

Cocoa, Florida

Brevard Hotel,

February 29, 1936.

A. W. Madsen, Esq.,
Secretary, International Union,
94 Petty France,
London, England.

My dear Arthur:

Because of lack of stenographic help and other reasons, I have been unable to write you, as I have greatly wished, about a number of matters related to the International Georgist Conference next September.

First, I must take the liberty to offer some suggestions for the consideration of the Committee on Program.

I regret to disagree with you about the idea of inviting to participate in our meetings next September representatives of other organizations that may aim at some social or governmental reforms unrelated to our philosophy and economic teachings. I would keep constantly in the forefront of our thinking about this proposed gathering, the thought so aptly and comprehensively expressed by Lord Snowden in his letter to me last August, when he wrote:

"There never was a time when the need was greater than it is today for the application of the philosophy and principles of Henry George to the economic and political conditions which are scourging the whole world."

It is for us to point out without equivocation, or adulteration of ideas, the root causes of industrial depression, of poverty, and of war in all lands. Let us not fail in the crisis that now confronts the world and that threatens the disintegration of what is called Civilization, to preach the saving and regeneration of the world through economic freedom as Henry

George has given us to see it.

No doubt there are worthy groups of men and women in Britain as well as in the United States (more numerous than we are) proposing various polities and palliatives for the ills of human society; people who sincerely aim at some improvement in social relations, or at some obviously futile means of attaining World Peace. Such good people almost invariably avoid the consideration of Causes at the removal of which we aim. I know a lot of these people individually. As a rule, they seem either unable or unwilling to think down to the simple fundamentals of world problems. The group which you seem inclined to solicit for the September Conference would, in my opinion, hinder us more than help us.

I do not fully understand the reasons for the apparent attitude of non-cooperation that you report from Denmark. Neither am I able to understand the attitude taken by Mrs. Dehille here. Her present position on this subject, I fear, may be due to a lack of perspective and international consciousness; a failure, in her busy life, to apprehend the frightful menace of recent international events, or the possibilities of a new World War that so many discerning people, in and out of our movement, are able to envisage. Again, she is so deeply devoted to the Henry George School, which is doing such a fine work of education here, that it may obstruct her vision of the larger field.

It seems plain to me that War must come again, sooner or later, if nothing is done by the nations to stop the sowing everywhere of the seeds of political policies pregnant with the hates and fears and follies which are now, in the language of Lord Snowden, "scourging the world." Should a new World War come, of what avail will be our poor efforts at home for education, for taxation reform, for any progress at all along domestic political lines?

I fear they will bear no fruit worth trying to preserve. All will be swallowed up in the passion, fury and horror that will sweep every land.

So I agree with Lord Snowden that it is one of the paramount duties at this particular time in the world's history, as never before, to point out the causes of the world's economic distress and that its cure is nothing less than the freedom that Henry George preached in a notable Independence Day address in California nearly sixty years ago.

Recently, Miss Colbron wrote me, apparently at the suggestion of Mrs. De Mille, telling of the receipt by her (Miss Colbron) of a letter from Mrs. Bjorner who deprecated the calling of the proposed London Conference. I fear that this lady may be quite influential in the Danish Georgist movement.

At any rate, I am strongly for the Conference and, as soon as I can get opportunity in the difficult circumstances that surround me here, I will endeavor to write a number of letters that may help in some degree to turn the tide of adverse opinion here. I will, of course, send copies of such letters to you.

In a day or two I will further take the liberty to make other suggestions to the Program Committee. While I appreciate the importance of early determination of at least an outline of the program, I think this is a matter in which we might well go slowly. The complexion and the atmosphere which may be suggested by the Program are factors that may well easily induce or deter attendance at the Conference.

Hastily yours,

CHARLES O'CONNOR BROWN:SSY