

# LIFE STORY OF TOM JOHNSON; POOR BOY TO MILLIONAIRE

**T**HE career of Tom Johnson is a story of how a poor boy became a millionaire, his life work being characterized by pluck and pathos. As a boy he learned what hardship and poverty were. Then by rapid rise he became a millionaire, only to sacrifice his fortune in trying to straighten out the financial affairs of his dead brother, who had left a widow and four children.

Tom Loftin Johnson was born in Scott county, Ky., on July 18, 1854. The names "Tom" and "Loftin" he selected for himself. In his early childhood his parents agreed that he was a boy out of common lines and that he could decide for himself better than they could decide for him.

Tom Johnson went into the world without the advantage of a high school or college education. First he was a newsboy and as such learned the value of a nickel and what it meant to earn one. His first employment was in a rolling mill, and from the furnace mouth he went into a railroad office.

## Starts Fortune in Indianapolis.

At eighteen he went to Indianapolis, where he lay the foundation of a fortune. Street railway manipulation attracted him, and, with the aid of some wealth brought to him through marriage to the daughter of a prominent man, he acquired control of the street railways of Indianapolis.

In 1875, seeking new fields to conquer, he moved to Cleveland and bought a small street railway line and in a comparatively short time by his extraordinary energy and ability he had effected a consolidation of all the street railroads in that city. Equitable treatment of his employees and the public spirit he displayed attracted attention to Johnson, and he became one of Cleveland's most popular citizens.

Johnson was a free trader and Single Taxer, and Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" was his Bible. In 1888 he made his debut in politics and narrowly missed election to congress in a strong Republican district. In 1890 and again in 1892 he was elected, but was defeated in 1894. His election as mayor of Cleveland for four terms was only a natural sequence. A large man, although not tall and weighing considerably over 200 pounds, his face full of genial humor, he was affable and courteous to all. His manner was democratic to the furthest extreme. With a fortune estimated at upward of \$5,000,000, he delighted to mingle with laboring men and discuss the theories of single tax, populism and socialism and the conditions affecting the workingman.

It was in 1908 that Johnson announced that his fortune had been wiped out by his efforts to save the estate of his dead brother. Al. He gave up his magnificent residence and his automobiles and cheerfully declared his intention to begin life anew. He was, however, stricken with a mortal disease before he could recoup his wealth.

## His Friendship For Henry George.

When Tom Johnson first read Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" he was astounded at its arguments, yet fearful of accepting them. Turning the book over to his lawyer, he demanded an unbiased opinion on it. The lawyer reported favorably, Johnson was converted and from that day became the stoutest ally of Henry George and his single tax theories. He always was a free trader of the most uncompromising type.

He sought a personal acquaintance

with Mr. George, bought a summer residence near the latter's home in Brooklyn and a close friendship between the two existed until Mr. George's death. Johnson gave much money and made many speeches for the furtherance of the single tax theory.

How Johnson got "Progress and Poverty" incorporated into the Congressional Record was one of the cleverest coups ever turned by a politician. By arrangement with several other congressmen favorable to single tax he had whole chapters of the book incorporated in speeches, and by virtue of congressmen's postal franks hundreds of thousands of these copies were mailed to voters throughout the country.

## Some Incidents in Johnson's Life.

At the age of fourteen Tom Johnson became an office boy at \$2 a week in the foundry of T. C. Coleman at Louisville, Ky. He swept the office, ran errands and picked up scraps that were in other people's way. B. du Pont of the family of powder makers was part owner of the foundry. One day he saw the lad rush out of the office into the street, pick up a bit of iron and return with it to the foundry scrap heap.

"Why did you do that?" inquired Du Pont.

"Why, sir," replied the boy, "there was no use wasting it. They can put it in the furnace and use it over again."

Du Pont thereupon gave Johnson a place with him in the street car business at \$7 a week.

In those days each passenger dropped his fare into a box on the street car, and at certain points the money was taken from the box by employees, called drawers. One of the rules of the company required the drawer to deposit each sack of money in the office safe and close the door of the safe. No one but the drawers had access to the room, and they carelessly got into the habit of dropping their sacks upon the floor of the room until evening, when all were put into the safe at once.

