

OUR SUSTENTION FUND

The Case Plainly Stated

The subscriber who by his sympathetic action a year ago enabled us to receive ten contributions of £10 each has once again thought well of his former plan to better the *Land & Liberty* Sustention Fund. He writes, 4th March: "How is the Fund? I am prepared to repeat my challenge of last year to subscribe £10 if nine others will each give a like amount. Perhaps the same nine valiants will again respond." As we remarked last year, our good friend has taken his own way of helping the Fund, and judging by the encomiums that come to the Journal we are convinced he is not taking the lead in any forlorn hope.

Compliments come to the office almost daily emphasizing how highly *Land & Liberty* is held in the esteem of its readers. That is all to the good, but is not enough. The Sustention Fund is the life of the paper and has been since it was first started. As we have said before, such a Journal as ours is not financially a paying proposition, however it may pay as an advocate of the cause.

But we must answer our friend's question, "How is the Fund?" In a word, it is badly in need of "valiants" like himself. We gladly acknowledge the support the Fund received last year and hope for the best in 1927.

We shall welcome a ready response to this £10 challenge; but let no one hesitate to give smaller sums. The fund is maintained by subscribers who contribute as they can afford in shillings and pounds.

A subscriber in another part of the country, in sending his contribution, says: "It is not fair that you should have such financial anxieties. It is a shame that an office such as yours should be held up when there is so much money to spare for other things. I wish with all my heart you will soon be able to send me better news." We shall be only too pleased to give a more reassuring report to all who appreciate the status of the Journal and who cordially desire to see it sustained and its influence more widely recognized.

The service rendered last year is on record. The immediate cause of our embarrassment is the loss by death of several earnest subscribers who made the Journal their first consideration. They pledged us to make the most of their attachment to it, but unhappily, none made provision in his Will for the continuation of the work, when he was no longer with us.

It needs time and patience to find others able and willing to take the place of those who have passed on; but if each subscriber with means will send something now, or even promise something for the current year, it will ease the situation and be counted to one and all for so much understanding and good will.

Land & Liberty was recognized at Copenhagen last year as the Journal of the International Union for

Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. The compliment, which we received with so much assurance has brought our limited staff much additional and special Overseas correspondence. The Union is well placed, but at this stage it can only function if and as the Journal is upheld. The Journal of itself is a big enough undertaking and few there be who seem to realize the extent of its operations; or the far-reaching scope of its related duties and responsibilities.

A visitor from the Continent remarked after a few days' experience of Tothill Street, that not many of our people abroad could know what fine work we had in hand, or we would not be placed at so much disadvantage for the want of funds. He was not the first to learn of our numerous and exacting duties. The work of itself is nothing; it is the difficulty of finding the necessary support for it that constitutes the real distraction.

There is a diverting idea abroad that because of its capacity to cope with the opportunities afforded by events as they come to hand *Land & Liberty* has behind it solid financial backing. We quite follow the thought as we stop to dwell for a moment on the "output" of the well-established offices of kindred organizations. In other days it was true to say that we had, in measure, some strong financial support. It is not true to-day. We have still some reliable friends, but they do long for others to join them in their steadfast allegiance.

The need is urgent for adequate financial strength, for capital that does not look for a return of five per cent, more or less. All we can offer the investor is a return that can only be measured by the steady growth of public opinion for the ideas the Journal seeks to advance in the public mind.

In the final analysis it is the things of the spirit *Land & Liberty* is in existence to promote. In Henry George's words: "It is for those who see the Truth and would follow her; for those who recognize Justice and would stand for her. . . . Truth and Justice have something to give that is their own by proper right—theirs in essence and not by accident."

We are counselled to speak out loud and say what exact sum is required to meet immediate needs. The answer is, at least, £1,000. If this sum can be obtained, apart from ordinary reliable income, the office will be relieved of a strain which, we are advised, it should not be called upon to undergo, and energies will be set free that are wanted for work of pressing importance.

Another correspondent at a distance writes: "No one appreciates more than I what you are doing for the cause; we must face up to this *impasse* at once." This is what we are about, to the best of our ability. The final word is with those who can and who will resolve to better the condition of our financial resources at this time.

It will be well for *Land & Liberty* if those who subscribed to the Sustention Fund last year will make the same response in 1927. J. P.