

3. Jan 1928.

THORPE LODGE
CAMPDEN HILL. W. 8.

My dear Ben: If you read between the lines of the letter I have written to you today, you will know how disappointed I am that Niemeys should insist on taking his wife to N.Y. (or that the wife should insist on going with Niemeys: I don't know which)

I know this greatly reduces the advantage to be gained from his visit: if I had been a brave man & a dictator I should have called the visit off, - but that meant ill feeling - so I shall hope for the best. This is just to explain to you.

Niemeys pretends to me that he will be as free with a wife as without: that she will sit in the hotel & twiddle her thumbs & ask no questions:

Norman

I might just as well pretend to be the same
with the toothache as without it - he is
trying to prove that you can serve God & Mammon
- I don't believe it.

But somehow I hope you will be able to behave
as if Lady Niemeyer was in Europe & not in
America: I can't tell you about her for I
have never even set eyes on her - a beyond
confessing that my plan has failed - at least
half failed - I can only be

Yrs affly
M.H.

PERSONAL.

Bank of England,
London, E.C.2.

3rd January, 1928.

Miss Holmes

My dear Ben,

The other day when you and I were talking here about Niemeyer's visit and again when I cabled you on the 29th December, of course I had not the least idea in the world that he would wish to take his wife with him. I need not repeat that he is anxious to go just as we are anxious he should go; for I think it can do nothing but good. But the question of a wife's company is one upon which each individual must judge for himself and I have therefore left him to do so. Consequently, as stated in my cable of to-day, Niemeyer and Lady Niemeyer will sail in the "Scythia" due to arrive on the 15th or 16th January: there is no better boat about that date and you know well how limited the choice is at this time of the year.

Of course my own hope and desire was that Niemeyer should go and live in your pocket at the "Marguery". Obviously that would not be suitable or convenient unless he were alone, and so please make suitable reservations at the "Plaza".

This first visit of Niemeyer's seems to me very important from several standpoints. He is in the transition stage between an Official and a Banker, and having, as I believe, a keen, clear and receptive mind this is a good time for him to get hold of Central Banking from various angles. Then I am most
anxious

PERSONAL.

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Benjamin Strong, Esq.

3rd January, 1928.

anxious that he should come to be, not only an acquaintance but a friend of yours and of George Harrison's and of all the rest of the party, and that he should thus do a great deal towards cementing and even improving the lasting relations between our two Banks.

Besides these more or less banking considerations, I wish him also to have every opportunity of discussing (1) the policy and attitude of the Financial Committee of the League: (2) the policy to be observed by Central Banks regarding the future value of gold and the price index: and that fascinating, inevitable but dangerous powder barrel (3) the arrangements which are to supersede the Dawes Plan. To this list the more you and he can add the better and, in order that there may be no misunderstanding as to the object of his visit, Niemeyer intends (so he tells me) to devote his time to the Federal Reserve Bank and System just as if he were a good bachelor.

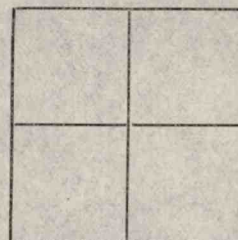
I rely on your help as I so often do and remain

Yours ever,

W. Roman.

Benjamin Strong, Esq.

CONFIDENTIAL.



Cablegram sent in code to:—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

Despatched: 1.35 p.m. (time) Tues. 3rd Jany. 1928. (date)

(7496) 9/25-1500

N^o.

4/28. Confidential for Strong.

1. Referring to Harrison's cable No. 175/27 - Niemeyer has arranged to sail per "Scythia" on the 7th January and on arrival please try to protect him from reporters and brass bands.
2. But as I understand he will be accompanied by his wife the "Marguery" would not be suitable and beg you reserve accommodation at "Plaza" or other such hotel.
3. Referring to your No. 14 to Harrison paragraph 4 - you will have been glad to learn of ratification by Central Banks invited just as we anticipated.

NORMAN.

Park 1064.

The Red House,
Hornton Street,
Kensington, W.8.

Jan 7th - 1928

Dear Mr. Strong

It is very kind

of you to have written to me
& I thank you for the letter
& your good wishes - I hope
you are safely & comfortably
at home again & that
the next time you come
you may have time
to play as well as to work

with Mont -

my feelings to you & yours
for 1928 -

Yrs. very sincerely

L. S. P. Norman

[C O P Y]

The Red House
Hornton Street
Kensington, W.8

Park 1064

Jan 7th 1928

Dear Mr. Strong

It is very kind of you to have written to me + I thank you for the letter + your good wishes. I hope you are safely + comfortably at home again + that the next time you come you may have time to play as well as to work with Mont.