One day the chief drawer was sick, and Johnson was sent to take his place. He read the rules carefully, and after drawing the money from his first car he bounded upstairs, put the sack in the safe and slammed the door.

"What are you doing that for?" demanded the bookkeeper.

"Because the rules say so," said Tom over his shoulder as he rushed out to catch another car.

After this had happened a dozen times the bookkeeper began a row, declaring that Johnson's action was a reflection on the office man's honesty. Mr. Du Pont happened to drop in in the midst of the dispute, when Johnson explained that he was merely obeying the rules. He was made chief drawer on the spot, and at the age of seventeen became superintendent of the road.

An incident occurred while Johnson was a member of congress in 1891 which showed that, while as a business man he would take advantage of the favoritism of his government, as a citizen and politician he would fight privileges as economically unjust. Johnson at the time was owner of a steel mill. He started his colleagues by moving that the duty on steel rails be removed. Mr. Dalzell, the Republican leader, interrupted to ask if Johnson as a producer were not a beneficiary of the duty on steel rails. Johnson replied that as a member of congress he represented not his mills, but his constituents.

## CHICKEN FARM IN PRISON.

Ex-Millionaire In Charge Will Utilize Training When He Gets Out.

The Illinois state penitentiary is going into the chicken industry, and Peter Van Vliessingen, the convict real estate broker of Chicago, has been made care tender of two incubators just installed.

Having in view the new penitentiary, with its thousands of acres of farm land, the prison officials decided to prepare for it by beginning a chicken department with which to feed prisoners. By next fall Warden Murphy expects to have 1,000 chickens on his hands. A brooder house with a capacity of 3,000 is being built.

The incubators have been placed in the "solitary," which is near Van Vliessingen's room.

"I expect to be out of this prison in about another year, and I intend to go into the chicken business. This will be excellent education for me," he said.

Before his exposure as a forger Van Vliessingen was one of the most prominent men in Chicago and considered to be a millionaire.

## Philanthropist a Thief.

Anthony Gahl, confessed thief, who posed as a philanthropist by day and robbed his neighbors by night, pleaded guilty to two charges of house-breaking and one of petit larceny in the Cincinnati police court and got sentences that will keep him in the workhouse for four years. Gahl had been identified by a picture in the rogues' gallery as a former prisoner in the Kentucky penitentiary.

## FRENCH PEACE ADVOCATE WILL TOUR AMERICA.

Was a Delegate to Both The Hague Congresses and a French Senator.

Baron Paul d'Estournelles de Constant, the noted French peace advocate, recently arrived in New York to make a tour of the chief cities of the country. Baron d'Estournelles, who has been a member of two peace conferences at The Hague and is making the achievement of universal peace his life work, estimates that he will travel about 20,000 miles on his tour, which will last until early in June.

In regard to the object of his visit and what he hopes to accomplish while here the baron made the following statement:

"I want to renew and increase the sources of my confidence in the future. I bring and I will find in America new arguments, new ammunition, to continue our fight against ignorance. What commerce wants everywhere is peace; what agriculture wants everywhere is peace; what industry, science, education, moral and material progress want everywhere is peace. And yet peace is organized nowhere.

"War belongs to the past. Peace is the policy of tomorrow, policy of labor, policy of science; peace is our duty in the coming generation. I bring the greeting of European children to the American children. Let us organize for them peace and justice.

"Leaving upon the experience of my diplomatic career and the results of attending two conferences at The Hague, I will try to tell the American people on my tour what has been accomplished toward the achievement of universal peace during the last few years. I will endeavor to show by citing the opinions of the greatest thinkers and historians that with the exception of wars of independence wars have been needless in the past and will continue to be more and more needless."

Baron d'Estournelles has served in diplomatic posts for many years and represented his country at the court of St. James, in Tunis and Constantinople. He has represented the department of the Sarthe in the French senate and last year was the recipient of the Nobel peace prize. He has been here twice before, the last time in 1907.

Baron d'Estournelles lectures in New York, Washington, Baltimore, Athens, Ga.; New Orleans, Austin, Tex.; Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver, Lincoln, Neb.; Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, Urbana, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Worcester, Boston, New Haven, Buffalo and several times in Canada.

Good actions ennoble us, and we are the sons of our own deeds.—Cervantes.

