not a word of truth in that. Dr. McGlynn was excommunicated for contumacy in teaching that there could be no private property in land and that the land now in private hands could be taken away from them 'without one penny of compensation to the miscalled owners.' He was excommunicated also for contumacy in refusing to go to Rome to explain his novel doctrine. Eventually he retracted his radical doctrines and went to Rome. He was re-admitted to the Church and died a member of it."

There are many errors in this. Dr. McGlynn did not advocate the taking away of land from anybody, and he never retracted the doctrines for which the *Record* says he was excommunicated. On the contrary, he continued to preach those doctrines, and over the body of his great teacher, Henry George, reiterated his faith in them. "Here was a man sent of God," he said.

The *Record* tells us that the Church "is not opposed to Henry George's Single Tax theory in itself, namely, that all expenses of the State should be raised by a tax on land. But it is opposed to the false doctrine that is the base of that theory, namely, that property in land is wrong, and it is opposed to the proposal to put that