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BOOK NOTICE

BASIC FACTS *

Louis F. Post has completed a remarkably useful work. Following so soon after his book, "What is the Single Tax?", this has been an active year for the veteran whom we delight to honor for his more than fifty years of service in the cause of economic truth.

And now we have from his pen the book we have so long awaited—a real primer of political economy. The confusions of the current teachings of the science have done what they could to make it contemptible. The use of money and capital, or land and capital as synonymous terms, the failure to adequately appraise the relations of the human factor, Man, to the passive factor Land, in which term is properly included all natural resources, have made of political economy a lodge-podge which only Lewis Carroll could fitly parody.

* The Basic Facts of Economics, by Louis F. Post. Published by the author, 2513 Twelfth St., N. W. Washington, D. C., 100 pages, cloth, price 50 cents.

This book deals with the fundamentals. After surveying the surface facts of Money and Trade, Mr. Post proceeds to the "basic facts," which are Labor and Land. The student of political economy for whom this book is primarily intended will find himself carried along by easy gradations to correct conclusions, like a child learning to spell, and finally to read the characters, and last of all to determine the meaning of these characters and the lessons that underlie them.

It is Post at his best—all the ripened experience of fifty years of unremitting teaching of the simplest yet profoundest of the sciences, is brought to bear on this very successful attempt to dispel the confusions which have grown up around the political economy taught in our colleges and universities.

J. D. M.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

J. R. HERMANN, of Portland, Oregon, writes us that never have the papers in that state closed their columns so tightly against Single Tax news and communications. On the 2nd of September a Henry George celebration was held in Portland and the papers gave not a line to it.

WE have received news of the death of W. H. Porterfield, part owner and contributing editor of the San Diego, Calif. *Sun*. In 1913 he made an extensive European tour and wrote a series of articles that attracted wide attention. During the war he was special correspondent for the Scripps newspapers at Washington. He was a convert to Georgeism, being largely influenced by Edmund Norton. He entered heartily into the Single Tax campaigns of 1912 and 1914.

ANOTHER stalwart friend of the movement who took an active part in the Single Tax campaign in California has passed away in the person of J. H. Ryckman, who was always a welcome contributor to these pages. "Judge" Ryckman, as he was called by courtesy, was of Socialistic tinge, but these predilections never permitted him to swerve from his conviction that the land question was fundamental. He died suddenly while at a meeting of the Freeland Club of Los Angeles which had assembled at a cafeteria to celebrate the birthday of Henry George. Following the supper there was discussion in which Judge Ryckman took part, apparently feeling as well as ever. A few minutes after resuming his seat he fell over and expired. The cause has lost a devoted disciple and a powerful advocate. Memorial services were held September 25th under the auspices of the Civil Liberties Union and other organizations with which Mr. Ryckman was affiliated.

W. A. Cronberger, of Cleveland, Ohio, writes: "The last number of LAND AND FREEDOM was very, very good."

"A Single Tax Colony, An Economic Experiment at Fairhope, Alabama," is the title of a six page illustrated article by R. F. Powell in the *Review of Reviews* for August. Some abstracts of this article will be given in next issue. Mr. Powell was present at the Congress and gave an interesting talk on Fairhope.

In August of this year the *Fairhope Courier* began its 34th year. This paper, issued weekly, is the organ of the Single Tax colony on the shores of Mobile Bay. The first number was issued in 1894.

AUGUST WILLEGES, of Sioux City, Iowa, wrote a short time before the meeting of the Henry George Congress, "You certainly have a wonderful programme, and you must know that it almost breaks my heart at not being able to participate and meet those friends of former days."

THE current revival of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas recalls to George R. Macey an interesting historical incident. His first political campaigning was in the interest of William Henry Smith for Parliament