

Report of Lectures of James R. Brown

FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO MARCH 10

THIS interesting report of the lecture work of James R. Brown during the period indicated is an inspiring record of the increasing hospitality to the Message everywhere manifested, but nowhere so signally exhibited as in the many meetings addressed by our lecturer:

Feb. 1—Baltimore, Md.; open forum meeting at 3 P. M. in theatre; 500 present. The title of lecture was "The City Beautiful." This subject held the interest of the people from start to finish. At the end an old man got up in the front row, held up his hands in pleading fashion, and said, "Mister, where can I learn more about this City Beautiful?" "The City Beautiful" was an outline and word picture of what the Single Tax would do in removing ugliness, physical, mental and spiritual, that so predominates in our modern city. It was touching the way this man acted; he was so earnest, as though it were a city of his dreamland and this was the nearest he ever came to it. After the meeting was over a large amount of literature, books and tracts was sold at the door, much to the encouragement of our good Single Taxers.

Baltimore, Md.; Cosmopolitan Community Church (colored), 8 P. M. Here was a splendid audience of earnest souls, about 500 in number, presided over by an earnest and cultured man by the name of Frederick Douglass. They were attentive, appreciative, and one thing I enjoyed very much was the singing by their very capable and well-trained choir.

Feb. 2—Baltimore, Md.; Robert Beach School for Girls, 8:30 A. M. A bright, attractive group of about fifty girls. I have spoken regularly for a number of years at this school and I enjoy my visits there. The members of the faculty are kind and interested.

Towson, Md.; State Normal College, 11:30 A. M. This college has been presided over for a number of years by a talented lady, Miss Lida Lee Tall. I spoke to the assembly, numbering 600, and the faculty was in attendance. The point we tried to press home to the embryonic teachers was that when they get to schools and wish a salary increase—a proper and a natural thing—they are met by the Mayor and praised and flattered and told that they work hard and get little money and they ought to have more money, but the Mayor will tell them "We have no money." Then it is up to them to point out that the selling price of land is that part of social service value largely created by our educational system, that is uncollected by taxation, capitalized; and the City of Baltimore has at least \$30,000,000 a year of uncollected social service values, and to collect a part of this for school purposes would be but giving back to the schools a part of the value the schools create.

Baltimore, Md.; City Council, 4 P. M.; a gathering of about fifty. This session lasted an hour. We feel it was profitable; attention could not have been better nor interest keener, and we were treated with utmost kindness and courtesy, following by a hearty invitation to come again and go on with the argument.

Baltimore, Md.; radio talk over Station WCBM, 7 P. M. The title of this talk was "Man's Greatest Blunder." Briefly, we tried to point out that the assuming that private property is the measure of public service is a most disastrous blunder.

Feb. 3—Baltimore, Md.; Strayer-Bryant and Stratton Business College, 11:40 A. M. This address was delivered to the law students, some ninety students present. Very enjoyable and we believe very profitable. This is one of the places we visit regularly in our tours of Maryland.

Baltimore, Md.; Johns Hopkins University, class of Prof. Broadus Mitchell, 8 P. M. until 9:30. About 100 students of a very earnest type. This is another of our regular calling places.

Feb. 4—Catonsville, Md.; High School at 9 A. M.; 500 students.

Dr. Pullen, principal of the High School, has a great interest in our philosophy and is always anxious for the students to learn more of this important subject.

Annapolis, Md.; A Senate committee of the Legislature, appointed to look up new sources of revenue. We had very little time on this occasion, but think we made good use of it by pointing out a source of revenue that most of the legislators had never thought of, utterly ignorant of the fact that this source is the natural source of public revenue. Quite an interest was stirred up in our proposition, evidenced by the reception of letters from members of the committee who had their interest awakened.

Feb. 5—Washington, D. C.; Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, Class in Economics, from 10 to 11 A. M.; some sixty present. Friendly and receptive in the department presided over by Dean Notz.

