

LAND VALUES PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FROM NOVEMBER 1ST, 1910, TO JANUARY 31ST, 1911.

The audited accounts of the above Department will be found at foot. The following books and pamphlets have been printed or purchased during the past fifteen months:—

- 2,000 "My Neighbour's Land Mark" (First Edition).
- 5,000 "Moses: The Hebrew Law-giver."
- 5,000 "Thy Kingdom Come."
- 5,000 "The Labour Question."
- 20,000 "Free Trade and Land Values" (Verinder).

In addition to the above, the United Committee have supplied:—

- 50,000 "The Story of My Dictatorship" (First Edition).
- 5,000 "Form IV.: and What Next?"
- 5,000 "Rural Land Question."
- 5,000 "Land Reform."
- 5,000 "A.B.C. of the Land Question."
- 5,000 "Land Valuation Guide."

In consequence of the poor health of Mr. L. H. Berens, who has administered the affairs of this Department since its inception in October, 1906, the assets of this Department and the printing and financial arrangements for future publications will be taken over by the United Committee; the business of distribution, &c., will remain in the capable hands of Mr. William Mann, of the English League, at 376-77, Strand, London, W.C., where all orders should be sent.

LEWIS H. BERENS,
Administrator.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.
November 1st, 1910, to January 31st, 1912.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Nov. 1910, Cash in hand ..	44 17 11	Printing books and pamphlets ..	149 7 10
Literature sales ..	124 16 9	Advertising ..	7 0 0
		Sundries and postage ..	11 6 0
		Cash in hand ..	2 0 10
	<u>£169 14 8</u>		<u>£169 14 8</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.
January 31st, 1912.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sundry creditors ..	20 19 3	Stock of Books and Pamphlets ..	157 9 6
Balance of Assets over Liabilities ..	178 11 1	Sundry Debtors ..	40 0 0
	<u>£199 10 4</u>	Cash in hand ..	2 0 10
			<u>£199 10 4</u>

We have audited the above account and compared it with the books and vouchers of the Fund and find same to be correct.

(Signed) BUTTON, STEVES & WITTY,
Incorporated Accountants.

February 23rd, 1912

BOOK REVIEWS.

TOM L. JOHNSON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

"MY STORY."*

"It is in the nature of truth never to fail." These simple words, with which Tom L. Johnson concludes his story, supplies the keynote of his public career, of his brave, manly, and instructive fight against all the forces established privilege could command. It was his firm, unswerving belief in their truth that enabled him to remain gay and cheerful in the midst of defeat, to inspire others with his own undaunted spirit, and to rally his forces confidently to confront difficulties and opposition which might well have appalled a lesser man. He knew he was fighting from no selfish motives and for no selfish cause, but for right and justice and truth; and he never faltered in his optimistic belief that, whatever the temporary set-backs, ultimately truth and justice must and would prevail; that, to use his own inspiring words, "Agitation for the right, once set in motion, cannot be stopped. Truth can never lose its power. It presses forward, gaining victories, suffering defeats, but losing nothing of momentum, augmenting its strength though

seeming to expend it." For himself, as for so many others inspired by the same social philosophy, it sufficed to have had an opportunity of being a soldier on behalf of truth, and in carrying out to the best of his abilities the work he found to do. And Tom L. Johnson was a soldier of no ordinary metal, a man of no ordinary powers, of no ordinary abilities. Hence, it was soon his proud privilege to find himself the natural leader in the struggle in the special district where his lot was cast.

Like so many thousands of others, Tom L. Johnson owed his intellectual quickening, or rather his moral and spiritual quickening, to the works of Henry George. When he first became acquainted with these teachings, through the instrumentality of "a prosaic railway train conductor," he was simply a specially capable and specially successful business man, engaged in "big-business" in which he was absolutely absorbed, indifferent to politics, and without even the suspicion that there was a social question awaiting solution. Acquaintance with the teachings of Henry George, however, speedily changed all this, brought into play intellectual and spiritual forces hitherto unsuspected, and transformed him into one of the most prominent, most resourceful, most courageous and indomitable leaders in the cause of practical democracy, in the broadest sense of this term, America has ever yet produced. Once understood and accepted, he never swerved from his conviction of their truth, and of their universal applicability. In one of his last speeches, given on his return from England, in the closing days of his well-spent life, referring to the fight in Great Britain, he once more reiterated his political beliefs in the following telling words:—

"Everywhere, all over the world, our cause is moving, so that those of us who twenty-five years ago thought it far off, have now the good fortune of seeing the realisation of our dreams. Privilege has been caught, exposed; and there is but one way of putting it down, and that is by the doctrine of Henry George. Abolish privilege! Give the people who make the wealth of the world an opportunity to enjoy it."

My STORY, however, is rather a frank revelation of his thoughts, a story of his fight against established privilege in his own city, rather than of his own life. Nor is this surprising. For its avowed purpose is to show "how privilege fights in the city, the State and the nation," so as to bring home to others not only its injurious effects, its demoralising influence, its nefarious, unscrupulous actions, but also how it can be exposed, fought and conquered. And yet, as its able editor, Miss Elizabeth Hauser—without whose willing co-operation Tom L. Johnson tells us the book would never have been written at all—so well says—"There is humour and sweetness and poise and power to be found in My STORY, but it is the story of a man who never knew what a momentous figure he was. Not the least of his greatness is his unconsciousness of it."

"The greatest thing our Cleveland movement did," its hero modestly says, "was to make men." One man makes many. And "Our Tom" was a man, a staunch democratic man to the very bottom of his soul; a man well fitted to make men of others, as well as to be their natural leader to worthy deeds. Nay, more than this; even his simple, characteristically modest account of his own life and doings is calculated to make men, better men, of those who study it, to uplift them to a higher realisation of their highest and most sacred duties as men and as citizens of a free, self-governing community. Not only Municipal reformers, Single Taxers and political students generally, but boys and young men specially will welcome My STORY. For the hearts of the young are generously open to the inspiring lessons to be drawn from a brave, unselfish life, ungrudgingly spent in the promotion of humanity's highest aims. Hence it is that those who would help their children to become citizens worthy of a free community, who would fit them to play a brave, manly part on behalf of liberty and justice in the great struggle to-day inevitable in every progressive country in the world, could not do better than place in their hands this record of the career of the man who willingly stepped down from the foremost ranks of privilege to cheer, inspire and lead those fighting on behalf of justice, of true democracy—Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland.

L. H. B.

* My STORY: By Tom L. Johnson, Edited by Elizabeth J. Hanser. B. W. Huebsch, New York, \$2.00 net.