June 28, 1913

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I have your letter of January 23rd asking in regard to the general fitness of Mr. Julian Bryan to lecture before the members of the National Geographic Society.

Satisfactorily I fear that I am not equipped to give you a truthful opinion of Mr. Bryan's lecturing ability. I have never heard him speak. I have known him since he was a child, knew that he is an unusually alert, keen-minded, hard working young man. I have talked with him several times about his work in Russia and he interested me particularly because he seemed to be free from the vice of so many sojourners, going out to prove some pre-conceived notion about the Russian experiment. He has been very frank in my talks with him as to what he saw that seemed to be working, as well as what was not working. I should say that he could not but interest an audience on account of his enthusiasm for what he has undertaken and because of the quality of investigating that he has done.

Observer

I understand that Mr. Bryan who toured with Burton Holmes last Spring was very well received wherever he went. I regret that I did not see his pictures and hear his talk.

My feeling, however, is that you could risk Mr. Bryan. He probably would interest the greater part of your large audience more than a scientific investigator.

Of course you are to treat this letter as confidential.

Very truly yours

Mr. Franklin Fisher
National Geographic Society
Washington, D. C.

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