

Grossmont College

GROSSMONT JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT

~~3230 SWEETWATER SPRINGS BOULEVARD, SPRING VALLEY, CALIFORNIA~~

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El Cajon, Calif.

March 24, 1966

Dr. C.A. Gaston
President, Fairhope Single Tax Corp.
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Dr. Gaston:

I have been intending for some time to send you the enclosed. I assume the writer was your father or another relative. It may be of use in the colony archives.

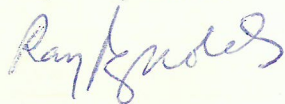
Possibly you will be willing to have made, at my expense, copies of the Marie Howland materials you have. I have decided to center my story around her life at the colony, so from now on every scrap of information I can get about her will be gratefully received.

Do you know the year of her birth? I have her birthdate, but not the year, and it is quite important that I know her age while at the colony.

Any help you can give will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Ray Reynolds



X

Des Moines Iowa 5/31/91

A. K. Owen

32 Nassau St. N. Y.

Dear Sir

As a fellow-student
of Political and social econ-
omy and a firm believer
that all the healthful inter-
ests of humanity can be
best subserved by "Integral
Cooperation" I take the liber-
ty of addressing you with
regard to the Cooperative
Colony founded by you in
Mexico. As you will see
by enclosed pamphlet
(which I trust you will
have time to examine
with some care.) myself
and a few others attempted

2
to add another to the list of
Cooperative or socialistic colonies
last year. The enterprise attract-
ed considerable attention through-
out the Country many of the
leading papers devoting con-
siderable space to a discuss-
ion of the plans and in-
quiries for information with
a view to joining poured in
from all parts of the Country.
As the kind of people who are
attracted to such an enterprise
are (as you have no doubt
learned) for a rule poor
and suffering from existing
conditions and as the pre-
vailing depression in finan-
cial matters rendered it al-
most impossible to dispose

3 of Real Estate for lease
we failed to put our ideas
into operation, I had some
slight knowledge of your
Colony at that time and
have since, recently, had my
attention again called to it.
I had the pleasure of meet-
ing Mr. John Bridenbath
Secy of the "N. D. D. Co" a few
days since as we were both
in attendance at the Confer-
"National Union Conference"
in Cincinnati and he has
supplied me with an as-
sortment of printed mat-
ter relative to the Colony:-

I am still determined as
soon as my circumstances
will permit to "seek refuge"
in a Co-operative Society
and with a full knowledge

4
of the hardships and anxiety
necessarily attending the at-
tempt to found a new one
I am much more inclin-
ed to join one already es-
tablished than to attempt
another. The selection of lo-
cation made by you would
seem to me from what I
have learned of it espec-
ially fortunate and I
say with pleasure that your
plan is marvellous in its
^{originality &} perfection of detail. There is
only one feature to which
I take serious exception and
which I have heard criti-
cised by others, that is in
regard to its attitude to-
ward religious organizations
granting the full force of your
claims that your system

5 is religion in practice (and I think it is) and infinitely more Christian ^{in fact} than the practice of the so-called Christians of the world. — I cannot but think that in forbidding the organization of distinct religious bodies or sects if you please and the erection by them of buildings for the sole purpose of carrying on their worship as they see fit within the Colony, you have made a most serious mistake, one that will exclude from you many who would be most desirable members, and one not to be expected of one who has in all other respects such remarkably clear conceptions of the "rights of men". Religion is a purely personal affair, and should be a voluntary

6/ matter entirely, No denomination should be allowed to force its beliefs or practices upon society nor exact financial support involuntarily from anyone, nor on the other hand should Society forbid the utmost freedom of belief and practice in religious matters from individuals. In my Colony Plan I believe the matter is not mentioned at all, the intention being to leave it just as it now is. My reply to those inquiring what would be the rules in regard regard to religious matters? was "None - you would be just as free as you now are. whenever a sufficient number of any religious denomination think they want to employ a preacher of their faith to devote all or part of

7
This time to religious work, or
want to build a church for their
own worship, let them put
their hands in their pockets
and take ~~the~~ such part of
their earnings as they de-
sire. It is no body's business
but theirs" The main pur-
pose of such a Company it
seems to me should be to
solve the problem of most ef-
fective production and
distribution of wealth and
to apply the common resources
and machinery only to
such other things as are
of use and benefit to all
all public utilities and con-
veniences of civilization and
education, There is an un-
fortunate tendency it seems
to me among almost all
such Communities that now

8 or even have, existed to go too far in attempts to regulate purely personal matters. Some compel adherence to certain religious beliefs and practices others compel a renunciation of all such, Some forbid all amusements others compel all to keep support theaters, operas, dancing schools, etc, whether they care to enjoy them or not, and so on. This tendency has in my opinion caused the failures that mark the ^{line of} progress toward a perfect form of social organization. None can believe more firmly than I that the best material results and justice to all, demands a form of cooperative society in which

9 natural resources shall be
held in trust for the use
and benefit of all and in
which all productive enter-
prises shall be conducted col-
lectively, but I am equally
convinced that when each
has received the full com-
pensation for his labor, it
~~should be~~ ^{is} his to do whatever he pleases
with so long as he injures
or oppresses no one else, I
have ^{called} attention to this feature
of your Bye Laws not because
it would interfere with my
desires but because it is
a stumbling block in the
way of friends of mine who
are otherwise much pleas-
ed with your plans and
would like to join you and
because I feel that it dis-
closes a tendency dangerous
to the continuous success of the

10 enterprise

I have already taken more
of your time than I should
and will close, hoping to
hear from you, your opin-
ions on this matter and
on the plan of action out-
lined in the pamphlet
enclosed.

Fraternally yours

Ernest B. Gaston

Box 1074.

P.S. Please preserve and re-
turn pamphlet as it is
the only one I have left