

LOUIS P. JACOBS

We deeply regret to have to announce the death of our friend and colleague Louis P. Jacobs which occurred on Saturday, 7th March, at Palm Springs, California, where he had gone to recuperate after a prolonged illness. Mr Jacobs was in his 67th year and had been a member of the United Committee since 1911 when he came from Melbourne, Australia, to reside permanently in London.

Mr Jacobs is survived by Mrs Jacobs, three sons, Robert, Michael, and Francis—and two daughters, Elizabeth and Lydia.

Memorial Meeting

(9th April, 1931)

A representative gathering of Henry George adherents and friends met at the Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.1, on 9th April, to pay tribute to the memory of LOUIS P. JACOBS. Mr H. G. CHANCELLOR, ex-M.P., presided.

Mr CHANCELLOR said: I will ask Mr Arthur Madsen to read the messages that have been received to give the meeting an understanding of those who are really with us but are not able to be present. There are letters and telegrams not only from this country but from many parts of the world.

Mr Madsen then read the messages given in another column.

Mr CHANCELLOR said: This meeting has been called for the purpose of receiving and giving testimony of the worth and influence of Louis P. Jacobs. Nobody could possibly admire him more than I did. I remember his coming into our circle at 11 Tothill Street many years ago; how soon he impressed himself on those he met! He had a character of his own; he had his own idiosyncrasies, but there was one thing that always seemed to emanate from him and that was a spirit of gentleness and the spirit of open-mindedness.

I have been thinking about him in connection with some others of the Jewish race to which he belonged. His race has made far more than its share of world's progress in moral, religious and economic matters. I think of three or four who come to my mind in connection with Louis Jacobs: Joseph Fels, Lewis Berens and Ignatius Singer. In acknowledging all these people I have thought particularly of Fels' contribution and Jacobs' contribution to our movement. I think of Fels as the Joshua of the movement—electric with energy, fiery with zeal, self-assertive, never hesitating to express his ideas; never fleeing from conflict but really inviting it.

In Louis Jacobs we had one who equally contributed to the spirit of the whole movement which binds us together and makes us more or less effective in pushing the great ideas for which he stood. That idea was not only the dream of a world living in freedom but its possibility as outlined by Henry George. When that dream captures a man he cannot escape, and it brilliantly captured him. In it the best thing he could do was to work and devote his money and leisure and himself; and we who had lost him on 7th March of this year when the news came over the cables felt it not only as the loss of a colleague, not only as the loss to a great cause, but the loss of a personal friend as well.

Mrs Jacobs we loved your husband, we valued his contribution of himself more than all the contributions of his money. We realize the value of the influence he had in the circulation of literature and particularly in his endowment of the Henry George Foundation. Our sympathy with you and your family

is a sympathy made the better and more real because of the personal loss we feel ourselves.

ANDREW MACLAREN, M.P., said: I have known Mr Jacobs very intimately, not merely in connection with this work in the land values movement, but in a wider field outside. All that has been said about him to-night can be exemplified by those who knew him intimately. You never found him in the forefront—in the limelight looking for popular applause. In trying to make known his truth a more humble man I have never known in front of the truth itself. The chairman said he had his idiosyncrasies; he did and they were all characteristic of the man. He was not without a sense of humour to give him that introspection to analyse himself and sometimes laugh at himself. But I have never known him miss an opportunity to make known the ideas of Henry George, and I have felt at times that he carried his evangelical zeal sometimes to the point of endangering friendships. But those who got to know him after a while found that very aggressiveness made him all the more endearing. He had all the world could give a man, and yet he still had that hunger and that great desire to convert his fellowmen to the ideas he held himself. We must thank God for Louis Jacobs.

Mr CHARLES E. CROMPTON: I am very glad this evening to have this opportunity of offering a small tribute from myself to the memory of Louis Jacobs. I shall always feel grateful for having known him and worked with him. There was something about him which appealed particularly to me. We very seldom talked about what our goal was, but somehow or other we seemed to know and understand one another so that we got to the practical proposals for advancing the movement which we both had so much at heart.

Louis Jacobs had the spirit of Henry George in his system as much as any man I have ever met. He was imbued with the idea of justice and sympathy with poverty, suffering and distress. It gave him no rest; he could not rest for thinking of what a lovely world this might be if only we could be sensible and do things according to God's law of justice. The cold logic of the Henry George teaching appealed to Louis Jacobs, but that was not enough. He must be up and doing. He saw the possibilities there were in this little corner of the universe for us, and he was ready to do all he could for the movement. I feel very grateful for having been associated with him so long. I am not going to mourn his loss. I feel I have a great treasure in his memory and his friendship, and for me he will remain a great example and a great inspiration.