Feb. 6—Washington, D. C.; Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service; a group of about thirty seminar students. This session lasted two hours, from 5 to 7 P. M. It was interesting because in this group there were representatives from almost all over the world, who were then on the point of leaving for their respective countries, including China, Japan, Germany, South America, Canada and other places.

Feb. 11—Taunton, Mass.; Kiwanis Club; some fifty-three present; subject, "Hard Times: the Cause and Cure." We had the pleasure of having for our guest at this meeting two of our good fellows from Fall River, Doctors Padelford and McCann. It was a most enjoyable meeting.

East Weymouth, Mass.; Men's Club of the Davis Bates Clapp Memorial Association, 6:30 P. M. This was a banquet; fifty-five splendid men sat down. The topic was, "Foolish Things That Wise Men Do." A very satisfactory meeting.

Feb. 15—Whitford Lodge, Pa.; open forum, 4:30 P. M. Our good friend John W. Herring was in town, and he drove me in his car for this engagement. Whitford Lodge is the home of county welfare work of Chester County, Pa., and is just a few miles outside the City of West Chester. Mr. Herring is director. The audience, about thirty in number, was made up of neighborhood folks interested in county welfare work. This group, while small, was interested and influential. We had the pleasure of the company of our friends R. Louis Lloyd and Harold Sudell.

Whitford Lodge; 6 P. M. There was a dinner, attended by some twenty-five people of the same type as at the 4:30 meeting, and all were much interested.

Feb. 16—West Chester, Pa.; Teachers College. Class in economics at 8 A. M.; class in economics at 9 A. M. Fifty students in each class. Whitford Lodge; 6 P. M.; another dinner group of twenty.

Feb. 17—Rochester, Pa.; Senior High School and faculty, 8:40 A. M. Mr. Denton M. Albright, superintendent of schools of that city, arranged this meeting.

Rochester, Pa., Mr. Albright called together all the school teachers at 4 P. M., fifty-nine in number, and I addressed them on the Single Tax.

Rochester, Pa.; Rotary Club, 6 P. M.; fifty-eight in attendance. All of these meetings were presided over by Mr. Albright. I first met Mr. Albright in 1925 when he was the principal of the High School in Kittanning, Pa., and I spoke there to the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club and at the High School. In 1926 he accepted the superintendency of the schools in Rochester. He is interested in our proposition and an intelligent worker for it. It was, of course, a pleasure to renew his acquaintance.

Feb. 18—Cincinnati, O.; University of Cincinnati, 9:30 A. M. students in economics; fifty in attendance. Dean William W. Hewett under whose direction I spoke last year at the same university, presided.

Cincinnati, O.; Lions' Club, at noon; a splendid group of alert citizens, eighty in number. At this meeting we had the pleasure of the

company of John J. Gordon, an ardent Single Taxer, more than eighty years of age, whom I had last met thirty-four years ago. He came to this Lions' Club meeting and wanted to know if he could hear the speaker. They, of course, treated him kindly, gave him a seat and refused to let him pay for his dinner, and after the dinner he came up and spoke to me. He was very much astonished when I called him by name. I invited him to come also to the Rotary Club meeting, and they, too, were very kind to him; met him at the door and gave him a seat at the speakers' table and entertained him royally.

Feb. 19—Cincinnati, O.; Rotary Club, at noon; 300 in attendance. We had the pleasure at this dinner of the company of our good friends Fenton Lawson, John J. Gordon, E. G. Merrell and E. F. Alexander, of the City Solicitor's office.

Feb. 20—Evanston, Ill.; Northwestern University; an interesting class in the School of Commerce; about fifty present.

Chicago, Ill.; Liberal Club at Chicago University, 4:30 P. M. A group of about fifteen but interesting.