## CRISP SUCCEEDS ASHER HINDS

Son of Former Speaker to Be Clark's Parliamentary Aid.

The Democrats have been a good deal worried at the prospects of parliamentary battles on the floor of the house, in which the Republicans, besides having the former speaker, Mr. Cannon, as their champion, would have as one of the members of the rules committee Asher B. Hinds, for years parliamentary clerk of the Republican house and generally considered one of the best parliamentarians in the world.

The announcement that Champ Clark has appointed Judge Charles R. Crisp of Mericris, Ga., to take the place left vacant by Mr. Hinds' election to the house has encouraged the Democrats to hope for something like an even fight. The place is one which calls for absolute mastery of the intricacies of parliamentary law and precedents.

Judge Crisp is well equipped for the place. He grew up in the atmosphere of the house of representatives, of which his father, Charles F. Crisp, was a member for thirteen years. When his father was chosen as speaker of the house of the Fifty-second congress in December, 1891, young Crisp became what is known as "clerk at the speaker's table" and continued in this capacity during the Fifty-third congress, to the speakership of which his father was re-elected.

When his father died in October, 1896, Charles R. Crisp, although only twenty-six years of age at the time, was elected without opposition to succeed him as representative of the Third congressional district of Georgia. He made a favorable impression on his associates.

Returning home at the expiration of his term of office, he resumed the practice of law and was afterward elevated to the bench in his native state. Judge Crisp is now forty-one years old.

## A Word For the Mustache.

Dr. J. Kruger, a well known physician of Vienna, affirms that the mustache has a distinct value for the health. He believes that its utility lies in protecting the nose against the invasion of dust and bacteria. Recording 500 cases of severe headache and throat and nose trouble among his men patients, he found that 420 of them had their upper lip clean shaven. One has only to consider the function of the eyelashes in protecting the eye from dust and small particles to see that there is nothing unreasonable about the doctor's conclusion.

## Unearthed a Palace.

Mr. J. Garstang has recommended excavations at the buried city of Meropoe, on the Nile. He has discovered a palace, a bathroom in perfect preservation, the walls of an acropolis, quays and a harbor. A bronze head with inlaid eyes, larger than life—an excellent piece of Greek art—was also unearthed.—London Times.

## NEW WAY TO BURY THE DEAD

Milwaukee Socialists Will Place Them in Vacuum Vaults.

A great mausoleum large enough to hold 1,000 bodies, which are to be sealed in vacuum vaults and preserved by a new method, is planned for Milwaukee by the Socialist administration, which proposes to establish municipal burial crypts.

"There are many who do not believe in cremation. Our method is a step between it and ordinary burial, and it is just as sanitary," said W. S. Halliday, secretary of the Wisconsin Mausoleum company, which has been organized by the Socialist promoters to erect the new building. "Our method relieves burial of its abhorrent features."

The building, 200 by 24 feet, will stand in the center of about five acres of park. Private family compartments, with names over the entries and of architecture to suit the purchaser, may be secured, as well as individual crypts.

## The Name of Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro owes her name to the accident of a date and the mistake of her discovery. When Alphonso de Souza, the Portuguese navigator, found himself in the spacious bay he imagined he had found the mouth of a noble river, and because the day happened to be the 1st of January, 1531, he named the supposed river after the first month of the year. The name was not applied to the city that grew up on the slopes of the hills till many years afterward, but San Sebastian, the original name, is now almost forgotten. Rio as a city purchases the beauty of her site at the cost of health, for the giant ridges that form the beautiful background to the town shut out the breezes that might blow tropical nuisances harmlessly to sea.—London Spectator.

## Conceded.

"There are a lot of girls who don't ever intend to get married."

"How do you know?"

"I've proposed to several."—Cleveland Leader.

## SPENCER

The Jeweler

would like to see you if you are in the market for

JEWELRY, SILVERWARE, WATCHES, CLOCKS, DIAMONDS, AND NOVELTIES

"Guaranteed articles only sold."

Take the Citizen this spring.

## PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

### Attorneys-at-Law.

**H. WILSON**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office adjacent to Post Office in Dimmick office, Honesdale, Pa.

**W. M. H. LEE**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office over post office. All legal business promptly attended to. Honesdale, Pa.

