

## Joe Pastoriza

By Mrs. Joseph Fels

It was in the heat and stress of his last gallant fight for justice and against special privilege that he whom the newspapers knew merely as Mayor of Houston wrote to me:

"Remember that I have control over my body and habits, and my friends need have no fear. I want to remain well, as my purpose is after being Mayor one term to quit public life and spend my time talking and preaching Singletax all over the United States."

It is to rejoice, now that he is gone, that he lived to do so much, to translate his rare spirit into so much of solid achievement, rather than to sorrow over what remains unfinished. Men like Joe Pastoriza—"the other Joe," we called him—never complete their work. It is their eagerness to do ever more and more in the cause nearest their hearts—the cause of justice and the plain people whom they love—that distinguishes them from men with lesser aims.

Wide as was his vision and comprehensive as were his plans, Pastoriza cared first of all for the love and confidence of his friends and neighbors. That the people of Houston trusted him and liked him meant more than national fame resting on less intimate knowledge of what he was. The simplicity that is the mark of a truly big man was his. Writing from New Orleans a few days after his election as Mayor on Feb. 23, he said:

"I came here, the city of my birth, the day after the election to rest up and get away from job hunters, who like bees swarmed about me. I am really happy over my victory. I hope that the prestige of being Mayor will aid me in helping our State Singletax League to do more effective work."

He had been cruelly attacked during the campaign. But he remained cheerful and confident. On December 19 he wrote:

"The 'safe and sane' element here, who own the skyscrapers and banks, have combined to get out what they call 'a big man,' and make my present opponent withdraw. I have talked with a couple of these 'safe and sane' men, and the biggest one of the two asked me if I would not refrain from my Singletax advocacy if I could be elected Mayor. I told him decidedly no; that the Singletax was my religion, and that I would not go back on my religion for any office in the United States; that I was a Singletaxer first and a city official second, and if the people of Houston did not like me because I was a Singletaxer, it was their privilege to vote against me. In conversing with one of these 'safe and sane' fellows, at the close of the conversation, I said to him: 'Well, my good friend, don't fight me too hard.' He replied: 'I have not made up my mind yet, but I want to say to you, that you have so many good qualities about you—but you have one or two bad ones—that I am all up in the air.'"

It was this uncompromising devotion to an ideal, combined with kindness and understanding, tremendous energy and courage, and a shrewd grasp of realities, that made Joe Pastoriza not only a great spirit and an effective crusader, but also a constructive politician able to put into practice and demonstrate the practical wisdom of the gospel he preached. In the success of the Houston plan, in the thousands of converts it has made, but most of all in his example of unselfish devotion to a cause, Joe Pastoriza will live on and on.

## The Opportunity of the Government

By Hugh Reid

Numerous agencies have undertaken the solution of the coal problem. The Coal Production Committee of the Council of National Defense and the Federal Trade Commission have both taken action, one with a great blare of newspaper trumpets and the other no less vigorously but more modestly.

To the casual observer, the two agencies

acted independently. Closer inspection, however, will reveal that there was more relation than appears on the surface. The key to this relation lies in the personnel of the Coal Committee.

This body is made up almost wholly of large operators who are closely affiliated with transportation interests, both rail and