My greetings to you + yours for 1928.

Yrs very sincerely

[signed] L.S.P. Norman

19/29
Per S.S. "Olympic" - 25.1.28.

CONFIDENTIAL.



24th January, 1928.

*

My dear Ben,

Roumania.

In accordance with the last paragraph of my cable of the 21st instant, I enclose -

- (1) A copy of a letter recently received from M. Burillianu, and
- (2) A memorandum prepared by Siepmann.

I am disappointed at the way in which these affairs seem to be tending, not only because the support of the Financial Committee of the League is likely to be avoided but also because financially, if not politically, Europe seems to be splitting up into groups.

Please discuss all this fully with Niemeier to whom I send greetings.

Yours most sincerely,

(SIGNED) M. NORMAN.

Benjamin Strong, Esq.

*came on
24/28
Kane*

Bank of England

London, E.C. 2

30th January, 1928.

Dear Mr. Governor,

So far as I am aware there are but few books devoted entirely to the subject of Central Banking or to its various branches; and it has always seemed to me that the deficiency is a matter for regret.

I feel constrained therefore to commend to your attention and to request you to accept, as a gift from the Bank of England, the copy of a recently published book entitled "Central Banks", which I have the pleasure to forward you to-day under separate cover.

I believe that a work containing a study of the constitutions of Banks of Issue and an analysis of representative Charters is a helpful contribution to the literature of Central Banking and I send it to you now in the hope that you will find it both interesting and useful.

Believe me, dear Mr. Governor,

Yours sincerely,

Asman

Mem. by H. S. W.
Apr. 24-1928

PERSONAL.

Bank of England,
London, E.C. 2.

11th April, 1928.

My dear Strong,

After being a truant since the end of February, I am now back here and find, among other odds and ends, a two weeks old letter from Professor Gustav Cassel saying that he sails for New York on the 19th instant. On arrival in New York he will stay there until the 15th May and thence he expects to go to Washington for a few days, but is leaving his arrangements to Professor Seligman of Columbia. The particular object of Cassel's visit is to study your monetary and stabilisation policy and he wishes above all things to be assured of a friendly and helpful welcome from yourself.

The object of this letter, therefore, is to beg you (if still in New York) to be sure and grasp the Professor's hand and to show him such a welcome as you better than anyone else can do. Little as I am personally acquainted with him, I know him to be a disinterested citizen; a grand old man who has done his best for the gold standard even if in some respects you may think he has not chosen the best best or pursued it in the best manner.

Perhaps, too, you would take an opportunity of smoothing his path with the Board - or some members of it - against his visit to Washington. I would sooner you did this in
such

PERSONAL.

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Benjamin Strong, Esq.

11th April, 1928.

such manner as you may think best rather than that I should write to any of them direct.

In just this connection I have to-day come across your personal letter from Washington dated the 27th March, in which you recapitulate the views put forward by Sir Henry Strakosch last December, summing up also his proposals and your attitude towards them; and this is likely to be your attitude towards some of the ideas of Professor Cassel if he should put forward his published views in regard to the World's gold position.

I think I am in agreement with most of what you write, particularly as regards unlimited further development of the gold exchange standard and the wisdom of allowing the Dawes Plan to work itself out a good deal further before any formal action by Central Banks or meeting between them. I am sceptical as to how far it would be practicable and how far it would be wise for the Central Banks to admit in any way that they can regulate prices through their gold and credit policies: or, in other words, how far the power of fixing prices (which would likely be taken to cover particular commodities as well as the general average) could or should come within the admitted purview of any Central Bank.

Yours most sincerely,

Livingston

Benjamin Strong, Esq.

PERSONAL.

Bank of England,
London, E.C. 2.

24th May, 1928.

no ans.

My dear Ben,

As there is no rose without a thorn but as the rose can be very sweet, so you will understand, without further poetic allusion, that we (Stewart and I) greatly enjoyed our time in Cherbourg! Nor are we surprised to learn from your telegram that Dr. Rist prefers Grasse to Beauvallon. I have been to Grasse many times and should suppose you would get a Villa there without trouble; but please make full enquiries. The place lies rather in a hollow and the roads are dusty, but the country all round is of course lovely even though you are somewhat remote from the sea.

I enclose a copy of a cablegram I sent to Harrison on the 22nd May which, so far as it goes, represents I think the views of Stewart as well as of myself. It was merely an attempt to recapitulate your condition, his position and our position.

