

Report of Lectures of James R. Brown

FROM MAY 26 TO JULY 19

THE summer is an inactive period for lecture work as compared with the winter months. But it will be seen from the following report that I have not been idle.

May 26—Mineola, L. I.; Chamber of Commerce; a good group of sincere men, fifty in number.

May 27—Nyack, N. Y.; Lions' Club, at noon; twenty-five present; my fourth address in Nyack.

Wappingers Falls, N. Y.; Chamber of Commerce, evening; fifty present; interesting meeting; many leading citizens present; a most agreeable and profitable evening.

June 2—Port Chester, N. Y.; Men's Club of the Methodist Church, the Rev. F. F. Voorhees, pastor. I first met Mr. Voorhees at Jackson Heights, when he had charge of the Methodist church there. Then he moved to Babylon and had me down there to speak to a men's group. It was a satisfactory and encouraging meeting, about thirty present.

June 10—Beacon, N. Y.; Kiwanis Club; very earnest, sincere men; a hearty invitation to come back and go on with the argument; forty-five present; newspapers gave generous space.

June 11—Northport, N. Y.; Thursday Club, 3 P. M.; some thirty present: an organization made up of the leading women of the neighborhood. Meeting was arranged by Miss Charlotte Schetter, and it was a group of fine women who seemed greatly interested in the doctrine.

That evening a very nice group of about twenty neighbors met in Miss Schetter's studio. This meeting was interesting and profitable.

June 14—Free Acres, N. J.; meeting held in the open air and arranged by Miss Ami Mali Hicks; about thirty present. An interesting outcome of this, showing the strength of the appeal the Single Tax has when plainly stated, was that at a meeting of the members of the Free Acre Colony the other day a resolution was passed authorizing a contribution to the Manhattan Single Tax Club each year in appreciation of the lecture, and another evidence of appreciation was the naming of a road "Henry George."

June 17—Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; Rotary Club; about seventy present. A satisfactory meeting. Our good friend George Foster Peabody attended this meeting and introduced the speaker. The meeting was all one could ask for, pleasant, friendly, agreeable in attitude and showing a desire to know more, evidenced by requests for literature.

June 18—Utica, N. Y.; Exchange Club; the fifth address I have given in Utica. It was interesting; the group friendly and open-minded. About fifty present.

June 22—Luzerne, N. Y.; Hadley-Luzerne High School commencement exercises; about 500 in attendance; meeting arranged for by Principal of High School, L. F. Perkins. I first met Mr. Perkins when he was teaching in Syracuse University; he heard a number of the lectures and ever since has been tremendously interested in the Single Tax. He is a man of sterling qualities, splendid type of mind, and one who has an unselfish relationship to his fellow-kind. I have a great admiration and affection for him. The title of my address was "Civic Righteousness." In this address I showed the dual nature of man: he is an individual; he is also a social animal, and there can be no civic righteousness without a righteous way of raising public revenue.

June 24—Newark, N. Y.; Lions' Club; my second visit to this delightful club; some fifty men present at the luncheon, and greater interest could not have been shown or a more hearty, cordial invitation to come back.

June 25—Glens Falls, N. Y.; Rotary Club, at noon; about 100 pres-

ent; my seventh visit to Glens Falls, and the fourth to the Rotary Club meeting was arranged by our good friend George H. Cless, Jr. I first met Mr. Cless in Portsmouth, Va., when I delivered an address for the Rotary Club there in 1926. He was then the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, a position he now holds in Glens Falls. When the meeting was over he stepped out to the door with me and earnestly shook hands and said, "Well, Mr. Brown, this is the greatest speech ever made in this town." I said, "why do you say that?" "Well," he said, "it is the most fundamental talk I have ever listened to and it has changed my whole outlook on life." Mr. Cless is a graduate of the Ohio State University, a very bright, keen and alert man, with a soul that is in tune with the Infinite. He arranged quite a number of meetings for me in Portsmouth, Va.; I lectured there seven times. We have the leading newspapers owner there committed absolutely to the Single Tax; he prints everything we write for him, and in Glens Falls Mr. Cless is exercising a splendid, broadening, liberalizing influence.

