

Feb 1936 FSTC Correspondence

---



Feb. 3, 1936.

Hon. Lister Hill, M.C.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Friend Hill:-

I hope you will support the so-called; ( but erroneously) "inflation" measure for paying the soldiers bonus pending before Congress.

With the decision by overwhelming majorities of both houses of congress for cash payment of the bonus, the president should have responded cheerfully and provided the means for payment in manner authorized by the Constitution, by issuing the needed national currency; not by trying to get the soldiers to "baby" or other bonds, or calling for loans at interest, from banks, or anybody else.

Hoping we can agree in this as we have on other important matters, and with most respectful regards,

Sincerely yours,

---

P.S. I hope I did not embarrass you by article on first page of last week's Courier, of which I sent you a marked copy.



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Feb. 5, 1936.

Mr. E. B. Gaston,  
Fairhope, Ala.

My dear Mr. Gaston:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 3rd  
and as you know, I am always happy to hear from you.

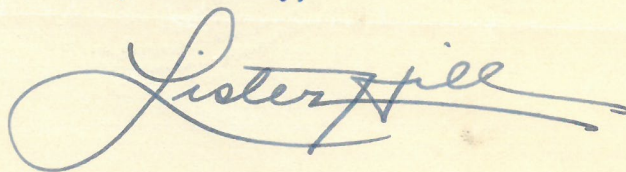
I am at present giving the so called bonus payment bill  
my thought and study and certainly I am glad to have your views  
on it. Please be assured I shall keep them in mind.

You did not embarrass me the least bit by the article  
on the first page of last week's Courier. In fact I was glad to  
see the article copied by the Alabama Journal.

Write me any time.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lister Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L" and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

February 5, 1936

E?B.Gaston, Secretary in acct with E.C. Wolcott Tr.

Lease fee 1/18/36 Miss Elva Mendenhall, \$1.00

" " 2/4/36 Kifby Boothe, 1.00

2.00

Recd Feb 5 1936

E.C. Wolcott



A. C. CAMPBELL,  
24 LISGAR STREET,  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO,  
TELEPHONE: QUEEN 8523

Not for publication

Ottawa, February 12, 1936.

Mr. Ernest B. Gaston  
Editor The Fairhope Courier

Dear Friend Gaston:

I am proud of the way you have treated my stuff, giving it such prominence and such display. I hope it will help on the understanding of Henry George's first and fundamental proposition, the fact that plenty exists. As I believe that Liberalism in Canada is the same as Georgeism in Canada, (though, of course nearly all my fellow members of the Liberal Party would deny this) I try to push the party more and more in the direction of free trade and the Single Tax. It's an uphill job, but grows more hopeful and therefore more pleasant.

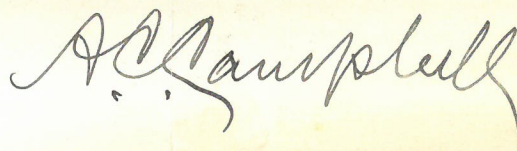
I ought to have written you before, and hope I am not too late. I should like to have a dozen or so copies of the issue of Feb. 6, in which my article appears. It is inconvenient and ridiculously expensive to remit to you the small sum involved. But, if you put the copies aside so that I may be sure to have them, and let me know the charge, I will send it gladly. Or, would it accord with your system and be convenient otherwise, to send me the papers and add the charge to my subscription fee which must be coming due pretty soon?

When we were in Fairhope there was a "Black Northerner" and one of our new friends, not knowing that we were Canadians, explained the cold by saying, "Somebody must have come down from Canada and left the door open." I fear that some of your visitors this year have been very thoughtless. We have even more than our usual share of cold, but the almost constant N.W. wind makes it far worse. All the people I meet are strong for our "bracing winter", but only the ski-ing enthusiasts find any excuse for the wind. I hope that by this time your Canadian visitors have learned manners and close the door carefully, so that by this time you are having strawberries "down on Mobile Bay."

I trust that you have completely recovered your strength and are able to enjoy and rejoice in the rapid improvement of Fairhope the lovely city of your youthful dreams come true.

Believe me, as ever,

Yours very sincerely,





Feb. 17, 1936.

A.C. Campbell,  
24 Lisgar St.,  
Ottawa, Can.

Dear Friend Campbell:-

Your highly esteemed favor of 12th duly received.. Shortly after the Courier of Feb. 6th was issued I sent you 3 copies of the issue of that date. I do not recall whether or not it had by that time been discovered that there were no other copies save the five we reserve in the hope of getting around to having that many bound copies some day. No doubt the interest in your article helped to deplete the issue. Emil Knips sends out a good many Couriers and while he is good enough to pay for them, he is not particular to see that he does not get the last one. I shall carry a little note in this week's issue and see if we cannot locate a few more copies for you--for which there will be no charge if found. You leave me always in your debt.

I note your references to the Canadian weather which I take it, has probably borne upon the same relation to that of Mobile Bay as usual and left noting to brag about in either locality. I am glad to say that we have had a few days of pleasant weather, with cessation of rain and warm sunshine which has been very much enjoyed and is further appreciated because it enables our road work to be pushed along. My eldest son, James Ernest, is one of the five members of the "Commissioners Court" and has charge of the road improvements.