**E. C. MUMFORD**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office—Liberty Hall building, opposite the Post Office, Honesdale, Pa.

**HOMER GREENE**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office over Reif's store, Honesdale, Pa.

**CHARLES A. McCARTY**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Special and prompt attention given to the collection of claims. Office over Reif's new store, Honesdale, Pa.

**F. P. KIMBLE**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office over the post office Honesdale, Pa.

**M. E. SIMONS**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office in the Court House, Honesdale, Pa.

**PETER H. ILOFF**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office—Second floor old Savings Bank building, Honesdale, Pa.

**SEARLE & SALMON**, ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS-AT-LAW. Offices lately occupied by Judge Searle.

**CHESTER A. GARRATT**, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW. Office adjacent to Post Office, Honesdale, Pa.

### Dentists.

**D. R. E. T. BROWN**, DENTIST. Office—First floor, old Savings Bank building, Honesdale, Pa.

**D. R. C. R. BRADY**, DENTIST, HONESDALE, PA. OFFICE HOURS—8 a. m. to 6 p. m. Any evening by appointment. Citizens' phone, 33. Residence, No. 89-X.

### Physicians.

**P. B. PETERSON, M. D.**, 1126 MAIN STREET, HONESDALE, PA. Eye and Ear a specialty. The fitting of glasses given careful attention.

### Livery.

**LIVERY.**—Fred. G. Rickard has removed his livery establishment from corner Church street to Whitney's Stone Barn.

ALL CALLS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. FIRST CLASS OUTFITS. 75y1

### ERIE TRAINS.

Trains leave Union depot at 8.26 a. m. and 2.48 p. m., week days. Trains arrive Union depot at 1.80 and 8.05 p. m. week days. Saturday only. Erie and Wyoming arrives at 3.45 p. m. and leaves at 5.50 p. m. Sunday trains leave 2.48 and arrive at 7.02.

We wish to secure a good correspondent in every town in Wayne county. Don't be afraid to write this office for paper and stamped envelopes.

Take this paper—don't borrow.



## KICK THE EDITOR!!!

- Have you a kick coming?
- Is there anything that displeases you?
- Are you unhappy and need cheering up?
- Has any little thing gone wrong?
- Tell us your troubles. Let us help you?

For each of the three best kicks each week, The Citizen will give a brand new crisp one dollar bill. Don't kick too long. 50 words to a kick. No limit, however, to the number of your kicks. You don't have to be a subscriber to be a kicker.

Open to everyone alike, men, women and children, subscribers and non-subscribers. Old and young, rich and poor. Remember, two cents a word for the three best kicks.

## There must be something you don't like.

Kick about it. What good is an editor anyway except to fix up the kicks of his readers?

Relieve your mind and get a prize!

**KICK! KICK! KICK!**

A few suggested subjects at which to kick! The weather, of course. Tight fitting shoes. The high cost of living. The hobble skirt and the Harem trousers. High hats on week days. Suffragism, etc., etc., etc. The funnier the better.

Several people have asked us if the fifty-word letters containing kicks have to be signed. How else will we know to whom to award the prizes? Whether in the event of the letter winning a prize and being published, the name of the kicker would appear is another question. Undoubtedly the writer's wishes would be followed on that score. Our idea of the "Kick Contest" includes everything except direct and offensive personalities. Sit right down now and dash off fifty words about anything you don't like and want to register a kick against. It won't take you five minutes and you may win a prize. The more original the subject the better chance for a prize. One dollar for less than five minutes work is pretty good pay. Of course you can make your kick as short as you wish. A clever fifteen-word kick may win a prize over a full-length fifty-word one. The shorter the better.

For the best kick of ten words or less The Citizen will pay an additional prize of one dollar. Now then, lace up your shoes and let drive!

## WINDOW GLASS

# AA

QUALITY

FREE FROM WAVES AND BUBBLES.

The largest assortment of sizes, single and double thickness, at

**JADWIN'S DRUG STORE.**

## \$49.50

VIA ERIE RAILROAD

TO

CALIFORNIA, WASHINGTON, BRITISH COLUMBIA, OREGON

and

Points in West, Northwest and Southwest TICKETS ON SALE DAILY.

MARCH 10 to APRIL 10, 1911. Nearest Erie Ticket Agent Will Give Complete Information.