

Agustin Basave, Esq.,

Chief Editor, El Norte, Monterrey Mexico.

June 24th. 1947.

Dear Sir,

I have your appreciative letter of 18th. inst., by Air Mail, for which I thank you, and am very happy to be of what assistance I can to you in your proposal to publish in one of the Sunday issues of your newspaper my photograph and a biographical sketch.

I have posted you by Registered Open Book-post, a number of my pamphlets & articles of which I still have copies, and have numbered these in pencil for your convenience in order of date. The package contains also a 1932 photograph and one I have just had taken, together with my autograph. Also you will find a recent monograph by Leonard Wise in his *Great Money Reformers Series*, which may be of use to you. I must refer you to *Who's Who* if you can get access to a copy for further biographical details but, in case you are not able to, give a short abstract here in so far as not covered by Leonard Wise.

My wife died in 1935, and at the outbreak of the War I gave up my house at Oxford and came to live here in retirement in the country, occupying myself with various mathematical problems as a hobby, as I am not a trained mathematician. Since the end of the War I have been trying to get my book of 1932 republished, but so far have not succeeded, owing to the congestion in the printing trades, shortage of paper etc. I am now engaged in rewriting it once again, and have also a shorter book on atomic energy, in some respects a condensation of the larger, the original title of which I should have said is "The Interpretation of the Atom", awaiting publication.

The late Mrs. Soddy was a daughter of Sir George Beilby, F.R.S. of Glasgow, a prominent figure in scientific, technical & educational circles when I was a Lecturer at Glasgow Univ. from 1904-14. I was president of the Röntgen Society (London) 1905-6, made a Fellow of the Royal Society, 1910, awarded the Cannizzaro Prize by the Acc.d. Lincei, Rome, in 1913. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry for 1921, am an Hon. LLD of Glasgow Univ., and Foreign Member of the Swedish, Italian & Russian Academies of Science.

With my late wife our chief recreation was walking and mountain climbing. I am 70 years old on Sep. 2nd., this year, and still enjoy open air and walking in the neighbourhood, but do not expect I'll climb again.

I should perhaps mention my latest article, though you may have heard of it, in a recent new publication in U.S.A., "Management & Human Relations in Industry", Vol. I, Editor, Paul Anderson, Industrial Relations Publishing Corporation, 1165 Broadway, New York, N.Y., entitled "The Evil Genius of the Modern World", too recent for me yet to have received reprints. There is a possibility I may be able to cross over this autumn, as I understand from Mr. Anderson, he is trying to arrange for me to give a lecture tour in the States, but expect the difficulties of transport may prevent me coming.

With regard to my scientific work, Rutherford, afterwards Lord Rutherford, and I laid the foundations for the theoretical interpretation of radioactivity in 1902-3 by our joint work in Montreal University, he being a physicist and I a chemist by original training. My being at Montreal was due to having visited Canada in support of an application at Toronto Univ. I did not get, and, passing through Montreal on the way back, was attracted by the unique set of scientific laboratories there then, the gift of Mac-

-donald, the Tobacco-King, to the University, so that I remained there and got a Demonstratorship in the Chemistry Dept. Rutherford was in New Zealand at the time getting married, so our subsequent cooperation was pure chance.

Please let me know if I can furnish you any other particulars. Most of the pamphlets sent I still have copies of. I shall be glad to supply to anyone interested in Mexico. Yours sincerely
Frederick Soddy shall be glad to supply to anyone