

LORD SNOWDEN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In addition to an account of the passing of the Land Value Tax Budget of 1931 and its subsequent repeal, Lord Snowden's *Autobiography* (Ivor Nicholson & Watson, two volumes, 21s. each) contains other reminiscences which will be of special interest to our readers. One is of the help given to him by Joseph Fels in his first Parliamentary contest. Another is of how he heard Henry George speaking in Aberdeen. Of this meeting he says :—

“ This was a crowded meeting in the old Music Hall. Just before then *Progress and Poverty* had been published, a book which had made a tremendous impression in the United States and Great Britain. Henry George was having something of a triumphal tour through Scotland. The Scottish Radicals had been captured by the theories he had advanced in *Progress and Poverty*. No book ever written on the social problem made so many converts. Economic facts and theories had never been presented in such an attractive way. Although Mr Henry George was not a Socialist, his book led many of his readers to Socialism. Keir Hardie told me that it was *Progress and Poverty* which gave him his first ideas of Socialism. Henry George, he felt, had claimed too much for the results of the appropriation of the economic rent of land, and had not appreciated the importance of capitalistic exploitation.

“ Henry George had a very impressive platform style. In appearance he was of middle height, well built, had a full brown beard, and would have passed for a Nonconformist minister. His style of speaking was conversational, rather than oratorical. His address on this occasion was devoted mainly to dealing with a pamphlet he had discovered written about the beginning of the nineteenth century by a Professor of the Humanities in Aberdeen University. In this pamphlet the theories expounded and elaborated in *Progress and Poverty* had been put forward, and Henry George paid a compliment to the city of Aberdeen for having so long ago produced a pioneer of land reform.”