

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.

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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-

ful' business men." But complimentary as that statement is to those "successful" business men, it is exaggerated. Possibly, as Mr. Kiefer insists, he hadn't a single thought of his own; possibly he was willing to adopt the views of the conservative papers on sight; possibly he was intolerant of every man who wasn't swimming in prosperity; possibly he thought the world should be ruled by successful business men, and was satisfied with himself. All this he confesses. It may be, too, that in his lavish gifts to charity, unmissed out of the plenty he had, he pretended, as he confesses now, to desire no credit or recognition when in fact he lost no chance of getting his name into the company of those of whom it would be said of each at his funeral, "He was charitable," etc. But in all that there is nothing contemptible; it is merely human. Even in the disinterested work he has done in the few years since his "awakening," Mr. Kiefer insists that it is solely for his own pleasure; and he proves this to himself by noting the unhappiness it gives him whenever he contemplates the possibility of quitting it.

Mr. Kiefer was born in Cincinnati, January 29, 1856, on Vine street near Sixth, now in the heart of the city. He was at work in the wholesale clothing and cloth business from his fifteenth to his forty-fourth year, and made money at it. In 1896 he marched in the business men's campaign procession in Cincinnati in behalf of McKinley, the remembrance of which is humiliating to him; but the Imperialist policy of the McKinley administration made him an insurgent before the next Presidential election came around. A synagogue Jew until that time, he broadened his Judaism then and entered wholeheartedly as treasurer into the work of the historic Vine Street Congregational church, which the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, was engaged in re-Christianizing.

Mr. Kiefer enlarged his field of pleasurable activities to national dimensions when *The Public* was about to stop (vol. xi, pp. 1, 777), and for nearly three years he has taken the lead in financing it without a penny of compensation. When Joseph Fels founded the American Fels Fund for the promotion of land values taxation, Mr. Kiefer was made chairman of the Commission, of which Tom L. Johnson is treasurer, and Lincoln Steffens, Frederic C. Howe, Jackson H. Ralston and George A. Briggs are Mr. Kiefer's fellow members. Here, too, he works devotedly without compensation. He is also a friend of the Fairhope enterprise.

Through the later years of his life in which he would regard himself as having been awake, Mr. Kiefer has had the unalloyed sympathy and tireless co-operation of his wife. He is a man of rigidly logical mind, of stubborn fidelity to principle yet with a spirit of compromise in co-operative action, weariless as an agitator, courageous enough to risk

making a mistake when action is necessary, candid in acknowledging mistakes, and altogether a man of the kind of whom there are too few in the world.

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WHAT THE DEVIL SAID TO NOAH.

The world was badly scared;
The very heavens trembled;
The Ark was all prepared,
The beasts were all assembled
And driven safe within
By Noah's sons and daughters,
When lo! the Lord of Sin
Appeared upon the waters;
A gallant privateer,
He sailed a Malay proa;
"I think it's gwine to clear!"
The Devil said to Noah.

We know that things are wrong,
We strive to make them better;
Perhaps I write a song,
Perhaps you write a letter,
Perhaps we work like men
To push a worthy movement—
When up he pops again,
That Foe of All Improvement,
And, smiling on the Deer
(But winking at the Boa)—
"Ah, shucks! it's gwine to clear!"
The Devil coos to Noah.

—Arthur Guiterman, in *New York Times*.

BOOKS

WANTED: A NEW HERO IN POLITICS

The Thirteenth District. By Brand Whitlock. Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis.

When a book comes from the public library rebound, stained, worn, and ripe for rebinding again, there is a question as to the reason of its popularity which may not be always a test of its worth. But in the case of "The 13th District" by Brand Whitlock (published in 1902 and calling for a new edition) it is a story, not of sickly sentimentalism, but of rugged realism, that has passed from hand to hand with varying degrees and shades of interest according to the quality of the reader.

No more vivid and revealing searchlight has been thrown on the arena of American politics than has been shown in the moving pictures of Jerome B. Garwood's three campaigns for representative from the 13th Congressional district of Illinois. With the average conscience and self-seeking desires of the ordinary political aspirant, endowed with a degree of oratorical ability, the moral deterioration of the candidate, beginning with his first triumph, is traced with painful fidelity through his public career, and still foreshadowed in his unwritten future.

For the impartial observer of Garwood's type of