

November 6, 1939

Mr. David Gibson  
2814 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear David:

Your introductory letter was a means of bringing Mr. J. Hampton Baumgartner to school today, and after a pleasant talk with I arranged to have him come here on Tuesday November 14th to have a session with Charles Johnson Post, Chairman of the Educational and Activities Committee of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

In the mean time, Mr. Baumgartner has agreed to read Progress and Poverty so as to better enable him to understand our point of view; therefore whether we finally get together or not on a publicity proposition, we will at least have gotten him to make a serious study of the most fundamental book.

I hope to be able to report more progress in the near future. With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

OKD:ha

O. K. D.

DAVID GIBSON, President  
ALFRED TADLOO, Vice-President  
BERNARD E. RAND, Secretary-Treasurer  
GEORGE T. ESRY, General Manager

TELEPHONE  
MAIN  
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# *The Erie Press*

The Prompt Printing and Publishing Company

2814 DETROIT AVENUE

CLEVELAND, O.

December 2d, 1939.

My dear Otto:-- Forgive this newspaper copy typewriting; for this office is nomanally closed Saturday-- nobody works save the bosses-- and I am compelled to write this myself.

The report of the Directors, just received, is, I think, the best piece of literature ever put out for the cause in recent years. My congratulations to the one responsible for it.

Aside from the phrase "of course" and the use of the personal pronoun "one," I have no criticism-- "as one walks along the street, one is apt to observe, " etc. This smacks of "dude writin'". and should never be used save in the Atlantic Monthly.

"Of course" suggests the writing and speeches of the late Theodore Roosevelt-- he used it with a pepper box. The word "obviously" should replace it, particularly in The Freeman.

I don't think much of the editor of The Freeman. He seems to have too many pet writers-- a sort of a mutual admiration party. Then, as a writer, his style is not clear-- possibly due to a defective ear.

What you need there is "a young newspaper man of quite a little experience" and who has not become obsessed with the traditions of the philosophy. In a relatively small publication like that he would necessarily have to do a good deal of writing himself rather than as a pure executive over the writing of others.

It strikes me that the best single issue of The Freeman was the one where Unodorov's name first appeared as editor-- the matter

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(2)

in this particular issue was no doubt written and selected by Will Lissner and who was just about striking his pace when forced to quite by force of his regular work on The Times.

There might be an idea in raising money for the Henry George School of Social Science as an antidote for Communism, rather than the present policy of witch hunting.

Colleges and Universities have never been able to teach social economics according to double-entry bookkeeping; for fear of <sup>affording</sup> some body that might contribute to the endowment fund to build more building with chest-handle windows-- or it might effect the investments of the endowment funds. As a result, all save a few state institutions have resolved themselves into an educational racket.

This neglect has reacted in Communism and with nothing to counter act it.

With all kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,

*David Gibson*

To Mr. Otto Dorn,  
New York City.

P. S.-- Socialism, or any of its derivatives in the way of Communism or Fascism means Dictatorship-- the state becoming everything and with no consideration to the individual.-- D. G.

December 4, 1939

Mr. David Gibson  
The Erie Press  
2814 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear David:

Your letter of December 2nd is most welcome because it gives us constructive critical suggestions on improving the Freeman, for which we are truly grateful.

Yes, the Freeman is still rather crude and quite amateurish. "A young newspaper man of quite a little experience" would undoubtedly go a long way toward overcoming some of these difficulties. And we are looking forward to the day when our income from subscriptions or from contributions will make this possible.

Regarding "pet writers", it is true the editor is giving graduates an opportunity to develop their talents by opening up the columns of the Freeman to them. This quite naturally tends to give it a decided amateurish tone, but it does in turn have a *salutary* effect upon the graduates.

The Freeman will perhaps never develop into a high grade magazine for general distribution. It is primarily to serve the graduates of the school by interpreting current events in the light of the Georgist teaching, and also to keep the students in touch with the work of the School.

Your suggestions for a money raising campaign as an antidote for Communism is a good one. Since we have the only answer to Communism and Fascism, such an appeal should impress business men.

Your suggestions are most welcome. Let's have more of them.

Yours sincerely,

OKD:rv

O. B. Dorn

Gibson

P.S. Mr. Baumgartner told us about your venture, "The Eric Press". We are wishing you a world of success.

P.P.S. Upon looking up the Freeman giving Will Lissner's resignation I find that the copy of this issue consisted largely of matter that Frank Chodorov had previously written but that did not appear in the Freeman during Will Lissner's editorship.

O.E.D.

Cleveland,  
December 16th,  
1939  
2814 Detroit Ave.

My dear Otto:-- I have your letter of recent date. I think I would at least insist ~~have~~ <sup>that</sup> your editor changed <sup>his name</sup> to one more easily spelled and pronounced. His present name gives the paper a foreign aspect that does not make a good general impression.

I think I would give the advanced students every opportunity to write for The Freeman; I have great hopes for the Henry George School <sup>with</sup> developing one or more young fellows with a genius for propagation.

Here is a plan by which you might promote the circulation of The Freeman and at no cash cost: Set the ~~the~~ <sup>new</sup> subscription price at 50 cents per year for a single subscription or four subscriptions to different addresses for one dollar for the year.

In other words, if a present subscriber would get three other subscribers, why, his own subscription would cost him but 25 cents for the year.

Or, say a man like yourself or myself would enclose a dollar bill in an envelope, he subscribe <sup>ing</sup> for four friends.

The chances that a lot of young fellows of the school would solicit subscriptions, <sup>sending them in</sup> four at a time, from friends that they may wish to convert to the philosophy.

We got the old Ground Hog up to 15,000 circulation by this plan right in the teeth of the first great war.

You know, as a merchant, that the gross returns on these additional subscriptions would be net; for there would be no more cost in Editing, typesetting, press makeready and general overhead expense-- just a little longer press run, additional paper and mailing and postage and which by no means would absorb the total of these <sup>additional</sup> 25-cent subscriptions.

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I have been trying to think of someone I could send you to, or go myself to get some backing for our cause and as a defense against Communism-- some individual or group that are not witch-hunting.

I have several good bank connections ~~with banks~~ in New York, but I fear that they could not see the difference between Single Tax and Communism.

I am sending out several letters as feelers along this line and I will report to you in a week or ten days.

The typography of ~~The Freeman~~ <sup>new</sup> could be ~~improved~~ improved without additional cost, but I would <sup>not</sup> print it on any more costly paper stock.

This subscription plan I propose would require a little promotion in the way of about a column <sup>for</sup> of advertising, urging present subscribers to solicit or sent in ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> subs at a time at 25cents each.

With all kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,

To Mr. Otto Dorn,  
New York City.