B. A. LEVINSON, LL.B.: It is not unreasonable to expect that Louis Jacobs' spirit is with us to-night. Others have spoken of his qualities; it is extremely difficult to know what to say on the subject—especially for me who knew him so long. It struck me how many qualities, not inconsistent qualities, different minds have found in Louis Jacobs' character. They are all qualities of which we may be proud, he would be proud and his children should be proud to hear. One quality that always struck me as remarkable in him—and that was the quality of loyalty. It was the quality of a very active form of loyalty, but wherever he gave his loyalty he gave himself, as has been said, unsparingly. It was not merely he was prepared to sign a pledge as an adherent—he had to be up and doing. Those loyalties are several. First of all he was loyal to his own folk—to those who are here, his brothers, his children and his wife. He was loyal to his friends in an active sense, and some of them are here to-night. All these loyalties, and there are more, were not inconsistent; they are in complete harmony and run on parallel lines. He was loyal particularly to this cause, so loyal to it that

if it came in conflict, as it did at times, with his religion or race, he gave priority of place to this cause. It is true to say that the only dissatisfaction I have heard him express as to that faith in the modified form which he held to was that the religion in its observance and in its expression did not conform to this higher faith which he felt in this particular cause. In him it was more active and he was quite anxious and eager to make his own religion an instrument to serve in this cause which he considered greater. In all these gifts his loyalty was great—his loyalty was always active.

I am sure it must be a great satisfaction to Mrs Jacobs to hear what has been said of him to-night. It is pleasant to feel that after his life his friends can come along together and meet and all mourn his loss and welcome his example.

P. WILSON RAFFAN, J.P.: I think the time will come when we will all look back with gratitude and pleasure for all that he did. Louis Jacobs will be an inspiration to us for years to come. Just at the moment it is difficult to think of this office without him, but as Mr Levinson has said, his spirit is with us here to-night, and he would wish us not to mourn too much or grieve too much but build upon what he was able to do. He had a great many qualities; he had all the shrewdness and keenness of his race, and I think there must have been something of the poet and the missionary in him.

He saw all that and then I think, if I may say so, he felt as Henry George felt that we are happy if when we see a star we know that others see it too. He saw the star.

I remember at the Edinburgh Conference a gentleman from India, who had been a great administrator there, gave us a very interesting Paper showing how in some of the Indian provinces they had a system of land tenure which he indicated approximated somewhat to our views. I confess I was very interested in it. Mr. Jacobs was sitting beside me and said, "What do you think of that?"

"It's very interesting."

"There's a catch in it somewhere," he replied.

"What is it? Where's the catch?"

"They have not abolished poverty," came the answer.

And below all these ideas, and keen as he was, if he had come to the conclusion that this was not the best way to abolish poverty he would have left it the next day.

I remember, too, expressing to him once the great gratitude for some special work which he was doing for the movement, saying how grateful we were all for it, but he put it aside in a modest way. "Since Mr Fels' death," I said, "we have had few to support us in this way and we are very grateful for your generosity." He replied, "How can I help it and be true to my religion?"

Mr ASHLEY MITCHELL: I for one am proud to have known him, proud to have worked with him in this cause. The one thing extraordinary about him was his eagerness to do something for the cause he loved. It seemed to me that this was his characteristic; he wanted to get on with the campaign and see something done. When any proposals were made to do any work he wanted to know if it was going to have a real effect—not that it was a nice thing or an enjoyable thing, but was it really going to do something to advance the movement?

I think that when all is said and done that L. P. Jacobs is not only a testimony to the noble character of the individual, but that his service in the cause bears testimony to the wonderful inspiration of Henry George.

The Henry George Foundation makes certain that the works of the Master shall be circulated.

Sir EDGAR HARPER: Within a week after my resignation from the Valuation Department I got a very nice friendly letter from Louis Jacobs asking me to meet him at his club; there was something he wanted to talk about—something you can all very well guess. He wanted to know what I could do after that long professional and public experience in the public service. We talked over various things, and he set me at work writing various pamphlets. Mr Jacobs was a man with a warm heart and a helping hand, and I shall never cease to feel thankful for that Providence which put me in touch with him.