Chicago, Ill.; Single Tax Club at 6:30 same evening; dinner, with seventy-four present. It was a pleasure to meet with our good Single Tax friends of Chicago. There were some present not Single Taxers, and that gave me an excuse for explaining what is meant by the Single Tax, and at the same time took occasion to talk about the Single Tax movement to Single Taxers.

Feb. 22—Chicago, Ill.; radio talk for the Federation of Labor, 3:30 P. M.

Feb. 23—Peoria, Ill.; Advertising and Selling Club at noon; a fine group of interested men, some fifty-five in number.

Bloomington, Ill.; Wesleyan University, 7 P. M.; student body, about 200 present.

Feb. 24—Bloomington, Ill.; Wesleyan University. Class in the Economics Department, 8 A. M., forty present; class in the Economics Department, 9 A. M., sixty present; general assembly, 10 o'clock, 500 students.

Bloomington, Ill.; Young Men's Club, 12:15 same day. A civic luncheon club; a nice group of live men, eighty-five in number.

Bloomington, Ill.; Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity of Wesleyan University; dinner at 7 P. M.

The lectures at Bloomington were arranged for by Prof. William T. Beadles, of the Department of Economics of Wesleyan University, with the assistance of the Dean. Prof. Beadles got in touch with us through our good friend Prof. Taylor of the College of William and Mary.

Feb. 25—St. Louis, Mo.; Scottish Rites Club at noon; 145 men.

Feb. 26—St. Louis, Mo.; Washington University, 9 A. M., for Prof. Joseph M. Klamon's class. Prof. Klamon is an ardent, outspoken Single Taxer, whom I first met at William and Mary, and a man of great capacity of mind and heart. Forty-two present in this class.

St. Louis, Mo.; Rotary Club, at noon; 425 at a luncheon; splendid meeting from every angle.

St. Louis, Mo.; Y. M. H. A. and Junior Chamber of Commerce, 3 P. M.; 100 present. Very satisfactory meeting.

Feb. 27—St. Louis, Mo.; Washington University, 11 A. M.; Prof. Klamon's class, 120 students.

St. Louis, Mo.; Single Tax League of Missouri in the Public Library, 1 P. M.; a small group of earnest thinkers.

Feb. 28—St. Louis, Mo.; Washington University; another of Prof. Klamon's classes, 11:30 A. M.; sixty present.

March 2—St. Louis, Mo.; Washington University; group of classes; 80 students, 8 A. M.

St. Louis, Mo.; Teachers College, 11 A. M.; class in economics, 200 students.

St. Louis, Mo.; Teachers College, 12 noon; class in economics, 200 students.

St. Louis, Mo.; Washington University, 7:45 P. M.; a research group of members of the faculty; subject of discussion, "Taxation and Character." This was a very pleasant evening.

March 3—Lebanon, Ill.; McKendree College, 9:30 A. M.; Dr. Harmon, president; 400 students; a most delightful occasion.

St. Louis, Mo.; City Club at noon; 100 present.

St. Louis, Mo.; Ethical Culture Society dinner, 6:30; 130 guests and a most agreeable, profitable evening.

March 4—Alton, Ill.; Rotary Club at noon. This group of eighty-five men was everything that could be asked for—intelligent, open-minded and tremendously interested.

March 5—South Bend, Ind.; Kiwanis Club, noon; an exceedingly pleasant time, with a hearty invitation to return soon; eighty present.

March 6—Evanston, Ill.; Lions' Club, noon; twenty-five present. This meeting was arranged by our good friend John Lawrence Monroe, of Chicago.

Chicago, Ill.; Single Tax dinner; thirty present. Very pleasant, very profitable.

March 8—Chicago, Ill.; radio talk, 6 P. M. The radio talks were arranged for by our friend George M. Strachan, of Chicago. I am certain that when the undertakers put the lid on the coffin when George takes his long journey, the last thing they will hear from George will be, "Are you a Single Taxer?"

March 9—Urbana, O.; Urbana University; the Rev. Franklin H. Blackmer, president; a small but growing university; class in economics at 12:20.

