

was called "Australia's White Elephant." Canberra at present is somewhat of a white elephant, but it will always be a sign to the nations that the land and its value belong by right to the people as a whole and not to a favored few. May the time soon come when other nations will heed the sign and adopt, it to the tremendous advantage of mankind.

PERCY R. MEGGY.

POSTSCRIPT—April 15. Just as I had finished and stamped the above article a telegram from Canberra was published which stated that "considerable extension of the functions of the Canberra Advisory Council has been promised by the Minister for Home Affairs." Hitherto the Advisory Council appears to have been so named on the *locus a non lucendo* principle because it was never called upon to advise. Notwithstanding the Minister's decision the Council urged that still further powers than those promised should be given to the Council, which in its present form, served merely to "ventilate hot air." "We would do better," said Mr. Shakespeare, "to let this autocracy stew in its own juice without trying to help it." The Council further recommended that rural leasees disagreeing with present or future rating assessments should have recourse to a Land Advisory Board to secure adjustment of their grievances."—P. R. M.

Lot Values and Community Service

AFTER all, taxes are only fees for service rendered by the community. And the same service is available to the owner of the empty lot as the one who built on his ground. When the former goes to sell, he will point out the fire protection available, the police, the water, the paving and all of the other community-made values as selling points for his lot.

But that lot-owner hasn't contributed his share to paying for that community service. And he should. If you buy a theatre seat, or a hotel room and fail to use it, you pay just the same. The case is similar.

The mere fact that any empty lot owner doesn't use the service the community provides him should not exempt him from his fair share of taxes.

Our present system does.

—Camden, N. J., *Evening Courier*.

THOUGHTFUL people, and those who desire to serve the common welfare, realize that there is nothing more crude and unsatisfactory than our present tax system.

It is, rather, not a system at all—anything but a system. It has come to be the practice of taxing anything that will yield a revenue.—*Elizabeth* (N. J.) *Daily Journal*.

If the ghost of Henry George had occupied a gallery seat in the House of Commons while England was listening to a high government official explain the curse of private ownership of land—how he would have enjoyed it!

Quincy, (Ill.) *Herald-Whig*.

Report of Lectures of James R. Brown

FROM MARCH 24 TO MAY 21

FOLLOWING is the report of fifty addresses by our lecturer, James R. Brown, in less than two months. This inspiring account of the work speaks for itself, and we can only hope that he will be long spared to continue this great work of education:

March 24—Port Washington, L. I.; Lions' Club; a group of business men, some 40 in number and my talk was entitled "Foolish Things That Wise Men Do." This talk has special reference to the inconsistencies and absurdities of our present method of raising public revenue.

March 25—Vineland, N. J.; Chamber of Commerce; subject, "Taxation: What It Is and How It Should Be Applied." A splendid group of 50 men. Attention to the lecture and interest in the subject could not have been excelled.

April 2—Roanoke, Va.; Lions' Club, 6:15 P. M.; 75 men sat down to dinner. It was a great pleasure to meet with them and to talk to them.

April 3—Lexington, Va.; Washington and Lee University; class, at 10:30 A. M., of 70 students; class at 11:30 A. M., of 60 students.

April 4—Lexington, Va.; Washington and Lee University; 9:30 A. M., class of about 60 students; 10:30 A. M., class of about 60 students; 11:30 A. M., class of about 60 students.

April 7—Staunton, Va.; Rotary Club; 80 in attendance.

April 9—College Park, Md.; University of Maryland; 10:20, social science group of about 200; 1:20, another social science group of about 200.

Annapolis, Md.; Rotary Club; attendance about 60.

April 10—Westminster, Md.; Western Maryland College; assembly of economic students at 3 P. M., 300 students in attendance.

Baltimore, Md.; St. Bartholomew's P. E. Brotherhood; attendance about 60.

April 11—Baltimore, Md.; 2 P. M., 20-minute talk on radio, Station WFBR.

April 12—Baltimore, Md.; A. M. E. Church; social service forum at 6:30 P. M., about 300 present.

April 13—Baltimore, Md.; Scimitar Club; 150 present: radio talk 20 minutes, Station WBAL; Johns Hopkins University, 50 present, at 6:30 P. M.; radio talk, Station WCBM.

April 14—Baltimore, Md.; Beausant Commandery, 12:30 noon; 25 present.

April 15—Annapolis, Md.; St. John's College; class in economics; 60 present.

Cantonsville, Md.; Rotary Club; 20 present; a new and small club, but important and interested.

Baltimore, Md.; Elks' Club; group of some 40, 8:30 P. M.

April 16—Petersburg, Va.; Virginia State College (colored); 10 A. M., group of 65 students; 11 A. M., group of 60 students; 1:30 P. M., class of about 40 students. This college is one of our yearly visiting places. They are tremendously interested and they are a nice, kindly, bright lot.

April 17—Williamsburg, Va.; College of William and Mary; class at 10 o'clock, about 40 present; class at 2 o'clock, about 20 present. I have been going here for some ten years.

April 18—Richmond, Va.; University of Richmond; class at 10 o'clock, about 80 present; class at 11 o'clock, about 70 present; class at 12 o'clock, about 50 present. I have also visited Richmond for the past ten years.

April 20—University of Virginia University, Va.; class at 9:30 A.

M., 25 present. class at 10:30 A. M., 220 present; 7:30 that evening spoke for the Alpha Kappa Psi. This is one of our regular stopping places and we are always received with greatest kindness and interest.