W. R. LESTER: He was always open to persuasion and was as willing to take advice as he was to give it. There was one peculiarity about Jacobs I always remember—a little formal expression that he used to make use of when we had an exchange of ideas, and that was: "Well, perhaps you are right." That was a little expression of his own; I don't know that it always meant that he was convinced, but it did mean that he had an open mind, not the mind open at both ends, but a mind that was open to conviction however strong his previous convictions had been.

Another peculiarity of Mr Jacobs was this—that though he was a man of high ideals, a man of vision—he was a man of the world. He was a man who not only had an ideal but he set to work to find ways and means of realizing that ideal. In our conversations he would range over subjects in abstract justice, and right away back to the questions of conduct—backwards and forwards. He was a man of wide mind, and he revelled in attempting to find ways of realizing his ideals.

Rev. M. J. STEWART: It was in 1895, when I was 24, I got into touch with Max Hirsch. I knew him for ten years until his death, and I was tremendously helped in my way of clear thinking. Mr Jacobs was also a spiritual son of Max Hirsch, and I think I have had a bit of affection for him ever since, because there were not many of us about to rejoice that we had sat at the foot of such a Gamaliel as Max Hirsch was.

I have been privileged to have the friendship of one of these prophets and to see him at work. What a daily inspiration it must be to his family to have such a character with them. They are much to be envied and much to be honoured in the memories they have, and we to some extent share in them. I thank God for the memory of Louis P. Jacobs.

Mr JOHN PAUL: We are not here to bury Louis Jacobs. We mourn his loss, but in what he was given to accomplish there is inspiration for all of us. I can imagine him listening to our talk to-night and see his fetching smile. He was an idealist. It was the philosophy and the religion of Henry George's teaching that appealed to our colleague. As never before through the Henry George Foundation *Progress and Poverty* and its associated works are circulating at home and across the seas. It is a life-giving development that with all its far reaching stimulus can be put to the credit of Louis P. Jacobs. It is his great contribution to the progress of the cause here, in our time.

Rev. M. L. PERLZWEIG: This meeting has been arranged by the supporters of the Henry George philosophy and of the Taxation of Land Values, and anyone who was a stranger coming into this room while he may have guessed from some of the speakers as to the other sides of his personality, would not have realized that the burdens he bore in this movement, great as they were, did not exhaust his strength. There were other movements which in

he played a very considerable and a very commendable part. There was something in him which is above economic creeds and above all, religious creeds. He was a lover of his fellows and the love he gave out was returned to him from all sides. I can say with absolute certainty that every one of his family, Mrs Jacobs and all his brothers, can feel that in the heart of every one of us there is a memorial of love which will never be destroyed. He was a great friend to us and as a friend will abide for ever.

Mr ELLIOT JACOBS: It must be most comforting to Mrs Jacobs and her family to hear all the beautiful speeches delivered here to-night. To me they were all very wonderful and satisfying.

Mrs LOUIS P. JACOBS: I want to say on behalf of my children how deeply touched I feel and how proud I am of all the things you have said about my dear husband. I am sure if he could have been here it would have been one of the proudest hours of his life. Some of you have said that you feel in his memory inspired to go on with the great work, and I am sure nothing you could have said would have pleased him greater. He once said to me: "If I have only laid one little stone to the building of this great cause, I feel I have not lived my life in vain." I just want to thank you all for this wonderful meeting, which I shall never, never forget.

Messages of Sympathy by Cable

HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION, AUSTRALIA, sends condolences Mrs Jacobs and family.

NEW SOUTH WALES HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE cherishes memory of noble character and a life of self-sacrifice for humanity. Send sincere sympathy Mrs Jacobs and family.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, GEORGEIANS mourn passing Louis Jacobs. Valiant fighter social justice. Extend sympathy bereaved friends.

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE: Deeply distressed over untimely death of our beloved friend. His dedication to our cause was an inspiration to all who knew him. Please convey my sympathy to his family.

CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY: The passing of Louis Jacobs was a saddening shock to me as it must have been to many in widely scattered communities throughout the world who enjoyed rich privilege of his personal friendship or shared his devoted and unselfish labours for better human relationships. My own sorrow is made more poignant by recent personal association with him. The last message in his handwriting received but a few weeks ago was cheery and hopeful of returning health. A noble representative of a great race, Louis Jacobs was a truly good and kindly man, a brother and lover of all human kind and hater of all injustice, a believer in mankind's regeneration, he gave freely of himself and his substance that dreams of a higher and happier humanity might be made into reality. This example as well as his good deeds must some day bear fruit abundantly. Upon you and your associates with whom I believe he had peculiarly intimate and affectionate reliance I know a great blow has fallen, but I feel that he would wish you to rally, close up your ranks again and go forward to the great fight that seems to await the Henry George men and women of your country. On behalf of many friends I beg you to convey to the stricken family a respectful assurance of the sympathy and condolence of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and the followers of Henry George in the United States.

