

National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR PRESIDENT

November 5, 1934

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am shocked to learn from your letter of November 3 of the deplorable straits which have overwhelmed Mrs. Kennan. I thank you for advising me and welcome the opportunity to be of assistance. Several years ago Elsie and I called on Mrs. Kennan one afternoon at Medina, and while she told us that she had experienced reverses, she did not intimate that her situation was becoming desperate, and we had not the slightest information that would have revealed such a situation to us.

I am enclosing my check for \$200 and also a check for \$100 from Dr. John Oliver La Gorce, Vice President of The Society, who has been associated with me for 30 years and who ^{and greatly admired} knew Mr. and Mrs. Kennan. This \$300 will help take care of the immediate situation until some other means can be found.

In your letter you intimate that Mr. Kennan's papers are a possible source of income. I know that he had a valuable library and also many clippings on Russian affairs, but my impression is that his great collection was given by Mrs. Kennan several years ago to the American Geographical Society Library in New York. If there remain any Kennan books or papers to be disposed of, will you kindly advise me.

I presume you have advised the E. H. Harriman family of the situation. Mr. Kennan wrote Mr. Harriman's biography and was very closely associated with

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(of the Union Pacific)
Mr. Harriman during the last years of his life. You, of course, are well acquainted with the fact that the Harriman, after whom the Harriman Bank is named, was not related to Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Harriman with whom the Kennans were so closely associated. ^{But} Because of their close friendship with the E. H. Harrimans, probably they had a sentimental interest in the Harriman Bank.

With kind regards, in which Mrs. Grosvenor joins, I am

Sincerely yours,

Gilbert Grosvenor

enclosures

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
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