

The Post Memorial Meeting in New York

AN assemblage of about 500 attended the Memorial Meeting in honor of the late Louis F. Post, held under the auspices of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation on the evening of April 10 at the Community Church, Park Avenue and 34th Street, this city.

Charles O'Connor Hennessy, president of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, in opening the meeting, explained briefly the origin and purpose of the Foundation, which has been created through a generous bequest in the will of the late Robert Schalkenbach to promote a wider acquaintance with the social and economic philosophy of Henry George.

"Because Louis F. Post was one of the first of the citizens named by Mr. Schalkenbach to administer this trust" said Mr. Hennessy, "and because, since Henry George's death thirty years ago, Mr. Post had been leading expositor of Mr. George's ideas, it seemed to us proper and fitting that we should summon followers of Henry George and of Louis F. Post to join in a tribute of affection and regard to their memories and to the principles to which their lives were dedicated.

"It is hard to think of the name of Louis F. Post without thinking of Henry George. There are a number of men here tonight, and your chairman is very proud to believe he is one of them, who enjoyed the great privilege and honor of the friendship and confidence of Henry George, but it will not be questioned by anyone that Mr. Post enjoyed that friendship and confidence more intimately and completely during the historic events of their lives in this city than, perhaps, any other man.

"And from that day, more than forty years ago, when Louis F. Post, then a brilliant young lawyer of this city, became a convert to the great truth preached by Henry George, he took into his heart, as it were, the cross of a new crusade, and to the truth he was faithful to the very end when he passed a few months ago from life here to join the great spirit of Henry George in the Life Beyond.

"We would speak tonight of Louis F. Post, as journalist, lawyer, editor, author of many books, and high-minded and efficient public servant in an important and responsible post at Washington during the two administrations of Woodrow Wilson. I believe the influence of his life, his writings and his public utterances during the last forty years, have done much to uplift the standard of American life, and that the influence of his teachings will persist for many generations to come."

The chairman declared that the characteristics that seemed to him to distinguish Louis F. Post from other public men were his consistent Americanism, his devotion to the ideals and principles upon which the Republic was founded. He quoted from Mr. Post's stirring essay on "What is Patriotism?" in the "Ethics of Democracy"

and read approvingly from the editorial page of the *Baltimore Sun* the statement that none could more perfectly meet the test of 100% Americanism than Louis Freeland Post.

Chairman Hennessy presented Dr. John Haynes Holmes, who said in part:

"My presence at another meeting this evening would have made it impossible for me to be here tonight had it not been for two facts: First of all, I felt that it was my duty as well as my very great pleasure to stand upon this platform just for a few moments and to express the pleasure that I felt in my heart that this meeting in memory of a great and good man should be held within this church which I so love. I feel that this church is sanctified by the presence of this company and the spirit of this occasion.

"I can realize what Mr. Post did for one life. He didn't teach me about the Single Tax. I learned that from Henry George. But what he did teach me, so far as I can search the crannies of my mind, was the reality of a political democracy and what constitutes the betrayal of that democracy. Mr. Post taught me that democracy is betrayed when government is used to bestow special favors and privileges upon the rich and powerful who do not need them, and secondly, that the ideal of democracy is betrayed when government is used for the oppression of the great unprotected masses of the people. Mr. Post could recognize no classes in democracy. There could be no rich for the government to serve and no poor and helpless for the government to oppress. His ideal of our great republic was the ideal of Abraham Lincoln—a government of the people, for the people, and by the people, all the people together—and the thing for which he lived through all his many years was symbolized as well as defined by his second name—Freeland. God bless and sanctify the memory of this great and good man."

ADDRESS OF FREDERIC C. LEUBUSCHER

SO IMBUED was Spinoza with the idea of the divine that he was called "God Intoxicated." To paraphrase this, we can call Louis F. Post "Freedom Intoxicated." Throughout his long life, in his public utterances and actions and in his books, there is insistence on individualism, on personal liberty. His attitude in the deportation cases, when he braved war-maddened public hysteria to uphold the rights of man, while the most sensational, was only typical.

Almost forty-four years ago, while I was a clerk in a law office, my employers gave me a vacation. At that early age my mental relaxation from the study of musty law books consisted in devouring novels—the more sensational the better. So on my trip to the country I picked up at a book stall a paper covered novel entitled "Progress

and Poverty." Imagine my disgust on finding it to be a treatise on political economy. But as I had nothing else with which to while away the tedium of a journey, I commenced to read it. I was soon enthralled by the beautiful style of the opening chapter; and before the two weeks of my vacation were over, I had finished reading "Progress and Poverty." Not only that, but I had become a convert to what was afterwards called the SingleTax Philosophy. For two years I did nothing to further the cause, except to call the attention of friends to the remarkable book.

