

the "plain people." For the people of Russia are in the main farmers, who give most of their substance to support a great imperial government.

I give the lie to all the talk of domestic infelicity, and I say that the domestic life, as I saw it, at Yasnaya Polyana was a great love.

Tolstoy at thirty-four married a girl of seventeen, who bore him thirteen children. She stuck to him through thick and thin, through all his spiritual changes. She took care of the material side of life; and as I saw her a little more than a year ago, as a splendid woman of sixty-five, Tolstoy rested upon her. She was a sturdy supporter and sweet comforter. I came away with the feeling that here was real marriage.

Of course she had to look after the welfare of the family. This was why she expostulated with him about giving all to the poor. Therefore it was that he gave to her for herself and their children the copyrights of his earlier works and novels. But to the public he gave everything else that he wrote. On his later works you will find the words, "No rights reserved." This is the reason why we have seen so much of Tolstoy's recent writings in the newspapers; why his latest writings have been translated into every language and have circulated so largely through the world.

Within the last few hours the greatest spirit of the world has passed; the spirit of a man who looked into the eyes of death calmly, fearlessly, with the confidence of a child. Old in experience of the world, born into great riches and station, and given to all the luxuries and dissipations of his class, of which he has reserved nothing in his confessions, he was born again into the simpler physical and a new spiritual life. A great man, great in every sense of greatness; a man who left the courts of princes to follow the Man born in a manger.

To me it was one of the great events of my life to have spent a few hours under his roof. And now his death is a new inspiration. For now all the contradictory things, the things not understandable, will fall away, and the majesty of this prophet of brotherhood and justice in our modern world will shine out. Great is Tolstoy; greater the truths he taught; and greater still will both become as the centuries roll on.

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THE FELS FUND MEETING IN NEW YORK.

New York Correspondence of the Johnstown (Pa.)
Daily Democrat of November 23, From Its
Editor, Warren Worth Bailey.

After a three days' session, including a number of informal conferences and a free interchange of suggestions, criticisms and congratulations, the Fels Fund Commission of America wound up its

business here last night [Nov. 21] and the members have gone their ways.

The meeting of the Commission was made the occasion of probably the most important gathering of single tax people ever held in this country and in a sense it was also the most representative gathering, although it was numerically smaller than that at New York in 1890 or that at Chicago in 1893. Some of those who participated in the conferences with the Fels Fund Commission here have behind them constituencies big enough to control the politics of sovereign States, and others can boast of constituencies practically nation-wide.

Of course, the central figure at this meeting was Joseph Fels of Philadelphia and London, founder of the fund, and undoubtedly the most energetic and resourceful propagandist the Henry George idea has thus far produced. Mr. Fels, affectionately described by some of his admirers as the "big little Jew," has been enormously successful in business on both sides of the water; and since he has gone into politics in Great Britain as a staunch backer of Lloyd George and the Liberal program, he has demonstrated that the same qualities which have served him so well in making money are effective in bringing concrete results along the lines of his chosen social activity.

The Fels Fund was established something more than a year ago by the famous soap man. He agreed to give \$25,000 a year for a period of five years in the interest of single tax work in this country, provided the friends of the cause in the United States would contribute a like amount. He went even further, agreeing to match every dollar above that sum which might be thrown into the fund. Thus far the total contributions to the fund have been somewhat in excess of \$50,000, but as yet the single tax folks of the United States have hardly got awake to the possibilities of the undertaking, only a very small proportion of their number having pledged even a penny. It is believed that as a result of the meeting here and the elaborate and highly encouraging reports submitted by the Commission and by others, a lot of the sleepers will wake up and that, with a red hot fight on in Oregon, Missouri and perhaps Rhode Island and New York for the straight single tax, the militancy of Anti-Poverty crusading days will be revived.

Tom L. Johnson was another notable figure at the gathering. Mr. Johnson has not been in good health of late, but he is improving, and he was able to take active part in the business sessions as well as in the public conferences and discussions. He made a characteristic speech at Saturday's talk fest and it was received with every manifestation of cordial approval. Mr. Johnson is treasurer of the Fels Fund and it is certain that when he gets back on his feet firmly he will add a lot of ginger to the campaign which the fund is designed to maintain.