Luzerne, N. Y.; Grange, June 25, evening; a group of farmer folks twenty-eight in number. I like to talk to farmers; I know farmers; I have followed the plow, and many a blister I have raised on my heels walking after a harrow across a newly plowed field. There is a tremendous appeal in a farmer audience to me, overworked, underpaid, suffering all the disadvantages of our so-called civilized life. No wonder they are behind on the tax question, but they are good, honest people to talk to and unselfish. I feel they are my people, and to talk to them and to lead them into a clearer understanding of the tax problem is a great privilege.

June 26—Luzerne, N. Y.; another Grange; about thirty present kind reception and close attention.

June 29—Salem, N. Y.; Lions' Club; a group of about forty-five interested, earnest citizens. The same hearty invitation to return, the same keen interest awakened as in other places.

July 2—Bridgeton, N. J.; Rotary Club, at noon; forty-seven present; a splendid group of fellows, a great pleasure to talk to them.

Bridgeton, N. J.; Kiwanis Club, the same evening; forty-five present. Both these meetings were very, very satisfactory; arrangements that I should talk to both clubs on the same day were made by mutual agreement.

July 5—New York, N. Y.; radio talk over Station WHAP; they began a series of Sunday talks during July and August, from 10 to 10:30 P. M. Out of these talks we have already received quite a number of requests for literature.

July 7—Patchogue, N. Y.; Round Table Club; my third visit to this mighty interesting group of gentlemen, and I shall be happy to accede to their request to come again. About fifty in attendance.

July 10—White Plains, N. Y.; Kiwanis Club, thirty present. This is my twelfth lecture on the Single Tax in White Plains. The most impatient could not find fault with the growth of Single Tax sentiment in this thriving and progressive city.

July 12—New York, N. Y.; second radio talk over Station WHAP.

July 14—Far Rockaway, N. Y.; Exchange Club; twenty-six present my fourth visit to this group. A splendid lot of fellows, inquiring, open minded, friendly and gradually absorbing the idea.

July 19—New York, N. Y.; third radio talk over Station WHAP.

This makes 154 lectures so far this year, and the number of auditors amount to 15,489. This, of course, does not include talks over the air as there is no way of telling how many listen in, but a good many must listen in, judging by the letters received. These letters are all kind and friendly toward the Single Tax, all of them without exception asking for literature.

JAMES R. BROWN.

Following are a few excerpts from the many letters to hand which comment on Mr. Brown's lectures:

July 9, 1931.

Just recently I started to read "The Philosophy of Henry George"

by Dr. Geiger, and what a pleasure that reading is! I can't tell you how much I appreciate your sending me the volume and thus giving me the opportunity of becoming acquainted with it. If such material can only be given wide enough circulation the results should be great. And to you must go my thanks for the several newspapers and bulletins which have come my way from various Single Taxers throughout the country. It has been pleasant to receive them, for I imagine you have given them my name.

You will be interested in the answers to one of my final examination questions last month. I asked the students to name what had been the most outstanding thing they had secured from their course in economics, and to my surprise and delight three of them specifically mentioned you and the lectures you had given here in Wesleyan. One of them added, "and I believe that I am a confirmed Single Taxer." Those people will be among those who will be looking forward to your return next year.

Indeed I do appreciate your making it possible for me to read and enjoy some of this material on the Single Tax. My interest and my devotion to the cause is assured.

WM. T. BEADLES,

Dept. of Economics, Illinois Wesleyan Univ., Bloomington, Ill.

JULY 2, 1931.

I recall a portion of your talk wherein you said that one does not begrudge the paying of a bill where there has been service rendered, and so it is with the greatest of pleasure that I enclose our club's check for services rendered. I assure you every one who heard you speak feels you have indeed rendered us a great service. Your talk has created a good deal of interest among the taxpayers here, and one hears the following regret expressed on every hand by those who did not attend: "I wish I had attended the lecture the other night; I have been kicking myself for not going." So I am in hopes that the next time it is our good fortune to have you with us you will have a larger audience.

