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THREE CLASSES OF AMERICANS

ARISTOCRATS, WINDWALLPERS AND MIDDLE OF THE ROAD CITIZENS—AN INTERESTING COMMUNICATION FROM JUDGE WATKINS.

To the Editor of The Times:

A good many people, notably Mr. Taft and Mr. Root seem to think our judicial system inferior to some others. Mr. Taft has gone so far as to recommend England's system for our consideration.

Mr. Taft and Mr. Root are aristocrats; they are aristocrats by nature and by nurture; they have always been aristocrats. Neither of them are acquainted with the wants or the needs of the average man. Mr. Taft has held public office most of his life, by divine right, he has always been coddled and boosted by admiring friends since his advent upon earth. As a Judge Mr. Taft pushed government by injunction further than any other man ever dared—he exceeded the limit.

Mr. Taft's sympathies are naturally with the aristocrats, and with the governing class. Naturally he believes the judges should be given more power and that the recall should not be invoked as to them.

It is said a corporation is conscienceless and soulless. They are so, if at all, because the management is soulless. Mr. Root is a corporation lawyer. A successful corporation lawyer must necessarily possess the attributes of his corporation. Mr. Root is a standpatter, he is opposed to the election of senators by direct vote, he is opposed to the initiative, the referendum and the recall; he is ardently cornfed.

Men with similar affiliations are apt to believe, among other things, that the people are created for the government and not the government for the people. Experience teaches that men who have exercised a little authority for a long time finally come to believe they are the whole works. Such a feeling is human—it is natural.

There are two classes who mostly find fault with American institutions, the aristocrats and the wind wallpers. The former believe in a centralized government and did they but

have their way, a monarchy or worse would speedily follow. The wallpers have a pain—they don't know where it is, but they are sure they have it, and the result is they are so distracted they don't know what they believe nor what they want, except they are sure they don't want what they have. Did they but have their way chaos, and anarchy would be the result. Happily for us there is another class who hold the balance of power, and keep the ship of state upon an even keel. They are the people who travel in the middle of the road; they go neither to one extreme nor the other—they are the "salt of the earth" and the mainstay of the republic. They are not expecting perfection, and while perhaps are not quite satisfied with conditions, resolutely face the front and do the best they can.

Personally, the writer believes the American judicial system to be the best in the world, immensely better than any other. A poor man, without friends can come nearer getting even handed justice in American courts, than in any other on the face of this earth. He does not claim that the system is perfect, his claim is simply that it is better than any yet devised by man. There is nothing perfect in this world save God and his handwork. The laws delays and the occasional miscarriage of justice is due largely to human frailties and not to the system. In all things we must make proper allowance, not expect too much and do the best we can. Imperfection is the common lot. The fact is our liberties and our privileges are so many, so varied and so common that most of us do not understand nor appreciate them—we hold them too cheaply—sometimes even in contempt. The ignorance and unfairness displayed by many persons in criticising our institutions and especially our courts, is appalling, it is vicious, in that it deceives and misleads the people into having a con-

tempt for the most important aim of the government to the injury of all of us. The writer believes in intelligent, fair and unbiased criticism everywhere, but he has no patience with the man who assumes to criticize any institution of his government of which he knows absolutely nothing or is too pig headed and mean to give credit where credit is due. It is claimed our courts are bound by too many rules, regulations and forms; that they indulge in too many technicalities and precedents. It is often said we should have less law and more justice.

All society, organizations, business and governments of every kind adopt and are guided and controlled by certain laws, rules and regulations—they are indispensable. System is necessary everywhere. Outside of these outside of any system is chaos and the mob. Laws are but rules of action. The exercise of any power outside of law is despotism, anarchy and violence. Whenever the state assumes to exercise any authority over the citizen, or over his property, it must needs proceed according to law—it cannot exercise its functions as to him in any other or different way; if it did its action would be oppression and tyranny. Our liberties are safe only within the law. There is no justice any court can administer outside of the law. The law is the sole and only standard of justice the courts can adopt in the administration of justice and to it they must strictly adhere. Whenever a judge departs from well-established principles of law he is no longer a judge, but a dictator. History teaches that all dictators are tyrants. To locate a tyrant, look in the glass. The American idea is that all men are equal before the law. No judge can be permitted to depart from the law as established by our legislative bodies and as laid down in the books. Otherwise each judge must adopt his own standard of justice that standard would depend upon the whims, caprices and prejudices of each particular judge. Every court would be a law unto its self; there would be no uniformity anywhere. One rule would apply to you and another to me under the same conditions—judicial legislation has no place in our system of government. The "rule of reason," outside of the spirit and intent of any law is pernicious, it is dangerous and the American people

will not stand for it. Our courts and judges already have ample power. The prevailing tendency is rather to curb than extend the power of the courts, and the reason therefor is to be found in the fact that too many of them abuse the authority they already have. Unlimited power in the hands of some men means death to your liberties and mine. There is no reason for adopting England's judicial system when we have a better of our own. If we did, it would be out of harmony and out of keeping with our other institutions, it is un-American, we don't want it nor won't have it. If any of our institutions don't suit us we will patiently fix them and when we get them fixed they will be the best on earth. We are not in the business of borrowing secondhand monarchical forms, thank you.

GEO. WATKINS.

\$100 Reward, \$100

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the system strength in building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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Marshfield Hand and Steam Laundry

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received by the Council of the City of Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon, until 10 o'clock P. M., Friday the 30th of June, 1911, for cleaning streets of said city from July 1, 1911, to January 1st, 1912, and sprinkling the streets of said city during the months of July, August and September, 1911, said work to be performed to the satisfaction of the Street Committee. The Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
Dated this 24th day of June, 1911.
JOHN W. BUTLER