Urbana, O.; open meeting at the university, to which citizens were invited. It was a pleasure to meet with the members of the faculty, and particularly with Dr. Blackmer, the president, a sincere and cultured scholar. Our friend Fenton Lawson, of Cincinnati, is treasurer of this university.

March 10—Reading, Pa.; Rotary Club, noon. This was a remarkable meeting; 120 gentlemen present and could not possibly have been more interested or better satisfied with the story of our doctrine.

Note.—Everywhere I spoke the door is left wide open with hearty invitations to return when possible. There were sixty addresses, and during this period, excluding the radio audiences, auditors numbered 7,621.

Our friends in St. Louis were greatly pleased with the work there. They have taken on a new lease of life and are enthusiastic in making arrangements for a return visit.

I am especially indebted to our friend Erwin Kauffman of St. Louis and Prof. Joseph M. Klamon for the many hearings arranged, the very great kindness shown and assistance rendered while in St. Louis. Mr. Kauffman could not have been kinder nor of greater assistance; he drove me to every engagement and we are deeply indebted to him. It was also a great pleasure to meet with other good folks of St. Louis and other cities.

So far this year I have delivered eighty lectures—that is, from Dec. 1 to March 10—with an attendance of 10,688 by actual count, aside from radio talks. The future is loaded with opportunities which it is hoped can be taken care of, with the assistance of our members and contributors.

The reaction to Mr. Brown's addresses can best be indicated by excerpts from letters as follows:

Mr. James R. Brown of New York last Tuesday addressed the students of our school on the subject of tax reform, for the second time within a year. We have asked him to speak before our student body again, when he is next in the city, believing that what he has to say is a matter of first importance to every present or prospective taxpayer.

Aside from the importance of the message he brings, Mr. Brown is a delightful and dynamic speaker, and we have learned to look forward to his visits here with keen interest and pleasure.

McHENRY MITCHELL,

Feb. 5, 1931. Strayer-Bryant and Stratton College, Baltimore, Md.

Let me express to you once more the cordial appreciation by all your audiences, both morning and evening groups, of your splendid lec-

tures, and to thank you personally for your kindness in coming and speaking here. The personal touch you gave to your lectures made them especially helpful and valuable to us all.

WILLIAM F. NOTZ, Dean,
School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.
Feb. 9, 1931.

The Assembly Committee of Catonsville High School wishes to thank you very much for the talk you so kindly gave them on Feb. 4.

The pupils enjoyed it very much and hope you will come again next year.

MARY E. ROWLAND,
Feb. 10, 1931. Catonsville High School, Catonsville, Md.

I want to repeat my expression of unalloyed satisfaction and delight at the way you brought home to all present the essentials of Single Tax teachings, with real enjoyment of it by your hearers and obvious personal friendliness, all within the limited time permitted by their luncheon rules. I fully understand now why you so generally have invitations to return. Please accept the enclosed contribution towards your work as an indication of my appreciation of it.

Reading, Pa., March 14, 1931. W. H. STEWART.

As chairman of the programme committee I wish to thank you for the splendid talk you gave our club Wednesday, Feb. 11.

That is the second time they have had the pleasure of hearing you, and are asking for more.

J. ALBERT BRIEN,
Taunton, Mass., Feb. 16, 1931. Kiwanis Club of Taunton.

I can't begin to tell you how deeply we folks here at Illinois Wesleyan University appreciated and enjoyed your talks during your recent visit to our campus. Your apt illustrations of the gross and stupid blunders of our present tax system were certainly effective in causing our students (and faculty members too) to think more on the subject of taxation than they have ever done before.

Believe me you will always find the welcome sign hung out for you at Illinois Wesleyan, and it is my hope that you will not wait too long before returning.