ROBERT SCHALKENBACH FOUNDATION sends deep regrets for sudden demise of our friend Jacobs.

HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA: International Georgeist movement has sustained great loss in death Louis P. Jacobs. We extend deepest sympathy.

From Letters to Mrs Jacobs

Mrs ALICE THACHER POST: Our love goes out to you in grateful remembrance.

Mrs J. FELS: I am sorry beyond words, sorry for the loved ones left behind. How you will miss him with so many others of us. For me, however, we cannot think of how he has gone into the better Beyond. It is 17 years since my husband went into that Beyond, and all that time I have felt him present here, helpful as he would wish to be.

Mrs ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE: Please accept my deep sympathy in this sad hour. Your loss is our loss. He did great things to further the cause of humanity and for that many, many of us are grateful.

JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD, M.P.: He was such a friend that we who loved and respected him, to whom he was more than all other friends, know how you must feel and suffer. If we never see Louis again, we can always see a good example to follow.

Dr J. J. PIKLER: I have been linked with him in the warmest friendship. We have the consolation to have lived, worked and fought together with Louis Jacobs for a great moral ideal—for the rights of man.

LIVERPOOL LEAGUE: His name will always be enshrined in our hearts for his single-minded devotion to the great cause of Henry George. He has brought nearer by his labours the application of that measure of social justice by which alone unemployment and poverty can be swept away for ever from this world.

CHAPMAN WRIGHT: Our movement in every land knew Mr Jacobs as a devoted follower of Henry George. On behalf of our Midland League members I beg to offer to yourself and family our sincere condolences.

L. A. B. ULLEHAKE (Holland): In the name of our Bond (United Committee) I condole with you in the great loss you have suffered. Mr Jacobs' name is esteemed in our Bond as an outstanding Georgeist.

F. BATTY: The name of your husband is well known and esteemed by all who, like myself, fully appreciate his great work for the taxation of land values. My partner wishes to join with me in this expression of our deep sympathy with you in your bereavement.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER (New York): I know how idle such words are at these times, but it will be a pleasure to you to learn from those who will write you from this side in how great esteem Mr Jacobs was held by his co-workers here. I recall how he impressed me with his fine outlook upon life and his splendid devotion to the cause. Your loss is ours in the passing of a great spirit who has left a memory that will endure.

WILLIAM REID: On behalf of the Committee of the Scottish League and on my own behalf, I have to say we deeply deplore the loss which you have personally sustained as well as the loss our movement must suffer. In such moments mere words are of little value, but you can understand what esteem Mr Jacobs earned throughout the movement in Great Britain and even in a wider field.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Respectfully tender their sincere sympathy to Mrs Jacobs and her family in the sad loss that has befallen them; and hope that they may find comfort in the knowledge that their grief is shared, and that his name will always be held in honour, throughout the world-wide circle of the followers of Henry George.

PETER BURT, J.P.: While his passing will be a great loss to you and your family, he will also be very much

missed among his many friends in the Henry George movement.

PORTSMOUTH LEAGUE (S. R. COLE, Hon. Secretary): Our League has been able to do work for the Taxation of Land Values that without the generous help of Mr Jacobs could not have been done. Our members deeply regret his passing.

J. DUNDAS WHITE: As you know I had a high regard for Mr Jacobs and a warm appreciation of his friendship as well as of his fine character and his devotion to the cause he had at heart.

EUSTACE DAVIES (*Hon. Secretary of the Welsh League*): Louis P. Jacobs has an honoured name throughout our movement in every land. He is known and esteemed as an outstanding disciple of Henry George. Please be assured of our deepest sympathy.

From Letters to the Secretary of the United Committee

CHARLES H. SMITHSON: A lasting Memorial will remain in the Henry George Foundation Trust, which his generosity established, and which in my opinion will prove to be the most effective instrument in our hands for the spread of the Gospel of Social Justice to which he devoted the talents which were entrusted to him.

