

The Public

A National Journal of Fundamental Democracy &
A Weekly Narrative of History in the Making

LOUIS F. POST, EDITOR
ALICE THACHER POST, MANAGING EDITOR

GENERAL LIBRARY
UNIV. OF MICH.
APR 16 1909

ADVISORY AND CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

JAMES H. DILLARD, Louisiana
WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, Massachusetts
L. F. C. GARVIN, Rhode Island
HENRY F. RING, Texas
WILLIAM H. FLEMING, Georgia
HERBERT S. BIGELOW, Ohio
FREDERIC C. HOWE, Ohio
MRS. HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON, Ohio
BRAND WHITLOCK, Ohio

HENRY GEORGE, JR., New York
ROBERT BAKER, New York
BOLTON HALL, New York
FRANCIS I. DU PONT, Delaware
HERBERT QUICK, Iowa
MRS. LONA INGHAM ROBINSON, Iowa
S. A. STOCKWELL, Minnesota
WILLIAM P. HILL, Missouri
C. E. S. WOOD, Oregon

JOHN Z. WHITE, Illinois
R. F. PETTIGREW, South Dakota
LEWIS H. BERENS, England
J. W. S. CALLIE, England
JOSEPH FELS, England
JOHN PAUL, Scotland
MAX HIRSCH, Australia
GEORGE FOWLDS, New Zealand

Vol. XII.

CHICAGO, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

No. 576

Published by Louis F. Post
Ellsworth Building, 357 Dearborn Street, Chicago

Single Copy, Five Cents Yearly Subscription, One Dollar
Entered as Second-Class Matter April 16, 1898 at the Post Office at
Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879

EDITORIAL

Max Hirsch.

Without details but from trustworthy sources comes the news as we go to press this week, of the death of Max Hirsch, of Australia. A truer and finer epitaph could not be written of any man than this from the April "Land Values" of London and Glasgow upon Mr. Hirsch: "Thousands will mourn the loss of one whose nobility of character and sacrifice of self for the cause he had espoused, no less attracted adherents than did his genius." Max Hirsch was best known to thoughtful readers the world over for his profound book on "Democracy vs. Socialism" (vol. iv, p. 709), which is published by Macmillan. Throughout Australia he was known for his untiring work as a leader in sanely radical politics. He was best known, however, and his loss will be most keenly felt, among the adherents everywhere of the cause to which Henry George gave his genius and his name, and to which Max Hirsch devoted his life.

+

This able and single-hearted Australian was born in Germany in 1852. He was educated in his native city of Cologne and at the University of Berlin. Coming of a democratic family—his father, a distinguished European economist, having, with his uncle, been banished and had their estates confiscated for connection with the revolutionary uprisings of 1848,—he found his intellectual doors already open to a pioneering career in

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

Max Hirsch	361
The Single Tax Among Farmers	362
Vacant Lot Gardens in London	363
The "Single Tax" and "Municipal Socialism"	363

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Phases of the Land Question (Richard McGhee)....	371
--	-----

NEWS NARRATIVE:

The Tariff in Congress	372
Municipal Elections in the West	372
The School-Book Trust	373
International Combination Against Castro	374
News Notes	375
Press Opinions	375

RELATED THINGS:

To Henry George	375
A Bard at the Braes (Margaret McMillan)	375
Current Belief in Predestination (George Wallace) ..	377
The Farmer and the Single Tax (S. H. Howes)	377
A Typical Instance	378
The Reward of Monopoly and the Wages of Industry ..	379

BOOKS:

Fillebrown's Fiscal Theory	380
America as a Lost Opportunity	381
Pamphlets	382

democracy along economic lines. His vocation was that of an expert in tapestry, and in this employment he traveled widely and underwent some extraordinary experiences. By 1879 he had established himself in business at Melbourne, where he became acquainted with the doctrines of Henry George. Convinced of the soundness of their conclusions and the vital importance to mankind of their practical application, although he laid the emphasis on their phase of expediency, rather than on the religious ideal to which George chiefly appealed, Mr. Hirsch abandoned his business to work for his cause. For many years afterwards he lectured throughout Australia, edited the Melbourne "Beacon," wrote many pamphlets, founded many societies, participated actively in politics, and became the leading exponent in Australia of the principles of free trade and land value taxation.

+

In the course of his political service, Mr. Hirsch was elected to the lower house of the Victorian legislature, and from a farming constituency notwithstanding his undisguised advocacy of land value taxation. Gaining here general recognition for his genuineness and abilities, he was soon upon the highway of a parliamentary career. But the Australian Commonwealth was formed about that time, and at the request of the national Free Trade leader, Mr. Hirsch resigned his seat in the Victorian parliament to go before a Protectionist constituency for a seat in the parliament of the Commonwealth. The constituency was overwhelmingly Protectionist; yet Mr. Hirsch, in an open Free Trade campaign (vol. iv, p. 130), came within 160 votes of winning the seat. To American readers it may be interesting to know that Thomas G. Shearman of New York and Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland were the principal contributors to a fund for that campaign, which was collected in this country by Mr. Hirsch's personal friend and economic pupil, Melvin J. Foyer, now of Toledo. Although defeated for the seat, Mr. Hirsch nevertheless served the Free Trade party well from the "newspaper box" on the floor of the Commonwealth parliament. His economic and political specialty was statistics, which he read with the readiness of a music master reading music, and throughout the session he served the Free Trade leader with data and explanations of data at every turn in the parliamentary fight. It was "largely through his endeavors," says "Land Values," that "the tariff that evolved was marked by a comparatively low range of duties."

By readers of *The Public* Mr. Hirsch will be gratefully remembered as the contributor of some of its best special articles (vol. x, p. 319; vol. xi, p. 103; vol. xii, p. 77). His was a useful life, a strenuous life, and—although he died poor in purse and therefore a failure from the plutocratic viewpoint—a life of extraordinary success. We could pay no better tribute to his memory than we do by quoting with cordial approval the eloquent words with which "Land Values" closes its report of his death: "Not in vain was the life of this great selfless man lived. The cause he fought and died for dominates all others in his adopted land. In every Australasian State it has been initiated, except two, where the will of the people has been thwarted by unrepresentative upper chambers. Not in vain, for the many he taught and inspired by word or deed, who looked to him as master with regard that was something akin to reverence, will carry on the work to glorious consummation, and so erect to his memory a monument more enduring than any that could be cast in metal or hewn from stone."

+ +

The Single Tax Among Farmers.

A superstition has long prevailed that the single tax will never be accepted by farmers. It will be found, however, that this depends upon what kind of farmers are meant—the "farmers that farm farms, or those that farm farmers." Farmers have indeed been long misled by the idea that the single tax is a tax upon the work or business of farming; but the agricultural classes are not so unintelligent that plutocratic misrepresentation will make them always blind to the fact that the single tax exempts from taxation all legitimate work, all legitimate business, including the business of agriculture. They are certain to realize sooner or later that the single tax burdens only the monopoly of natural and industrial opportunities for agriculture and for other business. It taxes the farmer who farms farmers; but it exempts the farmer who farms farms.

+

In Australasia they are already finding this out. For applications of the single tax are growing both extensively and intensively in Australasia, and quite as successfully in farming regions as in city communities. This is true also of Canada, where very considerable applications of the principle of the single tax are in successful operation in farming regions. And a favorable attitude is showing itself among our own farmers. Witness these resolutions, adopted last autumn by a well-