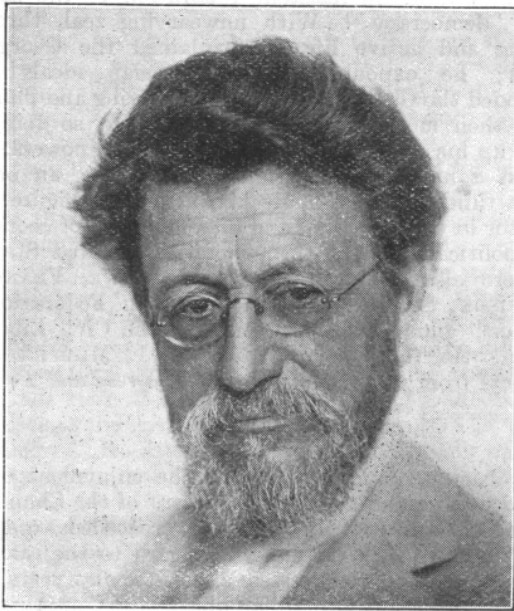


## LOUIS F. POST

### Memorial Meeting in New York



In honour of the late Louis Freeland Post, a Memorial Meeting was held on 10th April in the Community Church, Park Avenue and 34th Street, New York City, under the auspices of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, with its President, the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy as Chairman. An assemblage of 500 people attended.

We are indebted to *Land and Freedom* (May-June), New York, for its report of the proceedings and print brief extracts of the addresses delivered. We use the occasion to present our readers with the most recent portrait of the man to whose life and work we are glad to pay this further tribute.

Louis F. Post passed away on 10th January last in his seventy-ninth year.

CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY in opening the Memorial Meeting on 10th April, explained briefly the origin and purpose of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation which has been created through a generous bequest in the will of the late Robert Schalkenbach to promote a wider acquaintance with the social and economic philosophy of Henry George. "Because Louis F. Post was one of the first of the citizens named by Mr Schalkenbach to administer this trust," said Mr Hennessy, "and because, since Henry George's death thirty years ago, Mr Post had been leading expositor of Mr George's ideas, it seemed to us proper and fitting that we should summon followers of Henry George and of Louis F. Post to join in a tribute of affection and regard to their memories and to the principles to which their lives were dedicated. It is hard to think of the name of Louis F. Post without thinking of Henry George. There are a number of men here to-night, and your chairman is very proud to believe he is one of them, who enjoyed the great privilege and honour of the friendship and confidence of Henry George, but it will not be questioned by anyone that Mr Post enjoyed that friendship and confidence more intimately and completely during the historic events of their lives in this city than, perhaps, any other man."

DR JOHN HAYNES HOLMES: "Mr Post taught me that democracy is betrayed when government is used to bestow special favours and privileges upon the rich and powerful who do not need them, and secondly, that the ideal of democracy is betrayed when government

is used for the oppression of the great unprotected masses of the people. Mr Post could recognize no classes in democracy. There could be no rich for the government to serve and no poor and helpless for the government to oppress."

FREDERIC C. LEUBUSCHER: "In 1886 the newspapers were full of the candidacy of Henry George for the mayoralty of New York City. This emboldened me to go to his campaign headquarters in the old Colonnade Hotel, since razed. At last I was to meet the man pictured by my youthful enthusiasm as the greatest philosopher of all times. I might add that now, when my hair is white, I have not revised my early judgment. As I opened the door, I was greeted by a young, short, rather squatty man, whose Jovian head was covered by a mass of bushy hair. Thus I first met Louis F. Post. After introducing me to the candidate, who spoke to me as though I were an equal, while I felt like an urchin in the presence of the awe-inspiring teacher, Post took me aside to learn what I could do to aid the campaign. Discovering I had some knowledge of stenography, which was unusual in those days, he set me to work reporting Henry George's speeches. After this most sensational campaign was over, Post suggested that he and I write a history of it. In the published book 'An Account of the George-Hewitt Campaign of 1886,' he kindly coupled my name with his as co-author, although my contribution to the work was largely that of amanuensis. This was also typical—never himself seeking the limelight, but always dragging a friend into it."

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE: "This man was one of the best beloved friends of my father, and those of us, all of us, who have known him, know why that was, why he should have chosen this man of such tremendous mentality, of such wonderful judgment, of such tolerance. That clean mind of his that went along with a deep, mellow wisdom. He might have been anything he chose to be as far as power in the world went, because he had this great legal mind and a most gifted pen. But these two gifts he did not dedicate to financial gain. He might have served great powers and might have been a rich man, but he died a poor man because he dedicated himself to the cause of humanity. He put aside all dreams of personal ambition that he might follow the truth as he saw the truth. His life was one long unswerving service to this truth, and unselfishly he endeavoured to bring economic justice and spiritual understanding."

LAWSON PURDY: "Louis Post helped me immensely to see that truth and to bring me to the reading of *Progress and Poverty* in the right spirit. Then a few years later, 1896 it was, I wanted to have a Bill drawn to amend the charter to provide for a separate column for land valuation and the publication of the assessment roll. That idea of publication, I believe, came from Ben Doblin, bless his heart, and so I asked Louis Post to draw a Bill for me and he did, and that Bill, after various revisions and struggles and changes, became a law in 1903 and it has helped a little around the country to further what Henry George had at heart. Out of that came the land value maps of Copenhagen. May they do good for Copenhagen and spread the practical message of Henry George. That is all they are. For we need the mechanism along with the vision. It is only the vision, however, that will keep men preaching the gospel, and always Post had the vision while he was ever ready to talk the detail and expound the practical application of the vision that came to him from Henry George."