In 1886 the newspapers were full of the candidacy of Henry George for the mayoralty of New York City. This emboldened me to go to his campaign headquarters in the old Colonnade Hotel, since razed. At last I was to meet the man pictured by my youthful enthusiasm as the greatest philosopher of all times. I might add that now, when my hair is white, I have not revised my early judgment. As I opened the door, I was greeted by a young, short, rather squatty man, whose Jovian head was covered by a mass of bushy hair. Thus I first met Louis F. Post. After introducing me to the candidate, who spoke to me as though I were an equal, while I felt like an urchin in the presence of the awe-inspiring teacher, Post took me aside to learn what I could do to aid the campaign. Discovering I had some knowledge of stenography, which was unusual in those days, he set me to work reporting Henry George's speeches.

After this most sensational campaign was over, Post suggested that he and I write a history of it. In the published book "An Account of the George-Hewitt Campaign of 1886," he kindly coupled my name with his as co-author, although my contribution to the work was largely that of amenuensis. This was also typical—never himself seeking the limelight, but always dragging a friend into it.

Post had the art of the campaign orator of injecting stories in his speech, so that his audience never tired even when listening to speeches that required the closest attention. Just imagine keeping an audience interested throughout an hour's address on political economy, mingling laughter with applause. In the '80s one of the leading radicals in New York was John Swinton, who published *John Swinton's Paper*. Swinton's panacea for all economic ills, his cure-all, was the greenback. He and Post had a joint debate on the comparative merits of the land and the money questions. Finally Swinton said, "If I could get all the money of the world you can have all the land." Quick as a flash Post replied, "Agreed; you have all the money and I have all the land—now get off my earth."

Hard work never kills, for if it did, Post would never have lived to be seventy-eight. During the '86 campaign, which lasted a month, I doubt if he averaged four hours' sleep out of the twenty-four. At headquarters during the day, speaking at night until eleven, and then taking up

his duties as editor of the *Leader* until 2 A.M. Every New York newspaper was opposing Henry George, so Post started a daily called the *Leader* which lasted a year until the Socialists captured it, when it soon died.

This week there will be many memorial meetings in honor of a man who died over a century ago. Thomas Jefferson's birthday comes on Friday. He was the great American exponent of democracy (with a small d). Post followed in his foot-steps. Before many years, the American people will have learned that were it not for Post and men like him who, despite obloquy, repelled assaults on the very fundamentals of Jeffersonian democracy, they might now be ruled by a Mussolini.

At the conclusion of this address, Frank I. Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, paid a high tribute to Mr. Post and dwelt upon his life-long interest in the labor movement. A notable statement of Mr. Morrison's was: "We can build monuments to the memory of Louis F. Post and other pleaders for social justice by entering whole-heartedly into that struggle."

ADDRESS OF FREDERIC C. HOWE

(IN PART)

TO me the things that distinguish Louis Post are the things that to him were important, and the things that to him were important are not in reality important to very many people. I fancy that they are more generally important to the friends of Mr. Post who have gathered here this evening, but to the generality of folks the things that he held important are not important. I should not emphasize the courage of Mr. Post as courage. I should not exalt the fight he made as such. The thing that distinguished Mr. Post even among his associates was the fact that he held the human mind to be important. He believed in the human mind. All his life, from the time he saw the Single Tax light, he challenged the idea that the world thought through its stomach, and I am quite serious about that because there is a very substantial economic and political group in the world that insists that the world only moves through its hunger and through its poverty. I am not referring alone to the proletarian classes or the Socialist party, but our bankers and business men act on the assumption that the world moves only through its wants, through its hunger, through its stomach. Yet Mr. Post did not question but that the truth, a logical truth, a truth that would stand the test of trial, could be presented with assurance to a landlord, to a banker, to a protectionist or to any class in society, and that if that truth were stated clear enough and often enough, it would make its way.

I am not at all sure but that in the realm of mature adult thinking, *The Public* in those days, edited by a very poor man, living on a very negligible salary, in politics a considerable part of the time fighting a fight for the school board, entertaining his friends and reading apparently