

James R. Brown Passes Away

DIED suddenly in his 68th year, on Sunday, September 20, at the Midtown Hotel in this city, James Roger Brown, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club.

This is the sad news that comes to us this Monday morning. It will cause a great shock to the Single Tax world from Maine to California. There will be few dry eyes among those who knew this brave soldier of a great crusade, this indefatigable worker and teacher who for sixteen years has occupied the office of president of a club which has made Single Tax history, and who for a like number of years has covered a lecture field reaching west and south and into the great cities of Canada.

Even those who differ, as Single Taxers will continue to differ, on the modes of presentation of our philosophy, will, on review of his great work, give him the meed of praise due him for the distinguished converts he has made among college professors, economists and business men. It is too early to appraise his work, as to the value of which we have received of late many surprising revelations. He was, as we said in a recent number of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, perhaps "the ablest lecturer the movement has known," and we repeat this, keeping in mind both his limitations and his rare excellences.

He wrote many pamphlets and many articles for the newspapers, and while he modestly disclaimed ability as a writer, it seems to us that his "Plain Talk on Taxation," "The Farmer and the Single Tax" and "Pyramiding Land Values" were singular examples of clear statement and straight-hitting at vital truths. They are, it seems to us, masterpieces of exposition, as were his talks before students of colleges, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. He made friends of his audiences, in a way few Single Tax lecturers have been able to do, and this rendered easy the process of conversion. His work will go on, for he planted the seed in many an open mind.

Mr. Brown was born in Mount Forest, Ontario. He was the son of James and Helen (Rodgers) Brown. He came to New York in 1886 and soon after became a citizen. He knew Henry George and Tom L. Johnson, and nearly all the early leaders of the movement. He was one of the Old Guard and had charge of the speakers' bureau in the campaign of Henry George for the mayoralty in 1897.

The work of the Manhattan Single Tax Club will go on. It remains a monument to his high endeavors. He built up an organization whose watchword has been effective effort. He surrounded himself with men who commended his work as being on the whole the most worth-while activity being carried on, beginning with his friend Robert Schalkenbach down to the younger men who later were attracted by his personality and his unselfish labors for the cause. And he established a headquarters that was the pride of interested visitors from every country in the world.

A great leader has fallen. His worth will be recognized

in the clearer vision that death brings when misunderstandings and curious animosities have passed away.

CERTAIN treatments will cure certain physical diseases. These treatments are not panaceas but that is no reason why they should not be applied to what they will cure. Does this seem like a truism? Well, President Hoover does not know it. He objects to applying the economic remedy for poverty and unemployment because he does not believe it will cure everything.

PUT an unemployed man naked on a desert island and he will make a living of some kind. Put him in the United States and he will starve or beg. That's why we have six million unemployed.

"THAT government is best which governs least," said Jefferson. He would hardly class as the best government one which has so many laws that no one person can know them all, and has in fact thousands of laws the existence of which are unknown to every one without exception.

A Novelist Looks at Conditions

NOT only the conventions of sex but of politics, caste and economics come in for Mr. Aldington's castigation. The people who pride themselves on their gentility are vulgar, self-seeking and ignorant. The well-to-do who lament the decay of England are the meanest kind of profiteers. The landed gentry moan about the burdens laid on agriculture. Sir Horace Stimms, the local squire, "last year lost 500 pounds in the Home Farm—about which he made a confoundly indecent bobbery and tried to pose as a universal benefactor to humanity. The mingy hypocrite genially overlooks the fact that he draws several thousands a year in rent for farms, buildings and land, and that if he were not a first charge on the industry the farmers wouldn't be in debt to the banks."

Review of Richard Aldington's "The Colonel's Daughter," by ISABEL PATERSON in *New York Herald-Tribune*.

THE giving of charity is a confession of the failure of our economic system, because no charity is needed for a man who wants to work if there is an opportunity to work, and no charity is deserved by the man who is unwilling to work.

Thus an economic system which makes it possible for certain men to accumulate vast wealth without labor, while at the same time others who are willing to work are unable to earn a living, is unjust. Charity merely tends to perpetuate such a system with no amelioration of the suffering caused by this injustice, rather than a correction of the unjust economic condition that produces distress.

CHARLES G. MERRELL.