

despotism. If we disagree with Mr. Mills in what constitutes economic democracy, if we fail to follow him every step of the way, it is easy to endorse his treatment of the problems of party government, in which there is much that is enlightening.

Mr. Mills' definition and explanation of "special privilege" leaves something to be desired. It is not clear how much he would include when he says, "The government of things collectively used by a minority can be established or continued only by the power of special privileges." But his conclusion, whatever his premise, appears to be sound: "To abolish the last vestige of special privilege of any sort which may give to any one personal power over another."

Mr. Mills is in favor of the government's appropriating all ground rents, but he is also in favor of the government's taking over the great industrial monopolies—in other words, Mr. Mills is a Single Tax Socialist.

There are interesting and valuable thoughts on party fealty and party government, militarism and world politics. The style is simple and crisp and the work will repay reading.—J. D. M.

LOUIS F. POST'S GREAT WORK*

In the literature of economics no one since Henry George has won a higher place than Louis F. Post, former editor of the *Public* and now Assistant Secretary of Labor at Washington. Economics as taught is not literature at all—indeed it is difficult to say what it is. And this is because most political economists have written with no conception of the natural and fundamental laws underlying the problems taught. These problems have been considered only as having relation to national policy, business (and business in its narrowest sense), or to existing laws and legislation. To do more than this would be, of course, to challenge institutions and privilege. It would be to forfeit professorial chairs, as

*The *Ethics of Democracy*, by Louis F. Post. 12mo., clo., 374 pp., Price \$1.50 net. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, Ind.

many have found to their cost. Hence most of the works of the political economists that are of any value at all are on the index expurgatorius of the powers that determine the kind and character of institutional education, and their authors are without jobs, or pursue their calling as itinerant lecturers, or free lances.

Mr. Post in this new edition of the "Ethics of Democracy" has introduced but few changes in the work that appeared twenty years ago, but the discussions are as fresh and stimulating as they were then. Democracy is both economic and political, and the character and degree of the political democracy that prevails are determined by the degree of recognition extended by legislation to immutable economic laws. This no Single Taxer needs to be told. It is the clear comprehension of this great truth running like a thread through these discussions that makes Mr. Post one of the greatest teachers of his time, and this book the greatest of his contributions to the small body of informing and illuminative literature that marries economics to politics.—J. D. M.

POEMS BY B. H. NADAL

A book of poems by a well known Single Taxer, B. H. Nadal, is published by J. H. Shores, of this city, and comes with the enthusiastic endorsements of Jessie B. Rittenhouse and Robert Underwood Johnson. The poems are graceful, facile, thoughtful, and sometimes instinct with native humor. One of the poems was originally contributed to the *Single Tax Review*. Another is a tribute to Henry George. The volume is printed at \$1.

OUR readers will do well to send 10 cents for a little booklet containing three "playlets" by Emanuel Julius, Box 125, Gerard, Kansas. The title of the first playlet that gives the name to the little pamphlet is "The Pest."

The humor is of a new and refreshing kind. Mr. Julius is of the editorial staff of *The Appeal to Reason*.