

## DEATH OF TOM L. JOHNSON.

On April 10th, Tom L. Johnson, foremost of the modern paladins of social justice, died in the city of Cleveland, of which city he had been four times mayor. The immediate cause of his death was cirrhosis of the liver, of which he had been sick for a year. On Thursday, April 13th, his remains were laid away in Greenwood, in the shadow of the monument that marks the grave of Henry George. There were perhaps three hundred men and women at the grave, most of them Single Taxers who had known Johnson in life. The pall bearers were William Jennings Bryan, B. M. Bates, B. T. Cable, Lincoln Steffens, A. J. Moxham, Philip A. Brennan, United States Senator Pomerene, August Lewis and Henry George, Jr. A eulogy by Rev. Harris Cooley, of Cleveland, and a remarkably eloquent tribute by Herbert S. Bigelow were delivered at the grave.

Mr. Bigelow said in part: "There is one word we would write above this grave. That word is "VICTORY." His victory was no man's defeat. His was the victory of splendid endowments consecrated to the tireless service of his fellowmen.

"Defeat"—this is a word that was on his lips, never in his heart. However much we craved for him honors that the world could give, we know now that there is no honor, no victory of an hour, that could add to his eternal glory. He knew that every truth is born in a manger; that it is nursed in poverty; that it is unrecognized at first save by the few wise men; that by the mob it may be despised and rejected; nay, even crucified, dead and buried, as the world may think. But he knew also that if it is God's truth it will have its resurrection from the grave and yet be written into the hearts and laws of men. In honor to his memory we must believe—we dare not doubt—that from these two graves a new republic shall arise,—a republic founded upon the truth of Henry George and inspired by the example of Tom Loftin Johnson, his beloved disciple and his friend."

"Progress and Poverty" interrupted the career of a king of finance in the making. Strong, masterful, originally with no more

conscientious scruple than characterizes other captains of industry, this man had entered upon the same career that such men as Morgan, Belmont, Whitney, Ryan had carved out for themselves. But the same call came to him that came to Saul of Tarsus—with the breaking of the spirit of truth through the clouds—"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And nobly Johnson answered that appeal. When he saw the truth in this work of Henry George, which has changed the spirits and characters of more men than any book from the pen of man not avowedly inspired, he came to the apostle of this truth and gave himself to the service of that cause which is the last and greatest in the world-old struggle of man against darkness and error.

In the things he set himself to do he failed—nobly, gloriously failed. The splendor of the struggle for righteousness at its beginning lies not in its successes, but its defeats. Error can count more victories than Truth, and it is the character of the latter that it borrows, in a manner, a special distinction from the slow painful martyrdom of repulse after repulse.

In this we speak not of the overthrow of Johnson's immediate aims, but of what must seem to many the futility of his larger schemes, ending with his fall from power and his decline as a political influence. This is because men will not recognize the persistence of an ideal, and the truth that what such men as Johnson contribute to it is imperishable. This railroad magnate who might have died worth millions did a better thing—he set Cleveland as a city upon a hill that beckons with her lights to the workers for social regeneration. He left a "city with a civic heart," as one who has honored him in verse has said, and this is the important thing, without which commission government, initiative, referendum and recall must count for little.

The world never learns. It sneered at this man when he announced that he would give up the pursuit of wealth to devote his life to the cause of the people. "What is his game?" asked these men, so worldly wise that they do not recognize wisdom when they see it. For Johnson had chosen wisely.

He had taken up the career which held out to him the greatest joy of life—to do something for his fellows, for the Truth made clear to him by Henry George. And now the ironical laugh, the ill-natured sneer is changed (for the world learns at last, though always too late) to a tribute of respect for another fallen chieftain in the war for human rights. J. D. M.

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FOR A JOHNSON MEMORIAL IN CLEVELAND.

A memorial committee has been effected in Cleveland with a temporary organization as follows: Newton D. Baker, chairman; Herman Schmidt, vice-chairman; Chas. W. Stage, secretary; and F. H. Goff, treasurer. The committee plans an increase of its members to be followed by a permanent organization. The form of the memorial will be determined with reference to the amount of money contributed, but the committee state that it will seek to have it symbolize the beliefs to which Johnson devoted his life. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer of the committee, Mr. F. H. Goff, President of the Cleveland Trust Company, Cleveland, Ohio.

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RESOLUTION OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

Following is a part of the resolutions adopted by the Manhattan Single Tax Club and read by President F. C. Leubuscher at the Jefferson Dinner on April 15:

To us, members of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, sharers of some of his well-fought fights and admirers from afar of his municipal successes, in this our hour of bereavement there comes the mournful satisfaction of acclaiming him as one more of the heroes who fought the good fight and kept the faith through toward and untoward times, as one of those "pure-hearted and strong-sighted who, standing on the mountain tops of thought and looking over the shadowy ocean, have beheld the loom of land"—the promised land where Truth and Justice and Freedom, the trinity of inspired humanity, shall hold

undivided and unquestioned dominion.

To his bereaved family and his stricken but faithful followers, we offer that sympathy which can spring only from a common sorrow, and pray that their grief may be solaced by the thought that his death has brought him relief from suffering too grievous to be borne, and that his memory will ever be an inspiration to unnumbered thousands now contending for the cause to which he gave his life.

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THE memory of Tom L. Johnson was honored in Pittsburg with memorial services in the Kenyon Theatre. George W. Guthrie, former mayor of Pittsburg, presided, and M. McNeill read Edmund Vance Cooke's poem, "A Man is Passing."

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THE Women's Single Tax League and the Manhattan Single Tax Club honored the memory of Tom L. Johnson by a meeting on Decoration Day evening at the Hall of the Society of Ethical Culture, this city.

About 300 were present. Hon. Lawson Purdy presided and the speakers were: Hon. John De Witt Warner, who told of his association with Johnson in Congress. Hon. Henry George, Jr., Mrs. E. W. Bemis, Hon. Robt. Baker, Hon. John J. Murphy, Dr. John L. Elliott and Miss Grace Isabel Colbron. Hon. John S. Crosby read with fine effect the poem of Edmund Vance Cooke.

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JOHNSON memorial services were held in Akron, April 30th at the First Universalist Church. Albert Holloway was chairman of the memorial committee, and there were a number of addresses by men prominent in the affairs of the city.

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OVER two and a half million acres of land underlaid with phosphate rock and potash have been withdrawn by the United States government and are held in reserve. These deposits will be very valuable and a constant source of revenue if retained. Portland (Oregon) *Labor Press*.