

TRIBUTES TO THE MEMORY OF LOUIS F. POST

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ROBERT SCHALKENBACH
FOUNDATION

POST, LOUIS F.—On 9th January, 1928, at Washington, D.C., The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation announces with deep sorrow the demise of one of its charter members, Louis F. Post, formerly Assistant Secretary of Labour, a great Libertarian; for half a century among the foremost champions of the philosophy of Henry George, a fearless defender of the rights of man "without distinction of race, creed, colour or previous condition of servitude."

CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY, President.
WALTER FAIRCHILD, Secretary.

* * *

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, 11th January.

Louis Freeland Post was born in Vienna, N.J., 15th November, 1849, the son of Eugene J. and Elizabeth Freeland Post. He learned the printer's trade in Hackettstown, N.J., in 1864 and 1865 and was admitted to the Bar in 1870 in this State. In 1874 and 1875 he was Assistant United States Attorney in New York.

Mr Post was Chairman of the New York State Convention of the Labour Party in 1887 and of the Single Tax National Conference in New York in 1890 and in Chicago in 1893. From 1906 to 1909 he was a member of the Chicago Board of Education, and from 1906 to 1908, of the Chicago Charter Convention. He was the author of several works on political and sociological subjects and was a member of the Literary Club of Chicago and the Cosmos Club of Washington.

* * *

NEW YORK WORLD, 12th January.

There should be more citizens like Louis F. Post who has just died in Washington at the ripe age of seventy-eight. During all his long adult life Mr Post never allowed private profit or personal advancement to interfere with the free use of his time, his money, his strength and his zeal in furthering public policies which he believed wise for the Republic. Best known as a consistent single-taxer, Mr Post was engaged in a variety of movements for liberalizing law, custom and opinion in his Nation. His appointment as Assistant Secretary of Labour in 1913 was a recognition of his services to the working man. Placed in charge of the Immigration Bureau, he put into that important service the broad-minded sympathy which it needed and still needs. He was a stalwart American.

* * *

BALTIMORE SUN, 12th January.

Clear-headed, kindly, blazingly sincere and transcendently honest, he won and held the admiration of all fair-minded men, regardless of how they differed with his theories. The passing of Louis Post is in itself a cause for national regret. In the sorry episode of the deportations delirium of 1920 the courageous liberalism of Mr Post stands out as a bright and a redeeming light.

* * *

THE WASHINGTON NEWS, 12th January.

Louis F. Post, who has just ceased his labours for the common good at almost four score years of age, has a much greater claim on the memory of this and succeeding generations than his advocacy of some particular principle of taxation, important as it may be in the life of man.

One remembers the magnificent fights he waged in the latter part of the last century and the early days of this one for absolute freedom of expression. Some of his greatest battles were fought to maintain the rights of those with whose opinions he had not the least sympathy. He once said that he would fight for the right of the Devil himself to give expression to his point of view and that no institution could endure whose humblest member was deprived of the right to express the truth as it was given him to see it.

* * *

NEW YORK TELEGRAM, 13th January.

As the Editor of the *Public* for many years his brilliant intellect was always at the service of those who were fighting to realize that equality of opportunity so vital to the happiness of the race and so necessary to the continued existence of a truly free government.

Post believed that the prime reason for the existence of government was to enable its citizens to exercise the fullest freedom in individual development. Men were not made to be the mere pawns of the State. Government could be either a tyrant or a nourisher of great souls, and Post had no love for it except as it allowed the freest individual development.

* * *

NEW YORK NATION, 25th January.

He ran for Congress on the Labour Party ticket in 1882 and in 1887 presided over the New York State Convention of the Labour Party. Most of us are unaware that there was a Labour Party in America forty years ago; our short memories do not go back to Samuel Gompers. Those were the days when Henry George stirred New York in a warm-hearted labour campaign. . . . Mr Post remained Henry George's staunch disciple, and it may be as an apostle of the single tax, and editor for fifteen years of the single-tax organ, the *Public*, that Mr Post will be most remembered.

* * *

LAND AND FREEDOM, January-February.

It was characteristic of Louis Post that wherever the cause of justice and humanity needed an advocate he was among the foremost to volunteer. He faced public obloquy with utter fearlessness when convinced he was right. He stood like a stone wall when the madness of war would have compassed the wholesale deportation of innocent aliens, and against the threats of impeachment opposed a rare tact and matchless courage which drove his enemies into complete rout.

There are few lives, whose labours continued for fifty years, that have been characterized by so long a period of uninterrupted activity and so effective a close. For the last year of his life was one of the most fruitful. It saw the publication of two books from his pen, *What is the Single Tax?* and *Basic Facts*, in which we find the same virile grasp of principles, the same clearness and cogency of reasoning, the same wealth of illustration as characterized his earlier works. Never has Louis Post embodied more convincingly in limited compass the statement of our principles than he has done in the article contributed to the Nov.-Dec. issue of *Land and Freedom* under the title, "What Henry George Proposed."

Mr Post, in addition to being the greatest protagonist of our movement, next to Henry George, was one of the great editorial writers of two generations. It is hoped that the attempt will be made to add to his published works, *Ethics of Democracy*, *Social Service*, *Land Value Taxation*, and the two later works previously mentioned, a volume containing the more significant

editorials that appeared in the *Public* during the fifteen years of his editorship. . . .

