



LOUIS F. POST.

#### APPOINTED MEMBER OF PRESIDENT WILSON'S EXECUTIVE.

Democrats all over the world will be pleased to learn that Louis F. Post of Chicago has been appointed Assistant Secretary of Labour in Woodrow Wilson's Cabinet. It is a fitting recognition of a man who possesses in a supreme degree the power of penetrating to the heart of an economic question and of making it plain in all its essentials even to the most indolent and unreflective reader. This appointment is an acknowledgment of the service which Louis F. Post has given to Democracy, not only in America but wherever the English language is spoken. But it is more than this: it is a sign and a pledge that the Wilson administration will be democratic, not only in name but also in deed. Sincerely as we congratulate Mr. Post on his appointment, still more sincerely do we congratulate President Wilson on having in his Cabinet so wise and capable an adviser, such a true-hearted and single-minded man as Louis F. Post.

The following bare summary of his career, taken from "Who's Who in America," gives but the faintest idea of the active and useful life he has led, and of the many services he has rendered the Single Tax movement for more than thirty years.

Louis Freeland Post, editor of the *PUBLIC*, Chicago, was born in Vienna in the State of New Jersey, U.S.A., on November 15th, 1849. He is a son of Eugene Jerome Post and Elizabeth Freeland Post. Educated in the public schools of New Jersey and New York, he learned the printer's trade at Hackettstown, New Jersey. Later he studied law, and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1870. On July 6th, 1871, he married Anna Johnson, of Hackettstown, who died on November 14th, 1891. He married for the

second time on December 2nd, 1893, Alice Thacher, of Orange, New Jersey, who has been associated with him in the editorship of the *PUBLIC* since its inception, and who fills his place in that capacity when he is absent. Mr. Post held the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney, New York, 1874-5. He was an editorial writer on the New York *DAILY TRUTH* from 1879 to 1882, but returned to the practice of the law in 1883, abandoning this again in 1890. Becoming interested in Henry George and his teachings in 1881, he ran for Congress in New York on the Labour ticket in 1882, and for Attorney-General of the State of New York on the Greenback Ticket in 1883. He has advocated the Single Tax and allied reforms since 1881. He edited the *DAILY LEADER* (George's campaign paper) in 1886; was a contributor to George's *STANDARD* from 1891 to 1892; was editor of the *CLEVELAND RECORDER* from 1896 to 1897. He founded the *PUBLIC* in 1898.

Since 1892 he has lectured on Single Tax and political economy. He was chairman of the Single Tax National Conference in New York in 1891, and in Chicago in 1893; was a member of the Chicago Charter Convention, 1906-7; and was a member of the Chicago Board of Education, having been appointed in 1906 to serve three years. Mr. Post's published writings include *THE GEORGE-HEWITT CAMPAIGN*, 1887; *THE SINGLE TAX*, 1895; *ETHICS OF DEMOCRACY*, 1905; *ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE*, 1906; and also various pamphlets and leaflets.

The following editorial comments from two Chicago newspapers will let our readers know how Mr. Post's appointment is looked at in America, outside Single-Tax circles.

If the rumoured appointment of Mr. Louis F. Post to the position of assistant commissioner of labour means that the *PUBLIC* is to be discontinued or is to pass into other hands, then we hope that something will rise up to blight that appointment with an awful blight.

For while there are, let us say, at least ten men who could do fairly well as assistant commissioner of labour, there is only one man in the country who can edit the *PUBLIC* as its readers are accustomed to seeing it edited. Things indeed have reached such a pass in this country that if anybody so much as mentions "fundamental democracy," it instantly evokes the image of a stoiky, sawed-off man with curly hair and beard and serious eyes. He is the fundamental democrat.

But if he does go on to Washington to help build up the new Department of Labour, he has our best wishes. No one will believe that there is anything political in the appointment, in the ordinary sense of that word. It is as disinterested as anything which the President has done. And it means the drafting of an able and conscientious man into the services of the administration at an important point in its work. —*EVENING POST*, May 22nd.

The prospective appointment of Louis F. Post, the Chicago editor, as assistant secretary of labour is a great surprise to the Illinois members of Congress, for none of them had proposed, favoured or indorsed him. Secretary Wilson happened to want Mr. Post, to believe him to be the right man for the place, and the President naturally acquiesced. That was all.

That it should have been "all" is the surprise. Well, some day men will find this surprise surprising. "Indorsements" are proper enough when necessary, but when cabinet members happen to know men they want and think fit, indorsements are, of course, mere formalities. To withhold them without reason is to proclaim the principle of government for patronage only.

Mr. Post, we happen to know, has not sought or desired the office; it has sought him and has landed him with considerable difficulty. The more we have of this, seeking of men by offices the better for public administration. —*RECORD-HERALD*, May 23rd.