

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

have nothing to take back. We have said repeatedly that we have never doubted the value of this work. We said at a dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club some time ago that "a great truth has many doors." And to the statement that our lecturer confines himself too much to the fiscal aspect of the Single Tax we reply that he by no means confines himself to that aspect of the question. And to those who want the ethical side emphasized it is sufficient to reply that our lecturer never neglects the ethical consideration in his insistence on the sacredness of private property and the community's title to what is public.

It is true he avoids saying that we must make land common property. The ordinary man does not understand this. He is very apt to translate it into his own phrases, "Confiscate, destroy, apply the torch." But in effect, are not the teachings of Henry George complete in the doctrine that land values are social values, and is not this the essence of Mr. Brown's preachments?

We say we have nothing to take back in this estimate of the tremendous value of Mr. Brown's lecture work. But we do feel that our conviction of the value of this work has been greatly strengthened by what the screen photographers call "close up" pictures of Mr. Brown in action. He has developed by his wide experience a knowledge of the psychology of audiences that is almost uncanny. From the start he is a friend of every man among his hearers. He has broken down their reserve. Often on the conclusion of his talks have we heard such expressions as "That is the best speech I have ever listened to," or "He has given us something to think about," and once, "It seems we have been suckers a long time."

Of course, he cannot teach in a half hour's address the whole of political economy. He is not such a fool as to attempt it. But in language almost if not quite eloquent—eloquence would not help him as a lecturer—he conveys the great lesson. And he seems to us by far the ablest lecturer the Single Tax movement has ever known.

As evidence that he does not neglect the broader aspects of our question let the following suffice:

"What a dreadful world this would be if we could not solve social problems, if it were beyond the power of man to discover the cause of hard times and apply the remedy, if through the countless ages yet to come we had to endure every now and again such a period of anguish and suffering. But that is inconsistent with the evident plan of nature, for there is an answer to every question, there is a solution for every problem, there is a right way and a wrong way to do any necessary thing. We have risen to dizzy heights in the production of wealth; as by magic we make the earth give forth her increase, and out of the storehouse of nature our hands, with skill exceeding that of the magician, draw forth everything that the human mind can conceive or heart desire."

"The problems that cause the race so much trouble

do not exist in the ordination of nature. They do not arise and worry us because of any failure in the natural order of things, but because we do not understand that natural order. In other words, a problem is a discordant note that destroys the harmony of life due to the fact that our human actions in some respect fail to harmonize with natural law.

"It is quite evident therefore, that the first thing to do is to seek out the natural order, the natural law affecting life in that particular respect. Then by making our human action conform to this natural law, we shall solve the problem and our difficulties will disappear."

"We rob the citizen of his private property when we tax labor products and we rob society of social property when we fail to take for social use all land values. We raise social revenue by taking from every man who can show tangible evidence that he has done something for himself, and at the same time we give millions every year of social value to those who cannot show that they have rendered any service whatever to themselves or to society.

"The only true measure of the value of social presence and service to a citizen is the value of which he has exclusive possession. Land value is the value that attaches to land, irrespective and independent of the improvements thereon, and it reflects, not personal effort and production, but social presence and social activities. A large city with modern utilities will have much land value. A small village with few and poor public utilities will have little land value and service to a citizen is the value of the land of which he has exclusive possession. Land value is the value that attaches to land, irrespective and independent of the improvements thereon, and it reflects, not personal effort and production, but social presence and social activities. A large city with modern utilities will have much land value. A small village with few and poor public utilities will have little land value."

"Labor value is the value of something produced. Land value is the value of the opportunity to produce. We pay the landowners for permission to use something they did not make, nor did they create the value attached thereto, and when they get land values for private use, they are gathering where society has sown.

"It ought to be clear to us now that what we call land value is not the value of land at all, but the value of population and government; and that this value that comes with the coming of society and grows with the growing of society is the natural source of public revenue. It is just as scientific to say this as to say that the milk that comes into the mother's breasts at the birth of the child is for the sustenance of the child. If we would collect this value, which we call economic rent, this annual land value, this value created by society—and there is always plenty for all social needs—we could abolish all taxes upon private property. We would have a tax system that never could be oppressive because it would be taking public value only for public use and we could refrain from taking one cent of private property for public use. This would mean 100 per cent encouragement to industry and no reward to idleness."