Mr Post's intellectual processes were so rigidly formal that readers were apt to overlook the moral fervour that lay beneath them. With few graces of style, his prose was nevertheless limpid, clear and often epigrammatic. His elaboration of a point suggests the military tactician; he uses his light arms and his heavy artillery alternately but he uses them all, and attacks with a confidence and brilliance that leaves the opposition with the merest shred of defence. He was as keen a controversialist as any great movement can boast.

* * *

GEORGE ERWIN BOWEN, in *Land and Freedom*.

They say he sleeps, with folded hands, at rest,—
Done for an Eon with an ancient quest,
What Grail he sought, not any man shall know. . . .
He gave us more, the living way we go.
And here, Beloved, where his purpose wrought,
Burns higher yet the Flame whose light we caught.
Ah! But to keep its radiance aglow,
As long his patience sought to teach us how.

He needs no wreath of amaranth or bay . . .
Time keeps for him a calm, unclouded day,
Yet would he smile, watching with kindly eyes
Our struggle to march on without disguise,
Could he behold our courage, as his own,
Fearless to go with Faith, unarmed, alone.
The sun shines brighter where his spirit rode,
To find for man a happier abode.

* * *

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE in *Land and Freedom*.

He who had dedicated his life to service, who had worked for the truth as he saw it almost to the last, had grown so weary that no one who loved him could want to hold him, unless the old strength could be given him again. He was more completely ready for the next experience than any "professing Christian" I ever met.

When Mrs Post signalled to me that my time was up and I must go, he said "Good-bye." I tried not to believe what I knew he meant—

Where is one to find again so wise a councillor, so clear-visioned a leader, so unbiased a judge, so selfless a worker? Where is one to find another friend such as he?

* * *

JAKOB E. LANGE, in *Grundskyld* (Denmark).

One of the exceptional and ablest of the men among the followers of Henry George who joined the campaign in the 'eighties was Louis F. Post, whose death was recently reported from America. He remained steadfast till old age, a zealous champion of Henry George's ideas. He was far more than that. He was an independent thinker and writer with vision and originality, always clear in his views, so clear and so rigid that there were occasions when others imputed a certain formalism to him. But that description was certainly untrue. His most conspicuous service was without question the production of the *Public* week by week for a whole generation. I myself was a reader of that journal for about 20 years and often spoke of it as the world's best weekly in the realm of politics and economics. In the *Public*, in which, apart from the splendid help of his wife, Alice T. Post, he was almost the sole contributor, his sagacity and undeviating faith were ever manifest. Here he dealt with the problems of the day on broad foundations without dropping into generalities or waste of words. And the editor never failed to show us the basic natural laws in society, contempt for which brought

misfortune. Engaged thus at his editorial desk "L.F.P." found time to write several important works, notably the *Ethics of Democracy* (1903) and *Social Service* (1909). He preserved his strength to the end and the witness of that is his last little book, *The Basic Facts of Economics*.

Among the happiest events of my stay in America last autumn was the visit I paid to the elderly married couple in Washington—Louis F. Post and his charming wife, with her lively interest in everything and, despite the white hair, so youthful too.

* * *

IRISH WEEKLY (Belfast) 28th January.

There has just passed away at Washington a prominent figure in American public life—Louis F. Post. He published several books elucidating the principles of *Progress and Poverty*, and contributed articles—innumerable—to newspapers and magazines on his all-absorbing topic. He lived up to the challenge of Marcus Aurelius: "If anyone can convince me of an error I shall be very glad to change my opinion, for truth is my business, and nobody was every hurt by it."

Post's mental honesty was transparent in all his writings, as well as his moral enthusiasm and his love of justice. Probably his outstanding characteristic was his devotion to democratic principles, and he had inflexible faith in their ultimate victory. On the Roll of Honour of Democracy the name of Louis F. Post should be transcribed with Thomas Jefferson, Daniel O'Connell, W. Lloyd Garrison, Henry George and Abraham Lincoln. (Contributed by Jos. Davison.)

* * *

CARLOS R. BLACKWELL, in the *Washington Sunday Herald*, 12th February.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed. Mr Louis F. Post's helping hand to me will never be forgotten, for when he came to Washington, D.C., from Illinois, to take over the duties of the first Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labour . . . he chose me as his messenger. From that day his helping hand, his most human kindness, were ever present.

"So one day, being so anxious to know how I was standing with him, I asked permission to see him to tell him how grateful I was to him for the promotion and his many kindnesses to me. I was granted the permission to see him. I walked in, wringing my hands, and said: 'Mr Secretary, I came in to thank you for all that you have done for me.' He looked up from the papers he was reading, with a look as soft as down, and said: 'Carlos, I've done nothing. You have done it yourself.' I then saw my efforts had not been in vain. I thanked him and said: 'Mr Secretary, you are one man brimful of human kindness, with a heart as big as the world.'

(Carlos R. Blackwell was one of the pallbearers at Louis Post's own request.)

* * *

Among the many Press notices we have received paying tribute to the life and work of Louis F. Post we name also those in the *New York Evening World*, 12th January; the *Fairhope Courier*, 12th January; the *Winnetka Talk*, 21st January, by A.P.C.; the *Wolverhampton Express and Star*, 23rd January, by Louis Williams; the *London Daily Herald*, 4th February; and the *Belfast Irish News*, by Jos. Davison. Besides these Press notices, numerous letters from correspondents express in fitting terms the personal loss sustained in the passing of our beloved comrade, with grateful recognition of the unforgettable service he has rendered the cause of human freedom.