I not only appreciate having heard you speak, but I feel richer for having met you personally, and I also send the club's most sincere and hearty thanks for being with us on Monday night last. May it be our privilege to hear you again in the near future.

GLENN B. WOODBURY,
Secretary Salem Lions' Club.

May, 22, 1931.

Enclosed is clipping from the May 21 issue of the *Home News* giving an outline of your talk at our luncheon meeting on Tuesday, May 19. May I take this opportunity of extending the thanks of our members for the very interesting address which you made on this occasion?

F. A. RITCHINGS,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Washington Heights.

March 23, 1931.

Thank you for your letter of the 14th. You started something here in South Bend, and it is up to you to help settle this controversy by rendering, at as early a date as possible, specific data and plan to cover the Single Tax question which you so ardently advocated. I wish you might hear some of the reactions to your address. The only criticism I have heard was that the remedy was apparently something mysterious, something which you did not have time to give the boys. They want you to come back and take your "light from under the bushel."

GEORGE J. GEISLER, M. D.

June 6, 1931.

I read your letter of May 12 to the members present at our June 4 meeting and they were unanimous in their expression of complete pleasure, of entertainment and enjoyment and food for serious thought which they derived from your visit. May I personally add my impression: that you are a past master of the art of oratory and expression, and that your missionary work throughout the country cannot help but eventually bear fruit.

H. E. ERICKSON,
Leonia Board of Trade.

May 28, 1931.

To Whom It May Concern: On April 15, 1931, Mr. James Roger Brown addressed the membership of our lodge on the subject "Single Tax." Mr. Brown's talk was very delightfully arranged and was most interesting as well as instructive. The facts as presented by Mr. Brown were worthy of consideration, and I highly recommend him to anyone interested in the subject of Single Tax.

ALBERT B. KRIES,
Secretary, Baltimore Lodge 7, B. P. O. Elks.

Glad to receive your letter, and in return would say the pleasure was more than half ours, for our men were highly pleased with your talk. And I think they were more than half convinced you are right, but the main difficulty seems to be the feasibility of the plan, how to get it adopted and applied with things as they are.

F. F. VOORHEES,
Pastor Summerfield M. E. Church, Port Chester, N. Y.

Our Premier Lecturer

IT would be folly to claim that Mr. James R. Brown is without his critics. If there is anything more than another that characterizes this movement it is differences of opinion. The followers of Henry George are strong individualists. It may even be said that many are too strongly enamored of their own methods of presenting the doctrine. In view of this it is even more remarkable to reflect that 99 per cent of all Single Taxers throughout the country have no words but those of praise for Mr. Brown's lecture work.

Yet as we say he has his critics. Before us lies a letter in which the writer speaks of Mr. Brown's "peculiar brand of Single Tax." This characterization comes from one who has not in recent years heard Mr. Brown and who has persistently declined all invitations to hear him. We confess to a little bewilderment at the mental processes of the writer. Do these striking testimonials to Mr. Brown from all over the country mean nothing? Is the army of converts among college professors and business men who confess their conversion under Mr. Brown's teachings, talking merely out of politeness, or for the sake of hearing themselves? Speaking generally, this criticism comes from those who do not know of the extraordinary success Mr. Brown is meeting with everywhere.

We quote another of his critics: "We want to preach the doctrines of Henry George in the words of Henry George." But must we really insist upon that? Surely the objection to this is that it leaves no room for individual interpretation. As a matter of fact the language of mankind differs with every generation. Each period must produce its own idiom and each individual his own style. And the doctrines of Henry George are translatable into every vernacular. It is the *substance*, not the *manner* that is important. And it not the *words*, but the *thought* that we shall recognize when some great popular leader of thought shall translate Henry George into the language of the day, or speak after his own manner. Is not this inevitable?

In our estimate of the value of Mr. Brown's work we