As I am likely to hear from you again to-day or to-morrow, it is not worth while for me to write to you at length. You will have heard, though it sounds somewhat exotic, that the City Bank are shipping \$5,000,000 gold to London, probably a 'McKenna-ish' stunt of some kind!

I hope you found all well and happy at the Bank of France, and you may be sure that we are ready with the oil

PERSONAL.

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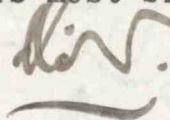
Benjamin Strong, Esq.

24th May, 1928.

oil-can if that is needed. I hope, too, that Dr. Rist will be able to quieten you in mind as well as body, and remember that there is a point beyond which neither the one nor the other can well be strained.

With warmest regards,

Yours most sincerely,



Benjamin Strong, Esq.

PERSONAL.

Bank of England,
London, E.C. 2.

11th June, 1928.

Confidential file

My dear Ben,

In one way or another we all make mistakes and I cannot in the least complain if on the two points mentioned in your letter of the 6th instant your memory was at fault. Indeed, I did not want or expect to hear from you on this subject; but no more gracious or kindly letter can I ever expect to receive nor could I more quickly and gladly add such minor slips of your memory to the list of misunderstandings already forgotten.

I write this hurriedly and amid the inevitable pressure of the last day or two of clearing up. I rejoice to hear a better account of you from Cis, and whether or not you enjoyed his visit there is no doubt that he enjoyed your company: and it did him good too. Your next visitor will be Walter Stewart, a kindly and congenial spirit who can only help; and later on if you want another visitor we will give you of our best. You know full well that I and we all desire nothing more than first of all to see you well again and then to work with you when you are well. This of course needs time and patience, but old Friend I fear there is no short cut. Your mill must grind out slowly at Grasse while mine will be doing the same on the Atlantic: we may be separated but we need not and will not drift apart. And you have many

PERSONAL.

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Benjamin Strong, Esq.

11th June, 1928.

many good friends here to be used as anchors during the summer.

So think no more about Roumania or past remarks or misunderstandings: they are all forgotten and

With more affection than ever,

I am,

Yours



Benjamin Strong, Esq.

I also have received your hand-written note to which I will try a reply & before sailing: but I can only promise to try. Meanwhile ever so many thanks.

His.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM 26

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNATURE

	Full-Rate Cablegram
LCO	Deferred Cablegram
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week-End Letter

1928 SEP 8 AM 17

Received at 40 Broad Street (Central Cable Office), New York, N. Y. ALWAYS OPEN

185F LONDON 71

1928

WLT BENJAMIN STRONG 270 PARK AVENUE NEWYORK,

DELIGHTED WITH YOUR AND HARRISONS PERSONAL CABLES BUT SO
 DISTRESSED AT NEWS HEARD FROM LUBBOCK AND STEWART AND YOUR
 OLYMPIC LETTER THAT AM STARTING WORK WITH A HEAVY HEART STOP
 REMEMBER THAT WHEN MOMENT ARRIVES I WOULD GLADLY COME ACROSS
 AND HOLD HANDS FOR A FEW DAYS STOP MEANWHILE DONT BE
 DOWNHEARTED BUT WEAR YOUR OLD SMILE RIGHT ALONG AND TAKE MUCH
 LOVE,

PLODGERITE.

LETTER to B.S. (1876-) BY MONTAGU
NORMAN GOV. OF BANK OF ENGLAND AFTER
DEATH OF B.S. (1872-1902)
THORPE LODGE,
CAMPDEN HILL. W. 8.

[From B. H. H. H.]
Nov. 10. 1928

My dear Ben.

I have not written to you because I have not known
what to say: my thoughts are like a torrent but my
powers of expression are dry. All the same it was good
at least of you write me that delightful letter & I
just wish to tell you so. You did the one right
thing too in allowing Norman Selane to be one of
those who took part in the last Tribute on this
Earth: he I am sure was glad to be with you, for
some of us who were absent, as well as for himself.

My friend was of course your father - but I
am happy in thinking how greatly he was your
friend too. How long he had, because I cannot
say, but even during my too short friendship,

seem to have noticed a growing friendship & understanding & confidence between him & yourself. Perhaps I ought not to say this but it is true & should make you glad.

Death leaves a gap & we may as well acknowledge it: in my case it cannot now be filled or grow over. But you are younger: you have your own life & your home to lean on & the new generation to care for and I am glad for you. So I am for Kit & Phil. It must be just as your father never have wished - that before he passed over you should all three be married & out in the world.

That is all I have to say: the rest you can guess. Give my love^{to} Laura & Kit & Phil & the families.

Ever yours
W. H. H. H.