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D. M. HUNT

LA GRANDE, OREGON

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W. OLIVER, Agent

PHONE BLACK 1251
ED. PROPECK,
The Second Hand Dealer
PHONE BLACK 1251

Goes Into 'Other Side' of Union Muddle With Minuteness---Makes Startling Assertions of Past Conditions

UNION, July 21.—(To the Editor)—There having been considerable published in the different papers of late against the mayor and city council of Union, I thought, perhaps, your many readers would like to hear for the other side for a change, as the saying is, a change is as good as a rest. In going into this question it will be necessary to go back quite a number of years, in fact the bonding of the city to put in a water system and building of the city hall. As is well known the city was bonded at that time for \$30,000.00 and as some of the voters and taxpayers informed me, the bonds were to be 30-year bonds with the option of taking them up after 10 years, but when they were issued they were straight 30-year bonds drawing 8 per cent, yet this deal was considered a good business proposition, for whom? Let our citizens and taxpayers answer.

Now let us see what we got for this \$30,000 principal and \$72,000 interest, that was said to cash \$8000. We have a city hall that contractors have offered to duplicate for \$3,000 to \$3,500, then we have a water system with 2 1/2 miles of the main field pipe that has got to be replaced, owing, so I am reliably informed, to its being laid with condemned second hand pipe purchased in San Francisco, when the contract called for new pipe. Another good business proposition, for whom?

Then there is the Woolen Mill bridge left us as a legacy by the former councils, that has to be replaced with a new one although only being built for about 5 or 6 years. Do the taxpayers know who built it? Was it any of the present councilmen or mayor? or was it some of the main workers on the recall?

The old council had a tax levy of 15 mills. The liquor licenses and supposedly the same amount as the liquor licenses in fines or licenses; for gambling, at least that is what C. W. Jones told the writer he had to pay, and said the others paid the same, but the books don't show it. If that was the case, why don't they? Was Jones lying, or what?

Now with all this revenue the old councils ran behind with the warrant indebtedness some \$12000 or 13,000, some of that amount being 10 years past due, and knowing that they could not get along with the revenue then coming into the city. The old council, when they found they were defeated at the polls, and a new element was coming in, reduce the livery to 7 mills, also knowing the new council would have no revenue from the saloons. Notwithstanding this great cut in the resources, the new council was able to keep up all improvements and pay off over \$800 of the old warranted indebtedness. Taxpayers do you want the old crowd back in power?

Now a few words regarding the charges in the recall. Much stress is laid on the point that the Mayor, Dr. Law, "has been paid large sums of the city's money while holding the office of mayor," while the facts are

that he was paid \$101.50 for services as city physician for the period of 1 1/2 years, he was only mayor six months, and we all know the work the city physician has had during the last year and a half. Tax payers do you think he was over paid?

There has also been considerable talk about a warrant that was paid to myself \$88.70. If those who were so anxious to know what the amount was for had looked at the bill they would have seen it was for lumber furnished by E. O. Zeek for sidewalk crossings and assigned over to me.

Regarding the charge, "The common council has held meetings at private residences," that is just another case of distorted imagination, as every meeting we have held has been held in the council chamber. There was a question that was referred to the council and mayor as a committee of the whole, where we met as a committee at Dr. Law's and discussed the question.

Another charge is that we have employed, "numerous special police," from the way things have been going on, I think we ought to employ a lot more, as our marshal seems to see nothing that is going on, and yet we have churches befouled, councilmen's houses stoned and their windows broken, their harnesses cut to ribbons and their women folks frightened and those who sympathize with us are also subjected to outrages, and when this "sober" "law abiding" "virtuous" mob comes into the council meeting and threaten personal violence to the mayor and councilmen, forsooth because they would not resign, and let them step in and run things to suit themselves, we must not have officers there to protect ourselves.

But let us see who or what is

back of all this fuss, "there is a nigger in the wood pile," let us see if we can dig him out.

Next month there is to be an election for bonding the city for the purpose of installing a municipal electric plant, and a certain bank so rumor has it has loaned to the G. R. Electric Co., considerable money, and for the city to put in its own plant would reduce the security, do you begin to see the nigger? And if the bond issue cannot be defeated at the polls, then these self styled business men want to handle the money from the sale of the bonds, as they handled the water and city hall money so successfully. Taxpayers do you see the nigger?

As one of the former councilmen and chief push on the recall, said in discussing the electric light plant that it would take \$75,000 to dig a ditch 3 1/4 miles long that any contractor would be glad to take for \$3,000 to \$3,500. Taxpayer do you want to intrust the handling of the electric plant to him and those who think as he does.

Regarding the expediting of the books, we are going to have copies of the report printed and distributed among the taxpayers and they can judge for themselves whether we made any mistake there.

Taxpayers look for the nigger.

Some of my friends have asked me to answer articles published in the Scout. I answered them by saying that there was nothing to answer as one could not answer the ravings of one working off a bad case of D. T.'s, acquired on boot leg whisky.

Yours for a bigger and better Union.

O. PHELPS PRATT.

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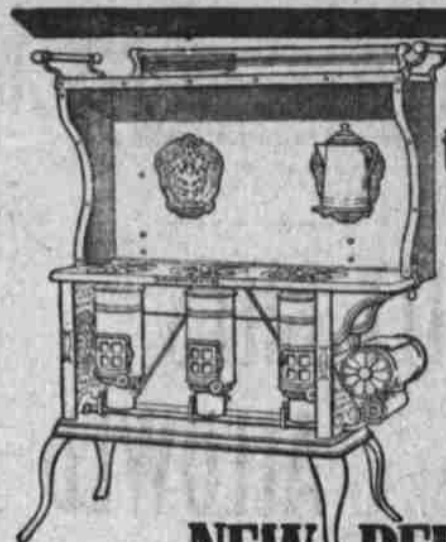
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