Indeed, it was a great personal delight to have those several chats we had together while you were here, and I want you to know that my best wishes go with you in the great work which you are doing. You know how to put your subject "across" to college students and business men; such talks as yours are bound to be effective, if for no other reason than because they do not leave the audience wondering what it is "all about."

WILLIAM T. BEADLES,
Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 25, 1931. Illinois Wesleyan University.

It was a good meeting, about 125 prominent Masons attended. Message well received—instructive and entertaining.

AUSTIN W. BIGGS,
St. Louis, Mo., March 4, 1931. President Scottish Rite Club.

Mr. Herman H. Smith, programme chairman of the Advertising and Selling Club of Peoria, reports that everyone at their meeting "enjoyed his talk immensely."

I want to add my thanks to theirs for your interest and cooperation in giving them such a worthwhile meeting.

H. A. HOLBY,
Club Contact Department, Advertising and Selling Club.
Peoria, Ill., March 6, 1931.

I want to assure you that we certainly enjoyed Mr. Brown's address and truly hope it will be possible for him to be with us again. I heard any number of comments from the boys on his talk, and I know everyone enjoyed it to the utmost.

I am attaching a newspaper clipping of a write-up that appeared in one of the local newspapers on the day following Mr. Brown's visit

to Peoria, and I want to say that the comments made herein express our reactions also.

HERMAN H. SMITH,
Peoria, Ill., March 21, 1931. Peoria Advertising and Selling Club.

I can hardly tell you how greatly I enjoyed Mr. Brown's visit and what a great impression he made upon the students. When will it be possible for him to come this way again? Early in next fall's term at the latest we would like to have him come to the university again.

Permit me to express my thanks for the five packages of literature which letter indicates are on the way. I will place it all on reserve and more than 150 students will cover it thoroughly. I don't know how we can ever repay the great obligation we are under for the noble work Mr. Brown is doing.

JOSEPH M. KLAMON,
Washington University, School of Business and Public Administration.
St. Louis, Mo., March 31, 1931.

The talk of Mr. James R. Brown before our club on Feb. 8 was much more than a prosaic presentation of what by many may be considered something entirely in the abstract—the subject of taxation.

To take such an important subject, which requires profound study, and present it in the humorous, interesting and educational method used by Mr. Brown was indeed a rare treat. In addition to this enjoyment, the purpose was realized, and that was impressing upon us the foolhardy method now employed in connection with taxes and the necessity for better regulation and methods respecting this question.

When Mr. Brown comes this way again we shall be delighted in having him on one of our programmes.

WILLIAM BEISER,
Chairman Programme Committee, Lions' Club of Cincinnati.
Cincinnati, O., March 10, 1931.

Other letters from which extracts may be made have been received at the office of LAND AND FREEDOM. Charles J. Ogle wrote:

We brought our friend James R. Brown here last week to address a number of groups, most of whom had heard him before and wanted him back. Brown is without doubt the greatest salesman our movement has at the present time, and if the Schalkenbach Foundation could only discover (and finance) a number of other speakers with anything like his effective presentation of the subject, our cause would go ahead by leaps and bounds.

Mr. Charles Lischer, of St. Louis, writes to the editor of LAND AND FREEDOM as follows:

I thought you would be interested to learn that Mr. James Roger Brown's recent visit to St. Louis provoked an interest in the Single Tax unequalled by any other visiting lecturer during our forty years of agitation.

Erwin Kauffman, a live wire in St. Louis, expresses his enthusiasm as follows:

For the amount of money necessary Mr. Brown creates a far greater understanding and interest than any other single agency and in the most influential sections of our society. Surely, the students, faculty and members of active civic clubs, are the most vital and worthwhile people to be reached in considering the future of the Single Tax movement. Mr. Brown does not attempt to teach the whole vast subject of economics, but uses such concrete, humorous examples that none can fail to realize the importance of the subject.

THE continuance of prosperity depends upon an equitable distribution of it.—GEORGE E. ROBERTS, Vice-President National City Bank.