

LOUIS F. POST



One who never turn'd his back but march'd
breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dream'd, though right were worsted,
wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake.—Robert Browning.

Louis Post, as we knew him in the flesh, has passed on. His spirit and his teaching are still in the service of the cause he had made his own. He was Henry George's personal friend and colleague and, in intellectual strength of conviction and moral force, his greatest disciple. For fifty years or more Louis Post's gifted and resistless pen has been at work educating, elevating and inspiring the students of *Progress and Poverty*. He contributed much to the literature of the movement of an enduring character, and who among the privileged subscribers to *The Public* can ever forget its educational influence and its guidance along the road to fundamental democracy? His *Ethics of Democracy* and his *Outlines of Lectures*, latterly named *The Taxation of Land Values*, have for a full generation figured as the text-books at Political Economy classes and reading circles devoted to the Henry George philosophy. His latest works, *What is the Single Tax?* and *The Basic Facts of Economics*, written in his closing days on earth and when his eyesight had painfully weakened, can be taken as the proof of his earnest desire to render up a full account of the talents entrusted to him.

In a letter to Richard McGhee, of date 19th September, 1927, he writes: "For a long time I have felt that while my body lasts my job is *here* and not in a postmortem Paradise. That there is a hereafter I feel very sure. Like Henry George, I cannot believe that such a force as the Manifest Wisdom and Love that rules the Universe could have created Man only to let him die. And yet I feel strongly that everything beyond mortal sight and sound is none of our business; that while we live and move and have our being in the flesh our job is *here* and nowhere else, whether it be to do or to suffer, so long as its tendency is to make this world better and more brotherly. As to the future I have ventured to put

down my thoughts succinctly in what, however bad the poetry, is at any rate in my judgment a fairly good human outlook (or inlook) into what lies beyond. Look it over!

As I approach thy dark'ning door, O Death
I wonder more and more what lies beyond.
Shall I into an endless youth advance,
Or does that shadowy door mean endless death?
Though endless death, why fear to enter in?
Can death be aught but what preceded birth?
But if an endless youth, why fear the joy
Of such a climax to an aged life?

"I hope these ragged lines may give you as much comfort in the reading as they gave me in the writing."

What better picture of Louis Post could any one who knew him wish for, than this one so finely and accurately drawn by himself?

When the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade was formed at Copenhagen, he was one of its keenest supporters, and wrote that this carrying of the gospel into other lands gave the best possible assurance of its ultimate triumph. A year ago, in a reference to the action taken at Geneva, he had this to say: "The Geneva address was truly a splendid document, but I am not surprised to learn that it did not get past the doorkeeper. Over here we have a saying that 'no judge and jury can hang a million dollars.' I wonder if the experiences at Geneva wouldn't be explained in some corresponding phrase?"

As I glance through my long years' correspondence with my friend, and reflect on our close personal relationship when he was here in 1910, I come under the spell of his charm and my thoughts instinctively go in sympathy to Alice Thacher Post. We are all deeply conscious of what we owe to the memory of our friend and colleague who has passed into the Beyond, and some of us can say how very much we are indebted to his loving and lovable partner. Telling of the progress made with *The Basic Facts of Economics*, its author wrote, 27th August, 1927: "In all this work Alice has been my indispensable helpmate." They were together in the work and in the spirit they are not apart.

The strenuous life and character of Louis Post constitutes a bright and a brilliant chapter in the history of the Single Tax Movement. His name stands for courage, endurance and fidelity to principle in the estimation of those who strive for the attainment of the Henry George ideal. I could dwell for long enough and with great joy on many happy personal recollections arising out of Louis Post's two visits to this country twenty years ago, but must be content to close this faltering and brief tribute to his memory in the conviction that he still lives and moves among us, in spirit and in truth.

J. P.

In the reports of the Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values the activities of many correspondents in letters to the Press are mentioned. In addition to these we have also to note letters from Mr W. R. Lester in the *Times*, the *Westminster Gazette* and *G. K.'s Weekly*; from the Rev. W. Drury in the *West Sussex Gazette* and from Mr Louis Williams in the *Wolverhampton Express and Star*.

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Mr A. Sevenster of Holland writes: "In preparing our Report and Recommendations with regard to the Reclamation of the Zuyder Zee, and in our discussions with the Dutch Labour Party, I have made good use of articles in *Land & Liberty*. Your last two numbers were of exceeding interest." We are glad to acknowledge the contribution to our Sustention Fund that Mr Sevenster sent at the same time.