

March 14, 1936.

(Letter from Charles O'Connor Hennessy to Anna George deMille)

**** what I have had in the back of my head from the beginning 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 some years to come our work in this country, or elsewhere in the world should be confined to education, as distinguished from politics. The success of the H.C. School proves this. Political Economy, as taught by Henry George, is a science, as exact as any, and related to a philosophy of life, social and individual, which must 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 would 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 governmental ends are attained in any particular country at any given time. Obviously, the condition of politics in one country must differ from that in another country according to the political structure of the government, the 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 hairs about the selection of language in which to express aims which in Germany were related to the program of Sodenreform, in Denmark as Grundskyld (meaning land dues). In England "the immediate collection of economic rent" or "the taxation of land values", according to which school of Georgists you were affiliated with. ****

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, while we face the prospect of division of our forces and disharmony when we struggle to advance particular political policies.

*** 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 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 must say to you now that I will

(page 2 - letter from Charles O'Connor Hennessy to Anna George de Mille)
(March 14, 1936)

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. **

Please return to

MRS. A. GEORGE DE MILLE
HOTEL WELLINGTON, N. Y.