But perhaps the man at the meetings who attracted the most attention, or at least who excited the greatest curiosity, was W. S. U'Ren of Oregon, the gentleman who was characterized by Lincoln Steffens in one of his magazine articles as "the people's damned rascal." Oregon has been doing some very remarkable things in a political way during the last eight or nine years, and back of most of these things has been this man U'Ren. But not very many people knew it. In fact not many people know it now. Mr. U'Ren is probably the champion pussy-foot in American politics today. He has a way of slipping around quietly and unbeknownst and doing things which afterwards other people believe they did themselves. He doesn't burn any red fire. He keeps well out of range of the lime light. He takes no brass band along with him when he goes hunting for the Beast. He is the very least and the most shrinking among those who figure in the drama of peaceful revolution which has been running in a continuous performance in Oregon for more than a decade. And so there was great curiosity to see and hear this modest man who loves to get off in a remote corner and sit down on his heels for a nice, quiet rest while orators are entrancing the multitude in front. In fact this is a favorite attitude with U'Ren. He will deliberately vacate a nice easy chair and noiselessly retire to a corner and squat there for an hour, rubbing his lips from time to time with a handkerchief drawn across and across. But when he does come out of his corner and when he does speak, it is found that he has something to say—and he never speaks except on the question before the house. He keeps right to that and no one can divert him to anything else. He has achieved political miracles in Oregon in his unassuming way, and yet if he had never done anything in his life except to eat and sleep and keep in out of the wet he could not make less fuss about it.

Among others who participated in the affair were Louis F. Post, editor of the Chicago Public; Dr. William P. Hill of Missouri, who led the great and successful fight in that State for direct legislation; Frank Stephens of Philadelphia, founder of the single tax colony at Arden, Del.; Dr. Lucius F. C. Garvin, thrice Governor of Rhode Island; Charles A. Prizer of Reading and Philadelphia, who is at the head of the hot-air heating interests of the United States; John Z. White, who has been doing direct legislative work in Missouri, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho and other States, with most encouraging results, all of these States having made progress along these lines; Judge Ben B. Lindsey of the Denver Juvenile court, author of "The Beast and the Jungle;" Prof. L. J. Johnson of Harvard, head of the civil engineering department of that great seat of learning; ex-Congressman Robert Baker, the man who put the political pass out of business; Congressman-elect Henry George, Jr., of New York, whose

recent victory was one of the spectacular incidents of the elections; Jas. R. Carret of Boston, who is at the head of the direct legislation movement in Massachusetts and an oldtime apostle of economic freedom; ex-Senator James W. Bucklin of Colorado, who was sent to New Zealand and Australia by his State to study their tax systems and whose report to the Colorado legislature was one of the strongest documents of its character ever produced in this country; Judge John S. Crosby, Byron W. Holt, Joseph Dana Miller, Benjamin Doblin, Maurice Fels and many others, including Mrs. Robert Baker, Mrs. John S. Crosby and a number of the active single tax women of New York. One of the persons in attendance at some of the sessions and who was much with Fels, Johnson and others among the leaders, was Rudolph Spreckels of San Francisco, the leader of the great regenerative movement which has done so much in that city. Mr. Spreckels is understood to be in close sympathy with the spirit of the single tax propaganda.

Naturally some criticism of the Commission and of its work was heard, and a few of the critics were rather bitter, evidently because they had been more or less under misapprehension concerning the activities carried on with the Fels Fund. Some of these critics thought that money devoted to direct legislation was a diversion of the fund from its true purposes, and others who did not take precisely this view objected to the policy of the Commission on the ground that it was obscuring the single tax by giving great prominence to a purely subsidiary issue. When it developed through the reports of the Commission that only about one-tenth of the money expended had been devoted to direct legislation work, and that the other nine-tenths had gone into single tax propaganda wherever chances seemed to be hopeful, the critics found themselves disarmed, and most of them cheerfully joined in the general approval of the course of the Commission.

