

## Louis F. Post Evening

**L**OUIS F. POST, celebrated contemporary of Henry George, brilliant author, lecturer and member of Wilson's cabinet, was honored at the school auditorium on May 15. A portrait of Mr. Post was presented to the Henry George School by Ben W. Huebsch. It was painted by his sister. Many interesting visitors and old friends were present to join in this warm and friendly evening.

Charles Johnson Post spoke jocularly and related amusing anecdotes of his father. He assured the audience, "had my father known that he was going to be presented at a formal assembly such as this he would have worn a white shirt." (The portrait shows him informally attired in a grey shirt).

Lawson Purdy, our "man of distinction," told of the great influence of Mr. Post on his life. In the invaluable legacy which Mr. Purdy left behind him in the Tax Department of the City of New York, it is evident that traces of Louis Post's influence can be found.

"In 1895," recounted Mr. Purdy, "Ben Doblin and I used to talk a good deal and both of us wanted to have the land values separated from the total value in the City of New York, and to have assessments prepared in convenient form. It was done in several other states. I asked Louis Post to be kind enough to amend the charter to accomplish these two objectives.

"In the following year I had the opportunity to take over the secretaryship of the Taxation Committee and in 1903 we put a law through whereby the people would know just what they were assessed and what their neighbors were assessed. It's still the law today, except that 20 years ago the price of this assessment list was 25 cents a copy. Now it's \$2. I commend it to you. It's a good thing to have.

"I have seen other cities try these assessment rolls. It's not so easy to make comparisons. The point is to have people study them. If they are over-assessed, in comparison to their neighbors, they can make objections. Louis Post made the draft of the first assessment roll, we put in the final spots to make it tie in."

Otto K. Dorn, the school's vice president, spoke affectionately of Mr. Post and said of his early life in Cleveland, "Post made the biggest change in my lifetime." Mr. Dorn recalled that it was during that period in Mr. Post's life that the rent charts were initiated for study—they are still used in classrooms today. It was clearly evident that Louis F. Post was a brilliant teacher. He used, very successfully, a question and answer method based on current happenings.

Among notable books by Louis F. Post are *The Prophet of San Francisco*, *What Is The Single Tax?* *Social Service*, *The Taxation of Land Values*, *Ethics of Democracy* and *The Deportations Delirium of 1920*.

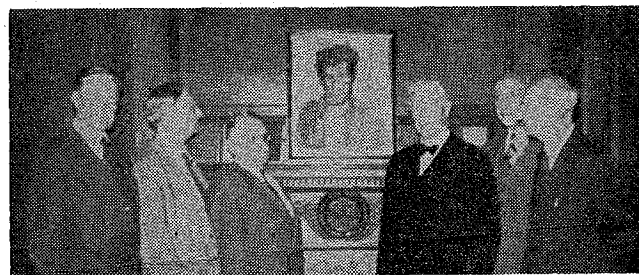
Philip Cornick described his first impression of this luminary as he first observed him at a meeting in San Francisco. The late Mrs. Joseph Fels was present at that meeting, and Mrs. Post was the very effective chairman. On one occasion Mr. Post took the floor to answer some criticism or other without first asking permission. Mrs. Post called to him twice with, "Mr. Post, you're out of order." As he took no heed she leaned over, pulled his coat tail, and said, "Louis, sit down."

Mr. Cornick referred to the book on deportation written after Mr. Post left the cabinet. "That book points up certain aspects of our

Constitutional laws," said Mr. Cornick, "and we are able to be single taxers and get up here and talk because of the Constitution, which grants free speech and assembly. But that was under attack then as now."

Tributes were sent in by some who could not be present. Among these were John Hayes Holmes, Francis Neilson, Raymond McNally, Allan J. Wilson and Stanley Bowmar.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bowmar were also among those early Georgists who assembled in California in 1915 for a meeting known as the Fels Fund Single Tax Conference. Mr. Bowmar was associated with Mr. Post in publishing *The Public*, a weekly paper, which like other efforts from the same source, "changed lives." The Bowmars, New Zealanders by birth, have recently completed a flying world tour.



Philip Cornick, B. W. Huebsch, Charles Johnson Post, Lawson Purdy, Otto K. Dorn, Bennett Challis. On Mantle; portrait of Louis F. Post by Gertrude Huebsch.