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON: "On the occasion of a Memorial Meeting held at the Park Street Church in

Boston, 16th October, 1909, shortly after my father's death, Mr Post was one of the notable speakers and in his analysis and evaluation of the qualities of his fellow disciple one finds the key and clue to the characteristic qualities of the speaker himself. Referring to his friend and co-worker, Mr Post said: 'The Single Tax cause came first with him because its democracy includes and vitalizes the democracy of all the others—with its basic principle of equality of right to the use of the earth; with its correlative principle of universal free trade; with its economic result of private earnings for private wealth, and social earnings for social wealth—with these characteristic elements, the Single Tax cause stands for democracy in its most fundamental, in its most comprehensive, in its most effective form. . . . Definite in his ideals, confident of their actuality, loyal to their demands, our beloved friend has faithfully travelled the straight and narrow path, which, to his view, led on toward their practical realization.'

## THE BUDGET DEBATES AND THE RATING SCHEME

### Some Press Comments

The Opposition parties argue that part at least of the cost should be put upon land values. The reasons for this preference are many. In the first place the taxation of land values has long been demanded as an urgent measure of reform in our system of local rating. It would, therefore, fit in admirably in any scheme which is intended to relieve the burden of the rates. Mr Churchill's idea is to shift the burden from one person to another, not to touch the system itself. If the whole basis on which the rates are assessed is wrong, the wrong is not righted by transferring them to a broader back—always supposing that Mr Churchill succeeds in finding that broader back. There is also the point that those whom Mr Churchill's scheme would at first benefit would in the course of time tend to lose that benefit. This is especially the case in the country, where tenant farmers would very soon find that the landowner was seeking to obtain in higher rents the relief which was intended for "productive industry." But the same process would be at work, though more slowly, in manufacturing industry. If you are really going to relieve productive enterprise the only alternative is to tax the dead hand of ownership. And of all forms of ownership that of land is the easiest to tax.—*Manchester Guardian*, 6th June.

The thing that took the firmest grip on its attention and gave life and reality to the debate was not the Budget proposals in general nor the industrial and agricultural rating relief scheme, but the Labour Party's constructive alternative, the rating of site values. It was a deliberate choice on Mr Snowden's part to devote his speech almost wholly to the one topic.

"I only wish Henry George was in this House," said Mr MacLaren. He showed that Mr Churchill had misunderstood that economist, and why the rating problem could not be solved without some application of Henry George's teaching on land values.—From a two-column report "Tax Site Values," by the Parliamentary Correspondent of the *Daily Herald*, 6th June.

Mr Snowden was unusually brief and pregnant. Relief of rates by the State must sooner or later, he argued, pass into the rent and add to the income of the ground landlords. There could be no relief to the occupier so long as one allowed land values to be appropriated by private owners. The question must always

"How accurate a summation of the philosophy and faith of the Editor of *The Public!* How characteristic in its lucidity, its vigour, its discriminating intelligence—and even in its insistent reiteration of the sacred word 'democracy'! With unwearying zeal, through a long and active life, he explained the Georgian ideals; he expounded the Georgian ideals; he expanded the Georgian ideals; amplifying and illuminating their meaning and significance. By so doing he built up his own philosophy and his own powers, and earned a merited reputation as an editor, an orator and a thinker, which made him a national figure, and a factor in the moulding and dissemination of economic and political thought throughout the United States."

There also spoke FREDERIC C. HOWE, FRANK I. MORRISON, Secretary of the American Federation of Labour; and NORMAN THOMAS, of the Civil Liberties Union. At the conclusion, JOHN J. MURPHY read extracts from the last chapter of *Progress and Poverty*.

come back to land values. To the enjoyment of Mr Lloyd George and the embarrassment of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Snowden proceeded to quote Mr Churchill's Liberal views in regard to the taxation of land values as expressed about twenty years ago, the characteristic Churchillian jibes at the Conservatives, among whom the Chancellor now sits, being particularly enjoyed by the House.—*Manchester Guardian* Parliamentary Correspondent, 6th June.

Gradually it appeared that whatever merits the scheme might possess simplicity was not one of them. . . . Mr Chamberlain made it only too clear that the difficulties before him are stupendous. That they are also unnecessary will hardly console him. . . . And that is simply because of the inept way in which Mr Churchill chooses to turn the rating system of the country inside out, not in order to reassemble the parts on any better plan, but in order to introduce economically unsound and meaningless distinctions between productive and unproductive industry. It is the making of these arbitrary discriminations that will not only take the time but will for ever afterwards lead to the gravest injustices between different persons who are all equally engaged upon useful work.—*Manchester Guardian*, 9th June.

Another serious objection to the Government plan is that . . . it makes no attempt to hinder industries which are rolling in wealth from participating in the taxpayers' bounty. Surely this is a palpable defect . . . If, in practice, their scheme is to have the effect of handing large sums of public money to concerns which are booming lustily, it is hardly too much to say that it is fundamentally misconceived. . . . There was a time, not long ago, when this sort of thing would have enraged Mr Churchill. None so eloquent as he, in his Liberal days, in denouncing what he once called "the open hand in the public purse." The bare notion of subsidizing rich manufactories, breweries, and other prosperous undertakings at the expense of the taxpayer would have moved him to scornful denunciation. Times change, and politicians with them, but principles remain intact.—*Truth*, 13th June.

Mr MacLaren, a fanatic on the subject, made an impassioned plea for the taxation of site values, which impressed the House by reason of its enthusiasm and sincerity.—"The Week in Parliament" in the *Spectator*, 16th June.