It was announced by W. S. U'Ren and Dr. W. G. Eggleston that Oregon was now ready to enter into an open fight for the adoption of the straight single tax. All the measures which have hitherto been struggled for were merely preliminary to the great one that is now to come up on initiative petition for a vote in 1912. There will be a close and hard campaign from this time forth. There will be little noise and the least possible red fire. Mr. U'Ren says he relies "on the printed page." He thinks if the single tax is to be adopted in Oregon it will be done by men who have sat quietly by their firesides and weighed all the arguments for and against and who have reached intelligent convictions. All the forces which he can bring to bear will therefore be devoted to this end. Object lessons of the most convincing nature have already been prepared and these will be supplemented by others as the fight progresses, and both Mr. U'Ren

and his able coadjutor in the work, the versatile Dr. Eggleston, will bend practically all their energies to the educational campaign. The adoption of the tax amendment by a comfortable majority at the November election is taken by them and by others as an indication that Oregon is ripe for the single tax without frills. All that the opposition could say against it has been said in the fight to defeat the amendment just mentioned. In fact the real purpose of this amendment was to draw the fire of Big Business and the success was complete. Big Business simply blew its own head off in its bitter denunciations of a harmless amendment; and now, when the real thing is trotted out by Mr. U'Ren, the steam is all gone.

Before the sessions closed the conference passed a vote of confidence in Chairman Daniel Kiefer and in the members of the Commission. Kiefer has worked like a horse ever since the Fels Fund was started, giving all his time to the duties of the chairmanship and practically abandoning his private business, all of course without reward. Lincoln Steffens, a brilliant magazinist; ex-Senator Fred C. Howe, lawyer, author, publicist; Jackson H. Ralston, the great international lawyer; and George A. Briggs, successful manufacturer, the other members of the Commission, have been almost as self-sacrificing as Chairman Kiefer, letting no other interest interfere with their duties in connection with the fund. They constitute a body of men, according to those who took every possible opportunity at the conference here to applaud and encourage them, which would be hard to match in intellect, in professional business standing or in unselfish devotion to a great purpose. It was noted that Joseph Fels was one of the most enthusiastic of the "boosters" all the way through. He was evidently well satisfied with the way things had been going.

"I don't want my money to count for anything in my favor," said Joseph Fels, when he arose to tell of what is being done abroad under the auspices of similar funds which he has established in Great Britain, France, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Italy and Sweden. "I want to be considered only for what I am personally, for what I am able to do, for my individual qualities. If these do not commend me to you, let nothing else do so. I want to stand among you simply as Joseph Fels and to be estimated precisely as you estimate any other man who is shoulder to shoulder with you in the great struggle for economic freedom." This is the spirit of the man. He is a regular dynamo for energy. His capacity for work is amazing—and he wants every one else to work at the same high pressure; and they've got to work if they stay around him. He will remain on this side until March or April and he has already accepted a large number of invitations to speak before business and other organizations in United States and

Canada during his tour of the country which will extend to the Pacific coast.

BOOKS

A PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA

The Tragedy of Hamlet. By Henry Frank, Boston, Sherman, French & Company. Price, \$1.50.

One may imagine the ghost of Shakespeare reading with amazement the countless analytical studies of his works and figuratively tearing his hair in the vain effort to recall whether he had this or that motive in mind—as affirmed by his critics—when he projected a certain character upon the stage of action.

But Mr. Frank has discerned a psychological reason for the inequalities of Hamlet's character which, perhaps, is new to some of the students of Shakespeare. It offers a very rational explanation of the changing moods of the Prince of Denmark. He is like the victim of a double personality. When he sees or thinks of his uncle, the king, he is overwhelmed with madness. He becomes a lunatic with whom it is vain to argue. Torn between hatred of the murderer of his father, and devotion to his deceived and betrayed mother, he is the mad and melancholy Dane. But under the reign of other thoughts and interests he is the intellectual, witty, charming scholar, delighting his world with flashes of human wisdom that appeal to human sympathy. "The Tragedy of Hamlet" includes a study of Shakespeare; and the book, with its flavor of the author's mental philosophy, is a fine contribution to the Shakesperian literature which constitutes a library in itself. The volume contains twelve photogravure portraits of famous actors, who have given worldwide fame to the character of Hamlet. So variously interpreted, and so profoundly interesting to students of human nature.

A. L. M.

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MATTHEW FOWLDS.

Matthew Fowlds. Centenarian Weaver. 1806-1907. And other Fenwick Worthies. With Brief Histories of the Martyrs and Covenanters of Fenwick, the Secession Church, and the Weavers' Society. Edited by J. Kirkwood Fairlie.

The very title is a cordial invitation to dip into the book. Matthew Fowlds, the father of the present Minister for Education in New Zealand, was a weaver in Fenwick, who lived out a full century in the place of his birth, where he was one of the best known and most highly respected men of the whole country side. There were no sensational events in his long life, but it had a historic setting. A direct descendant of an illustrious Covenanter of Fenwick and a member of the