MANCHESTER LEAGUE: His untimely death is one of the worst blows our movement has sustained since our good friend Joseph Fels passed on.

SAM MEYER (France): I made his acquaintance at the Edinburgh Conference and fully realize the cruelty of his loss to our cherished ideas. I have written to Mrs Jacobs expressing, in my name, and in the name of the French and Belgian Leagues, our heartfelt condolences.

MISS FRANCES WOLF (New York): You may be sure that I grieve deeply on the loss of one who meant so much to you all. The beautiful impression of this fine character that I carried away with me after my contacts with him make me feel the loss of so good a friend very keenly.

CHARLES BALDWIN (in the *Baltimore Sun*, 28th March): Louis Jacobs inspired the affection and respect of all who knew him. He was wise and delightful in counsel and very generous in his philanthropy. He lived to see the teachings of Henry George advanced towards acceptance by the Parliament of Great Britain and many of her Dominions and Provinces.

MCKENZIE WOOD, M.P.: L. P. Jacobs was one of the finest characters it was my fortune to meet and many good causes will suffer by his untimely death.

A. ALBENDIN: The passing of our good friend, L. P. Jacobs, has impressed me very much. I mourn the memory of so able and so well-equipped a co-worker. He stood for universal justice, and in the other life will be welcomed with the words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

JOHN B. SHARPE: It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of Mr. Jacobs. It is too bad that he passed away just on the eve of an event that he would have hailed as a happy omen for the future of the cause he held so dear.

F. FOLKE (in the Danish Journal *Grundskyld*): The members of the International Conference in Copenhagen, 1926, will remember Louis P. Jacobs, who made his wonderful contribution by the presentation to each member of a copy of Max Hirsch's brilliant book *Democracy versus Socialism*.

Very many others wrote to Mrs Jacobs and to the United Committee with messages of sympathy and in paying their tribute to the life and memory of our late colleague. These included (besides spokesmen at the

the Memorial Meeting): F. S. Baker, J. Beard (President of the Workers' Union), E. J. Brierley, Walter Coates, Jabez Crabtree, F. L. Crilly, J. O'D. Derrick, F. C. R. Douglas, D. J. Downie, Rupert East, E. M. Ginders, A. D. Haxton, A. Haywood, Councillor John Henderson (in behalf also of W. Becket Henderson), Joseph Hyder, Dr P. McDougall, J. H. McGuigan, Alex Mackendrick, Isaac Mackenzie, E. J. McManus, A. W. Madsen, H. Morrill, Councillor Wm. Noble, J. R. Oliphant, A. H. Peake, Dr Vere Pearson, Mrs Jane B. Silver, Rev. Mervyn Stewart, Fred Verinder and G. B. Waddell.

AT THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

A largely attended Memorial Service was held at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue on Thursday of last week. (*Jewish Guardian*, 20th March.) The Service was conducted by Dr I. I. Mattuck, assisted by Rabbi S. E. Starrels and Dr C. G. Montefiore; and the Rev. M. L. Perlzweig, in the course of his Memorial Address, said that the personality of Louis Philip Jacobs was all of a piece; he lived always in character. The current of his conviction flowed so deeply and so strongly that the simplest mind could take in the significance of his life. Utterly unselfish and utterly loyal to the end, he served the causes to which he was attached with all his heart, with all his thought and with all his might. And the cause above all causes which he served most earnestly, most constantly and most self-sacrificingly, was the cause of justice. "Justice, Justice, shalt thou follow." He heard the command; he heard it and he obeyed it, and the command became the governing ideal of his life. It was an abstraction for him; it was not something written in a book or embodied in a creed. It was a command which came to him out of his contemplation and understanding of the lives of his fellow human beings. He looked round the world, and he saw the poverty and the degradation in which multitudes of men and women lived; he looked round and saw the wreckage of human life produced, as he came to believe, by a social organization at once objective and unjust; and seeing these things he was moved to the depth of his generous nature. He could not believe that such a world reflected the mind and will of God—a world in which men were called upon to suffer needlessly; a world in which some were excessively rich and others found it difficult to procure their daily bread.

Louis Jacobs was an apostle of justice, and it was his humanity that moved him to help while justice tarried. . . . And from the faith of Israel he drew strength, courage and fortitude, enabling him to fight his battle, a battle for the emancipation of his fellow men from all social servitudes.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE JEW

An Address to the Melbourne Jewish Undergraduates Society

By Louis P. Jacobs

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