"Now, the trouble with *something for nothing* is, it has another side, seldom mentioned, it is true, and if mentioned at all only very briefly and in hushed tones. The other side is the fact that when I get *something for nothing*, someone else must get *nothing for something*. It cannot be otherwise. This is the fly in the ointment of our civilization.

"I may never meet the man who loses because I gain through some form of privilege; he may not be a member of my church or my golf club, may not even reside in the same city, but he is *somewhere*, perhaps on a windswept prairie farm, clinging with desperation to a false hope that some day things will turn his way. He may reside in city slums, carrying daily with him a dead heart, because hope had died; but *he is somewhere*. It is the law of God and nature that if the producers' hands are empty it is because through wicked and stupid laws, some of us are able to gather where others have sown."

After reading these significant extracts from Mr. Brown can any one doubt that he is bringing the message of Henry George to audiences who are more and more attracted to the doctrines and to the unique personality which makes him so effective a teacher. As a matter of fact no one who has listened to him really doubts it.

Henry George Foundation Announces Expansion Programme

PRESIDENT GEORGE E. EVANS of the Henry George Foundation announces a programme of expanded activities under the auspices of that organization and has issued a call to the Single Taxers of America to rally for united action against poverty and unemployment, stressing the fact that the present world-wide industrial depression constitutes a real challenge to Georgists, affording at the same time an unusual opportunity to advance the cause while the public is receptive to economic proposals.

Report is made of the consummation of plans for the consolidation of the Henry George Lecture Association with the Foundation. The Lecture Association has had an active life as an effective national organization for more than twenty-five years, having been founded in 1903 by the late Frederick H. Monroe, of Chicago, and since his death in 1929 has been under the management of his son, John Lawrence Monroe, who has completed a nation-wide tour since assuming responsibility for the work. Two national headquarters will be maintained, with John Lawrence Monroe serving as Associate Secretary of the Foundation and Director of its Lecture Department, the scope of which will be considerably enlarged.

The lecture staff as announced at this time consists of Hon. George H. Duncan, of New Hampshire, Attorney William N. McNair of Pittsburgh (recently Director of the Ingram Institute), Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown of the University of Missouri, Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow of Cincinnati, and Executive Secretary Percy R. Williams of Pittsburgh. During the past year, McNair, Williams and Brown have made extended tours through the West

and Middle West and parts of the East. A tour is now being arranged for McNair for the months of September and October through New England, New York and other eastern states. During the summer McNair has been conducting a series of very successful and well attended meetings in the Pittsburgh district and has also given a series of lectures on Economic Rent at Ashland College in Michigan.

A number of regional conferences are planned for the larger centers for the purpose of bringing Single Taxers together and encouraging activity and local organization. The first of these will probably be held this fall in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, either immediately preceding or following the Baltimore convention.

Distinguished Speakers to Address Baltimore Congress

HON. DAVID J. LEWIS, member of Congress from the Cumberland, Maryland, District and former Tariff Commissioner under the Wilson administration, will be one of the distinguished orators on the programme of the Henry George Congress meeting in Baltimore, October 12th—14th. Congressman Lewis is recognized as an expert on the tariff and has also for many years been identified with the Single Tax movement. He had served in Congress before his appointment on the Tariff Commission and at one time was the nominee of the Democratic Party for United States Senator. Last fall he was again chosen by a substantial majority to represent his district in the House of Representatives.

There is also a strong possibility that other members of the House and Senate will be on the programme at Baltimore as both Senator Clarence C. Dill of Washington and Congressman Robert Crosser of Cleveland have indicated their purpose to be present if possible.

Hon. Albert C. Ritchie, Maryland's distinguished Governor, who is prominently mentioned as a Presidential possibility, will extend his official greetings to the Henry George Congress. The Convention Committee is still in the early stages of programme-making but Chairman Charles G. Baldwin and his associates are soliciting other distinguished persons and among speakers of prominence who have already been definitely scheduled are: Hon. George H. Duncan, of the New Hampshire Legislature; Judson King, Secretary of the National Popular Government League; Benjamin C. Marsh, Secretary of the People's Lobby; Bolton Hall, Frank Stephens, Will Atkinson, Wm. N. McNair, Clayton J. Ewing, Jos. B. Chamberlain, Jas. F. Morton, Dr. Mark Millikin, Hon. Edward Polak, Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, Ernest B. Gaston, Hugh Reid, Robert C. Macauley, Harry W. Olney and Fiske Warren. The officers of the Foundation including George E. Evans, President; Joseph Dana Miller, Vice President; Mrs. Anna George