

Louis F. Post

THE great teacher is dead. He passed away at the Homeopathic Hospital, in Washington, on January 10, after a brief illness. He leaves a widow and a son by his first wife, Charles Johnson Post, well known in Single Tax circles.

Louis Freeland Post was born in Vienna, N. J., in 1849. He learned the printer's trade in Hackettstown, N. J. and later practised law in New York. He traced his ancestry to Stephen Post, a native of Kent, England, who settled in Massachusetts in 1630. He was an editorial writer on *Truth*, a daily paper of this city, from 1879 to 1882, when he returned to the practise of law. During his editorship of *Truth* "Progress and Poverty" appeared serially in its columns.

He dated his conversion to the Single Tax from 1881, and edited the *Daily Leader* in 1886. He was an early contributor to the *Standard* founded by Henry George, and became its editor in 1891. He was chairman of the New York Convention of the United Labor Party in 1887 and chairman of the Single Tax Conventions in New York (1890) and in Chicago (1893).

He edited the *Cleveland Recorder* in 1896-7, and in 1898, in association with his wife, Alice Thacher Post, founded the *Public* in Chicago, which paper was later transferred to New York. In 1913 to 1921 he was Assistant Secretary of Labor by appointment of President Wilson.

Services for Mr. Post took place at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Washington. The pallbearers were William B. Wilson, former Secretary of Labor under whom Mr. Post served in both of Wilson's administrations, Chas. Glen Levin Swiggert, Dr. John R. Swanton, and Judson King.

In commenting on Mr. Post's outspoken protest against what seemed to him the miscarriage of justice in the Sacco-Vanzetti case, we said: "Louis F. Post has rendered what may be his last signal public service in a great crisis." This was nearer the truth than we imagined.

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 obliquy 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 labors continued for fifty years, 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. Such a volume would be a revelation to those accustomed to the superficial, clever slap-dash of present day journalism.

Mr. Post's intellectual processes were so rigidly formal that readers were apt to overlook the moral fervor 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 brilliancy that leaves the opposition with the merest shred of defence. He was as keen a controversialist as any great movement can boast.

Press Tributes

FROM THE *New York World*

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 Labor 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.

FROM THE *New York Telegram*

THE principle of a tax on land as the only one to be laid on a people carried with it preeminently the names of two men, Henry George, the founder of the Single Tax, and Louis F. Post, for over a generation its great propagandist.

Louis F. Post who has just ceased his labors for the common good at almost four score years of age, has a much greater claim on the memory of this and succeeding genera-