

Not for such as he the comforts and luxuries of existence. He trod the rough way of all great solitary reformers, but he had the love of many, certainly of all those who knew him best. And that is enough.

Death of Dr. Louis H. Davis

THE passing of Louis H. Davis, of St. Louis, Mo. is a great loss to the cause. Long a friend and contributor to LAND AND FREEDOM, he was active in all Single Tax work. Harlan Eugene Read and Charles Lischer spoke at the services. Dr. Davis was 67 years old.

The Single Tax League of Missouri passed the following resolutions:

"The League which stands for the right of all to the use of the Earth by taking the land values that all make for the benefit of all, thereby abolishing the primary cause of unemployment and poverty, has sustained a great loss in the death of our

DR. LOUIS H. DAVIS

We regret his leaving us. As Henry George said: "Strong soul and high endeavor the World needs them now." He kept the faith, gave himself and his means to the cause that will restore to man his birthright in the Earth.

"Ideals are like stars, We cannot touch them with our hands, but, like the Seafaring man upon the waste of the waters can choose them for our guide, and having choosen and following them they will lead us to our destiny."—CARL SCHURZ.

With this slight testimonial we wish to extend to his family our sincere sympathy in the loss of so worthy a husband and father."

Reviews of Louis Post's Prophet of San Francisco

AMONG the reviews of Louis Post's book recently published by the Vanguard Press of this city, is one by Alice Stone Blackwell in *Unity* edited by Rev. John Haynes Holmes. The reviewer says:

There is such a wealth of material in this book that it is hard even to outline its contents. The author tells of Henry George from many sides—his family-life, his spiritual vision, his chief works, his views on many subjects, including the future of his cause, which the author says is steadily though quietly gaining converts. There is a list of the men who advocate like ideas, before and since, and answers to the principal objections; a description of Henry George's chief works; and an account of the *Standard* and of the *Public*, which Mr. Post edited so ably for many years. It would be interesting to quote the explanation of the kind of Socialism that Henry George believed in and the kind he did not; his reasons for thinking permanent organization for the promotion of a political reform to be generally unwise; his argument for the immortality of human beings and of animals; and his opinions on many other subjects, including the right re-

lations between husband and wife. Henry George married at twenty-two a girl of eighteen, who was all his life, he declared, his best adviser. The present volume has been brought out under the intelligent and affectionate supervision of Alice Thatcher Post, who was so sympathetically associated with her husband for years in Single Tax work and in the editorship of the *Public*. The book is a treasury of interesting and inspiring material.

A review from Prof. Paul H. Douglass appears in the *New Republic* of the issue of December 10. Mr. Douglass deprecates what he calls "the monotonous monomania" of Single Taxers, and he says "we have been largely a nation of real estate speculators and have, therefore, been reluctant to admit that increased rent which we expected to make us rich should be taken by the community." He adds however:

But neither intellectual fastidiousness nor economic interest should blind us to the robust central truth that the economic rent of bare land is a social product and should normally furnish a larger part than it now does of the revenues of society. It has been the supreme merit of Henry George that he pointed this out with extraordinary and genuine eloquence, even if not always with impeccable logic. Ricardo had, to be sure, laid the basis for such a social theory when he worked out the nature of rent by showing that it was the difference between the costs of cultivation on the better grades of land and those on the poorest pieces which were utilized. As population increases, the pressure upon the soil becomes greater; poorer and poorer lands would be resorted to and with the increase in the differential, rents and, therefore, the value of land would inevitably rise. It would have been only a logical extension of Ricardo's analysis to have concluded then and there that since rent was not a social cost of production and was, instead, a socially created surplus, the community should mark it as its very own. But this ethical application was not made by Ricardo or by any of his followers with the exception of John Stuart Mill.

We can afford to overlook the charge of "failing in impeccable logic" which the Professor brings against Henry George. It was but natural that George should have fallen into many errors." These the reviewer with commendable caution fails to indicate. It is a memory of many now living that certain very eminent gentlemen came to grief in trying to point out these "errors" and lapses of logic in Henry George's contentions. But Prof. Douglass is very fair in this review, and makes admissions enough to justify the taking, if not the whole, then a good part of this "socially created surplus," i. e., economic rent.

In a review of Mr. Post's book in the *New Church Messenger* signed by B. A. Whittemore we find the following clear cut statement.:

The value of land in general being due to location on the one hand and to demand for occupancy on the other (an acre in the heart of the Sahara Desert, for instance, being worth nothing, but in the heart of Manhattan being worth a fortune—a value created not by any individual but solely by the entire community), the programme is, to take for community uses by taxation the rent that title ownership now enables the owner to exact from the user