

the evidence shows that the defendant is guilty, he is convicted.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

FAILURE.

For The Public.

But isn't there tomorrow, dear, whose sun is all of gold?

And isn't there a song of cheer that tells us not to scold?

A dollar can't obscure the sun, nor should it give you fright

If shadows from its passing run to fold you in their night.

Who says there is forever, dear, will count himself in debt.

There's time enough for pleasure here, if sorrow we'll forget.

O love me then this blessed day for what my heart would do

If riches were a joke to pay and wishes all were true.

GEO. E. BOWEN.

+ + +

THEATER TICKETS AND LAND VALUES.

Translated from *Bodenreform* of June 20, 1910, for *The Public*, by Emil Schmied.

The Association of Theatrical Managers of Berlin has answered the universal demand of patrons for cheaper admission tickets, with the statement that such a reduction would mean ruin.

"In the first place," they explain, "rents for theaters have been raised enormously. When Direktor Schulz took the management of the Metropolitan theater twelve years ago, he paid 220,000 marks rent; now he pays 360,000 marks. The Berlin theater, under the management of Barnay, at that time rented for 90,000 marks; today it rents for 160,000 marks. And the 'Lustspielhaus' during its short existence has advanced in rent 25,000 marks."

No mention is made in this explanation that the increased rent is due to betterment of the buildings. The increase is pure ground rent, which gives to the owner of the ground a constantly increasing income without effort—an income such as the shrewdest theatrical manager seldom reaches, and one which to the average actor must always seem beyond his wildest dream.

No matter what efforts manager and actor put forth to present excellent performances, they never can get beyond a certain minimum of existence. At the expiration of the leases every increase and advantage is absorbed by the ground rent.

This illustration should indicate the seriousness of this question even to those people who, on the whole, take life easily.

+ + +

THE JOSEPH FELS FUND OF AMERICA.*

An Explanatory Statement of Work in Oregon by the Fels Fund Commission, from an Oregon Campaign Pamphlet, "People's Power and Public Taxation," by W. E. Eggleston, A. D. Cridge and W. S. U'Ren.

The expense of preparing and distributing this pamphlet is paid out of "The Joseph Fels Fund of America," by the Fels Fund Commission, which consists of Daniel Kiefer, of Cincinnati, Chairman; Jackson H. Ralston, of Washington, D. C.; Lincoln Steffens, of New York; Frederic C. Howe, of Cleveland, Ohio, and George A. Briggs, of Elkhart, Indiana. Joseph Fels has agreed to give to this Commission \$25,000 a year for five years, to get the people of the United States to study and apply the science of just taxation in support of their government. He has agreed to give the same amount for the same purpose in Great Britain, and smaller sums for Canada, New Zealand, Denmark and other countries. He does not handle nor does he supervise the spending of the money. That work is delegated, in America, to the Fels Fund Commission.

Joseph Fels' offer, for America as for other countries, is to give a dollar for every dollar given by others. If one hundred thousand men in the United States give a total of fifty or one hundred thousand dollars, Fels will give the same amount. Money given to the Fels Fund by Americans will be used only for work in America; none of it will be sent to a foreign country.

Joseph Fels is an American, and a wealthy manufacturer whose business offices are in Philadelphia and London. He divides his time between his American and English interests. He was born in Virginia, of Jewish parentage. He does not give money to endow colleges, libraries or hospitals, because he knows there will be no need for this so-called "charity" of the millionaires when the people enact just laws for collection of all taxes from the special privilege and natural resource values that are created by the presence and industry of all the useful workers who labor in all the trades, from ditch diggers to bank presidents.

He believes in the wisdom and power of all the people to abolish poverty by making just laws that will insure to every man all the wealth he produces and every dollar he earns, and that will compel every man to earn every dollar he gets. Then the crimes caused by poverty will disappear.

Joseph Fels believes that Special Privilege, in

*See *The Public*, December 3, 1909, p. 1169.

the form of private ownership of values created by all the people, is the cause of most of the political and social crimes. His object in establishing "The Joseph Fels Fund of America" is to help to provide an educational fund so that the people may learn to use their power to abolish the "game of politics," and apply the science of government to their public business.

It is a sign of better conditions that at least one millionaire has the conscience and public spirit to endow a fund for justice and the common good, when so many millionaires are secretly using their fortunes to take from the people what little comforts and political rights they now enjoy.

The great corporations and the "malefactors of great wealth" spend money freely to persuade the people to submit peaceably to public taxation for private profit. For many years the owners of the Franchise Big Business Interests have endowed colleges, bought and subsidized newspapers, hired orators and paid high salaries to the most skillful and unscrupulous lobbyists—but never in any case to increase the power to advance the common good of all the people. This effort by Mr. Fels is probably the first attempt by a rich man to establish an educational fund for protection and increase of the People's Power in government, without any chance of selfish profit or advantage for himself.

The Fels Commission pays for this pamphlet because the Commissioners endorse its purpose, which is not only to defend the rights and powers already won by the people of Oregon, but to give good reasons for their taking additional powers, and especially the direct power to regulate taxation and exemptions. Also, the Commission sees that the owners of Special Privilege are fighting in Oregon to take away from the people the political powers they have won.

Some of the subscribers to "The Joseph Fels Fund of America" are Oregon men. There are others in the State to whom this cause should appeal. The Fels Commission is glad to get any sum that any one may wish to give. Some contributors have agreed to give 50 cents a year, others as high as five hundred dollars a year.

There is this advantage in subscribing to the Fels Fund; for every dollar paid to it, Joseph Fels will pay another dollar, so that every payment of one dollar means the addition of two dollars to the Fels Fund. The fight against Special Privilege will be easier for us in Oregon, as the people of other States obtain and use the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in their contest for political self-government and equality of opportunity. Therefore, we earnestly hope all progressive citizens in Oregon will subscribe to the Fels Fund.

A public statement will be made of all money spent by the Fels Fund Commission in Oregon. Will the men who are spending money for the Assembly "conventions to select and recommend

candidates," and for the Constitutional convention bill, publish full accounts of their expenses? No money will be spent in Oregon by the Commission unless the expenditure is approved by the Oregon Committee, and then approved by the Fels Fund Commission.

The statement has been published that Joseph Fels and Senator Bourne have contributed the sum of \$120,000 to be spent in Oregon this year. That statement is absolutely false in every particular. Senator Bourne is not associated with Joseph Fels or the Fels Fund. The fund is for political educational purposes on measures only. It is not partisan and cannot be used to help any person to get or keep any office.

+ + +

DANIEL KIEFER.



Daniel Kiefer holds no public office and has never held one. His name, however, is familiar to all regular readers of *The Public*, and beyond. We should like to make his personality equally so. He thinks that his life until he "woke up"—by which he means when he saw the light that Henry George held aloft,—had been "about as contemptible a one as are those of all our so-called 'success-