Preface

There are different types of biography. This one falls into the category of what are sometimes called, “intellectual biographies.” It certainly covers the life of an individual, the English economist Arthur Joseph (A.J.) Brown, but it does not dwell greatly on his personal life, other than regard to how this seems to have affected his approach to economics and policy advising. What it does, however, is spend some time on the intellectual and contextual background to his work, most notably the changes in the economic climate over his lifetime and shifts in the ways economics was approached.

The book is distinguished by having a Foreword written by Arthur Brown’s sons, Henry and William. This provides a very personal perspective on Brown’s personality and his family life outside of academia. It enriches the volume by giving a clearer image of how this very reserved and modest man approached life, and some of the factors that influenced his attitudes over time. It becomes clear that his caring and thoughtful approach regarding his home life were entwined with the way he approached life as a professional economist.

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