

BREVARD HOTEL

On the Indian River - Cocoa, Florida

March 14, 1936.

OWNED AND
OPERATED BY THE
LAYCOCK-BREVARD COMPANY

HARTLEY C. LAYCOCK,
PRESIDENT

Mrs. Anna George deMille,
277 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Anna:

I have not had opportunity until today to write you again.

If I could only see you personally for a long talk I could tell you some things that are in my mind about this international affair which would, I am certain, change your point of view completely.

If, however, we are going to have war in Europe this year, of course there will be no Georgist Conference in London. My early letters on the subject to Madsen and others before the Executive Committee there made any disposition, pointed out the futility of holding a conference if war was on or impending. It ~~will~~^{would} be just a futile gesture in a mad and unheeding world.

But what I have had in the back of my head from the beginning (I tell you ⁱⁿ strict confidence) is that this gathering in London next September will be a means of initiating a worldwide Georgist Educational movement upon lines essentially different from those now indicated in the constitution of our International Union.

The trouble with the International Union is that it envisages a

political policy related very largely, if not entirely, to political conditions in Great Britain. I have become deeply and completely convinced that ^{for} ~~at~~ some years to come our work in this country, or elsewhere in the world should be confined to education, as distinguished from politics. Political ^{Economy} ~~economics~~, as taught by Henry George, is a science, as exact as any, and related to a philosophy of life, social and individual, which ^{must} ~~will~~ capture the mind of the world sooner or later if that concept which we call Civilization is to be preserved. What we need, therefore, in the International field, more than anything else, is an organization bearing the name of Henry George, whose purpose should be ^{solely} ~~to~~ spread the light of his teachings and philosophy in all lands. Such an organization would grow rapidly, I believe, if divorced from political formulas such as are suggested by the name of the Union as it is at present.

Politics is an art, not a science. It is the means by and through ~~which~~ ^{attained in} governmental ends are ~~obtained at~~ ^{at any given time} any particular country.

Obviously, ^{condition} ~~the position~~ of politics in ^{one} ~~this~~ country must differ from ^{that} ~~another~~ ^{the} country according to the political structure of the government, psychology of the people, the extent or degree of economic education and the character of leadership in the political field. I recall how, at Copenhagen, there was a bitter splitting of ^{heads} ~~heads~~ about the selection of language in which to express aims which in Germany were related to the program of Bodenreform, in Denmark as Grundskyld (meaning land dues), In England the immediate collection of economic rent ^{" "} ~~or~~ the taxation of land ^{values,} ~~bases~~, according to which school of Georgists ^{were} ~~you~~ affiliated with.

My latest letter from Arthur Madsen, for example, mentions the

the success of the HG school proves this

^{that}
 fact, Doctor Vere Pearson (who has recently written a remarkable book)
 and who ^{is all for Education,} will not join the International Union although he is an enthusiastic
 Georgist. Why? Because he is strongly opposed to the formula of
 "the taxation of land values" which is in the title of our Interna-
 tional organization. In other words, what is most clear to me is
 that we can get people enthusiastically united for an educational
 program openly connected with the name of Henry George, ~~when we are~~
^{while we face} ~~sent to look into~~ the prospect of division of our forces and
 disharmony when we struggle to advance particular political policies.

Need I ~~recall~~ ^{earnest} your attention to California, where the ~~earliest~~ ^a cam-
 paign being carried on by Judge Ralston for ^a political measure of
 taxation reform is meeting with the indifference or opposition of
 splendid Georgists, like Beckwith, and others, contending constantly
 for education first and politics afterwards? Now, the relevancy of
 all this, my dear Anna, is just here: The hundredth anniversary of
 the birth of your Father will occur a few years hence. Only today
 have I received a letter from one of our leaders in Australia saying
 we should be getting ready for a worldwide celebration of that event.
 Now, if I could take to London with me in September, a score or more
 of Georgists devoted to the propagation of education, linked with the
^{plan of the} Henry George School of Social Science, I would aim

1. To change the name of our International organization to some title that would bear the name of Henry George and that would connote a purpose, not to promote any particular political policy in any country, but to broadcast the seeds of George's economic teachings in every land in order that they might bring fruit abundantly, if it be not too late, in governmental policies that would ^{ultimately} abolish Poverty and War, and establish at last that Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men that Henry George saw in his great moments of spiritual exaltation.

2. I would aim at electing in my place as President a younger man, and from our country. I think that you and I, John Monroe and one or two others might sit in at a quiet counsel on this portentious subject. Let us select the American international leader, and I will work with him to bring about a real international movement that will culminate in 1939 in an international celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of your great Father's birth. I may say to you now that I will not be without support in other lands in changing the scope of our International organization from a merely political movement to one which will inspire united support among our people everywhere. All that is needed is, as I see it now, a fine delegation representative of Henry George's birth land to attend that Conference in September. I can convince you, I am sure, that nothing is more important to promoting the ideals that you and I hold in common. I could say much more than I have said in this letter but I must withhold until I see you.

Remember, that barring War, that Conference is going to be held in London in September. It is up to us to make it a great turning point for world wide education, or something of very much less significance.

Affectionately yours,


CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY

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P. S. We expect to leave here for the north about April 10.