April 21—University of Virginia, University, Va.; 10:30 A. M., a special class in economics, 15 students.

April 22—Baltimore, Md.; Loyola College; class at 1:30 P. M., about 50 students present. This is a Jesuit college and we could not possibly have been received more kindly or more heartily invited to return.

April 23—Swarthmore, Pa.; Swarthmore College; class in economics, about 40 students. This is my first visit to Swarthmore, and I left after a most agreeable session, with a hearty invitation to return in the not too distant future.

April 30—Jersey City, N. J.; Hudson County Democratic Association of the 11th Ward; about 100 men. This was an evening meeting, and I must say we never had a more attentive audience; many men stood up all through the talk, which lasted about an hour and a quarter. We also can put this place down as one where we may visit and lecture regularly.

May 7—Scarsdale, N. Y.; Rotary Club; about 40 present. This was my third visit, and it was all one could ask for.

Leonia, N. J.; Board of Trade; evening; 38 present.

May 10—Palisades, N. J.; Community Church Forum; terrible weather, wet and stormy, but about 30 men came out. An attentive and receptive group. Am going back some time soon.

May 13—Harrison, N. Y.; Lions' Club; dinner; about 25 present; much interest; many of them real estate men.

May 14—Washington, D. C.; District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs at noon at the Roosevelt Hotel; 125 present; a most delightful group of women interested in social problems. We have their hearty invitation to return.

Annapolis, Md.; Mayor and City Council; 20 present. Friendly group, very much interested.

May 15—Washington, D. C.; group of about 25 Single Taxers in the Church of the Holy City. Had the pleasure of meeting many old friends here.

May 19—New York, N. Y.; Chamber of Commerce of Washington Heights; 25 present; very much interested. My third visit to this group.

May 20—Somerville, N. J.; Exchange Club; 32 present; at noon, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Brooklyn Forum, at 20 Myrtle Avenue, at 9 P. M.; about 100 in audience. A real live group.

May 21—Asbury Park, N. J.; Kiwanis Club; 85 men at luncheon. This is my third visit and there are more to follow.

After all these meetings, one is forced to feel that this present time is particularly propitious for talking Single Tax. The attitude of audiences is very friendly, very kindly, and if our speakers use common sense there is no lack of opportunity to advocate our truths.

We have delivered so far this year 130 lectures. The total number of auditors is 14,138, making an average attendance of 111 at each lecture.

JAMES R. BROWN.

We append a few of the enthusiastic commendations received that give evidence of the success of the work;

April 9, 1931.

Our students enjoyed very much your lectures on "Our Economic Organization" and "Single Tax." I was glad of the chance of hearing your lectures and talking with you. I hope you have a most pleasant time on your trip to the Southern universities and that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you on the campus again in the not too distant future.

W. H. BROWN,

University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

April 12, 1931.

Allow me, in this letter to state the appreciation that the members of the faculty and the students who heard you wish to render to you for the lecture given to us Friday. It was thoroughly enjoyed and I believe that the philosophy back of the Single Tax doctrine was clearly brought out.

W. SCOTT HALL,

Western Maryland College, Westminster, Md.

April 14, 1931.

It was a pleasure to have you speak from our studio on Monday afternoon. Mr. Huber joins me in thanking you.

ELISE LEE COHEN,

Programme Supervisor, Station WBAL, Baltimore, Md.

April 20, 1931.

At the termination of the sixteenth season of the lecture forum, the New Era Club desires to express to you its appreciation for visiting our clubhouse on Friday evening, December 26, 1931. Needless to say our audience enjoyed listening to your intellectual treat on the Single Tax. As administrator of lectures, please accept my gratitude for the courtesy extended. It will be a pleasure to receive you again as the guest of the New Era Lecture Forum.

ABR. H. ROSENZWEIG.

New Era Club, 274 East Broadway, New York City.

May 1, 1931.

Your talk was excellent, and both the students and myself enjoyed it immensely. We are hoping to have you with us again next year.

JOSEPH J. AYD,

Loyola College, Baltimore, Md.

May 8, 1931.

We enjoyed greatly your visit with us. Your lectures were clear, instructing as well as interesting. You always have a welcome here.

H. H. SEAY, JR.,

University of Richmond, Richmond, Va.

May 8, 1931.

I have received the pamphlets and will give them to the students who are particularly interested in the subject. I was very glad to meet you and to have you speak to the students, and hope to have you go on with the argument some time again, probably to the public finance class next year. This course is given every other year, and is not being taught at present.

HERBERT F. FRASER,

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.

May 13, 1931.

I can assure you that the people attending the forum enjoyed your talk. As a matter of fact, you have created quite a bit of discussion in this vicinity about Single Tax, and I would be very much surprised if some good did not result from your talk. I am certain we will see each other again in the fall of this year.

AARON KATZ,

Palisades Park, N. J.

Evolution of a Bandit

BANDITRY has a fascination for the average peasant. It means the end of back-breaking toil, the promise of substantial gain, a chance to see many places.

Article on Nicaragua in *New York Times*.

HENRY W. NEVINSON, in his recent work, "The Natives of England" quotes the stinging words which rose to the lips of a woman dwelling in one of the most wretched of London's slums, when a slum visitor tried to imbue her with patriotic feelings:

"What do I care for the empire on which the sun never sets? In our court the sun never rises!"