

officers of the League in another direction, seriously disarranged our entire schedule, and has caused unfortunate delays in starting the field work on as active a scale as had been intended. I have, however, begun to make engagements, in the confidence that sufficient financial backing will develop, as in part already promised, so that we shall not fail to take advantage of the doors that have been opened to us.

Even under the best conditions, not many engagements would be made for dates prior to October. As it is, I have already (before Sept. 15) addressed the granges of Millerton and Wappingers Falls, meeting in each case with a very friendly response. The New York State Grange, at its last annual session, appointed a committee to investigate and report with reference to the relation of the Single Tax to the agricultural interests; and this gives a special entering wedge this year among the granges, of which the League is trying to take full advantage. If a sufficient number of them can be reached between now and February, that the seed may be well sown, it will have a marked effect on the debates of the State Grange, which convenes in February, and on the action which will be taken by that body. A few staunch Single Taxers in the organization are prepared to put up a strong fight; and it is of vital importance that we avail ourselves of this crucial opportunity to reach as many as possible of the granges of the State. If the League does not fail of the adequate financial support, there is still time to do this work well; but for complete assurance of the result desired, the friends of the League should do their part as quickly as possible. Contributions sent to Benjamin Doblin, 258 Broadway, will be of double or treble their usual value, if made available at once. The importance of winning the farmers is so apparent, that no further word should be needed. Of course, engagements are being planned with other bodies as well; but for the next few months no work will be of more immediate importance than that among the granges.

A few Single Taxers have suggested that in time of war our Single Tax work had best be largely suspended. This is the counsel of despair. Never in the history of our

nation was the tax question more in the foreground; and at no time was there greater need of instilling sound doctrines on the subject. We cannot afford to relinquish the war against privilege for a single day. Ground temporarily abandoned is not easily regained. The enemy never sleeps. My personal experience, moreover, has taught me that people are as ready to listen just now as they ever have been. Even were it otherwise, the preservation of our own morale and the necessity of not losing the vital touch with all our co-workers would be ample reason for maintaining the continuity of our activities, however adverse the conditions might appear to be. When peace comes, it must find us ready and equipped for the tremendous fight that will then be at once on hand between the forces of special privilege and those of economic democracy. Not one of the existing agencies of Single Tax propaganda should be neglected or suffered to fall into disuse.

In the next issue of the REVIEW, I shall submit a full report of my activities for the past year, such as would have been prepared for the Conference, had the same been held. For the present, I think it best that correspondence addressed to me be sent to my residence address, 211 West 138th St., New York, N. Y., as I will thus receive it more quickly.—JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

JAMES R. BROWN'S LECTURE WORK

A review of the lecture work of James R. Brown from December 1, 1916, to July 1, 1917, will be of much interest to readers of the REVIEW. During the period named Mr. Brown has addressed 115 meetings in all, which may be classified as follows: Forums, 13; universities and colleges, 22; churches, 24; business men's organizations, 31; granges, 7; labor unions, 2; Y. M. C. A's, 5; women suffrage meetings, 2 and Single Tax clubs, 9. The total attendance at these meetings was 13,274, at which 15,000 pieces of literature were distributed.

Though Mr. Brown varied the titles of his addresses the subject was always the Single Tax. At the Providence, R. I. Forum his

subject was "My Island," which local Single Taxers will remember. Also in the same city Mr. Brown addressed some forty or fifty Episcopal clergymen from all over Rhode Island, the Bishop of the State in the chair. At the Brown University the lecturer addressed the two classes in Political Economy convened by Prof. Gardner. Another University address was that before a small class of the post graduates in economics at Harvard.

An important meeting was that before the Lockport Chamber of Commerce, about two hundred and fifty present. They were much impressed with the presentation of the Single Tax. In February, an address on the Law of Rent at the Syracuse University was arranged for the lecturer by Prof. Roman, head of the Department of Economics and Sociology. A second lecture on the Principles of Taxation was given in the same university. At the Elmira College for Women, Mr. Brown spoke on March 19 on Poverty and Philanthropy, and on the following day on The New Political Economy. Miss Osler, head of the Department of Economics and Sociology, is a very capable and broadminded teacher. The meeting was well attended and close attention given.

From Elmira Mr. Brown travelled to Chicago to fill the most important engagement of the tour, at a dinner given by the Credit Men's Association. This lecture had been arranged for Mr. Brown by John H. Allen, a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, and some four hundred diners listened to Mr. Brown expound the Single Tax. The lecturer was delighted at the patient and receptive attention of the keen and open minded business men to the economic truths of our gospel. This meeting was followed on the 23d of March, the following day, by a dinner of the Chicago Single Tax Club, about 125 of the faithful being present.

At Detroit a few days later Mr. Brown addressed the Teacher's Class of Ford's English School at the Ford Auto Works, and received a very hearty invitation to come again.

We have not the space to review in further detail the lecture work of Mr. Brown, which has been constant and unremitting. But as a very substantial and positive evidence of the value of the work accomplished we may

conclude this summary with the following from the *Syracuse Post-Standard*:

"By a resolution adopted unanimously at the weekly luncheon held at the Onondaga yesterday, the Rotary Club went on record in favor of the Single Tax system, as expounded to the Club a week ago by James R. Brown, President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club of New York City.

"The resolution was offered by Rev. Dr. F. W. Betts, at the request of several members. A special committee was appointed to make inquiries into the development of Single Tax propaganda and to recommend to the Club what part it shall take in carrying forward the movement.

THE RESOLUTION

"As business men, interested in the growth and prosperity of our City and our Country, conscious of the heavy burden which taxation often puts upon industry, believing that individually created wealth rightfully belongs to the individuals who create this wealth, believing also that socially created wealth belongs to that society which creates this wealth, it is our conviction that the time has come for a careful study of the whole subject of taxation for the purpose of discovering, if possible, a more equitable system than the present one of distributing this burden upon property.

"Therefore we recommend the appointment of a Rotary Single Tax Committee whose duty it shall be to study the subject of taxation and from time to time report the results of its investigation to the Rotary Club."

THE *Real Estate Record and Guide* of this city, in its issue of June 2, is indignant at the extortionate prices of coal, and says:

"Every building owner and manager in the United States is going to pay approximately fifty per cent. more for his coal supply this year. Why? Because the mine owners and operators have so decreed."

"So decreed." That is the fact. The power to so decree is the power of private property in land and the right to so decree is a right of property, as recognized by law but challenged by public morals and advancing civilization.