I am feeling much better than a little while back but not enough to make me feel like taking up again the tasks I so long carried.

With very best regards to you and Mrs. Campbell and assuring you I will get you a few more Couriers of Feb. 6, if I can locate them, I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

*E. J. Gaston*

---



## CLEMENTS & CLEMENTS

AMERICAN BLACK WALNUT LOGS AND LUMBER

KNOXVILLE, IOWA

Feb. 26, 1936.

Dear Friend Gaston:

Your letter was received more than a month ago, and I have rather neglected to respond. I am indeed glad to hear from you. Are you still publishing the Courier?

Fairhope certainly has boomed since I made you a visit & this was I think in 1912. I kept thinking for several years that I would make you a visit, but has not gotten farther than the "think".

I was engaged in the walnut timber business from 1923 till 1930, when the bottom dropped out of the business during the so-called depression, and till the present. In 1931 I was appointed Deputy Clerk of the court here, and held that till Jan. 1st 1935, and during that time worked very hard, and the Clerk himself knew nothing about the office, which made it particularly hard for me, as you will recall we had two very hot summers, 1933 and 1934. The walnut business has looked up some, and three months ago began shipping some, but the business is very limited, the mills only contracting a month at a time.

So much for the personal side. I have often wondered that you never made a visit back to Iowa, I think I am right about that, am I not? You will find great changes here in the nearly 40 years since you left. Main roads of the State are pretty well paved or graveled, and the State or rather counties are over 95 millions in debt, and some of the bonds have recently been refunded, which really means a perpetual debt, some thing like the Government debt. I note that the State of Neb. went somewhat slower, and have about completed their system recently and no debt to curse the State.

The lands here, particularly the farm lands have been extensively foreclosed of recent years, and we seem to be on the verge generally of "land tenancy". I have often wondered what position this places the "single tax" now.

I have written several short articles for the Forum page of the Des Moines Register, and they have <sup>never</sup> refused to publish them, and the one I sent you is one of them. The most articles published by different persons in that page, are rather on the surface, as I indicated in that article, I thought some one else might write about the matter together approving it or disputing the position, but I have received several letters from different persons all commending it, and the position I took in the matter. I received the copies of the Courier you sent, but did <sup>not</sup> find the speech made by the member of Congress that you mentioned, who is a member of the Fairhope Corporation; I had some correspondence with Charles R. Eckert, a member from Penn., to whom I wrote commending the position he took in a speech he made. Our member of Congress from this district, Judge Utterback, a Democrat, I fear does not seem to have a comprehension







Feb. 28, 1936

Rev. Gardiner L. Tucker,  
Houma, La.

My dear Friend Tucker:-

Please be assured of my heartfelt appreciation of your most generous expression of my services over many years in the effort at Fairhope to further the Single Tax cause generally by a demonstration of results which could be reached by a group of individuals, self-directed and working under the laws as existing.

Whether the warmth of your commendation of me individually is justified is not for me to say but I wish to express the my gratitude for the expression of your feeling and toward me and certify to the strength it has given me at many times during our more than forty years of association in a noble cause---as we know ours to be.

I hope you will find time to call on me whenever you are on the Eastern Shore

With most sincere regards,

---



L.R. Clements,  
Knoxville, Iowa.

Feb. 29, 1936

Dear Friend Clement :-

I am delighted to have ely it such a newsy letter from you and am going to show it by answering promptly and answering some of the questions you put.

Yes. I am still publishing the Courier, in which I am assisted by my daughter, Mrs. Crawford, elder of the two you rememer, a widow, with son 6ft. 3 1/2 inches but under age. I lost my wife more than two years ago and Mrs. Crawford is also housekeeper for me. My youngest son, Arthur is also on the paper staff, printer and linotype operator; my second son, Dr. C.A. (Chiropractor) also helps us materially with writings. He is al a member of the Town Council and since Feb. 6th, secretary of the Colony, elected following my declination against being further considered. My eldest son, James is the Ford agent and is also one of the board of three county county commissioners.

I did make two or three visits b k to Iowa, but they were short ones. The last was in 1919, when the land boom was r ging in Iowa. I was always in a hurry to get back "home."

You refer to the tendency toward tenantry; which is the most sinister result of our rotten land system. One effect it has on me, is to by contrast with what we have accomplished by our Colony, and the failure to get anywhere through politics, is to cause me to incline to favor a system of land purchasing and leasing by the government owner to individuals; but under collecting only the rental value of the bare land,

Millions of dollars are now being loaned for the purrass of land for rehabilitation and resettlement, with as I can find no well thought out plan for of tenure; and with no reason to expect a change in the tendency to make the land a medium for speculation and a degrading form of tenantry. Instead of all being co-tenants, free from taxes on their improvements and with the land rent adjusted from year to year on the Single Tax principle.

Charles R. Eckert, of Pennsylvania is the Colony member who made the speech in Congress. Away back in almost the beginning of our settlement here, he and another young Pennsylvanian both then singletaxers, visited the Colony, and were so impressed that both paid \$100 each for a membership, which was used to buy land.

We too, as to the "Greenback" right as when so forcibly supported by our good friend, General J.B. Weaver.

Am going to cut this right here and quit. Sat night. Better come down and visit us. Sending you some pictures, etc. bset  
regards