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Uncle Ezra's Papers.

As the time approaches for the legislative assembly to convene at our state capital, perhaps now would be a proper time to take an inventory of stock to know what our standing is going to be in that body.

Our stock consists of Senators R. P. Bird, J. W. Watts; Representatives, R. R. Laughlin, F. N. Little and Capt. Lafollett, all of sound mind. As I am of a practical turn of mind, not a believer in any theories or dogma that ever was or ever can be produced, unless it can be applied for a practical and beneficial purpose, and for the good of all mankind. Don't be frightened, I am not going to prepare a bill in the interest of any political party, for no labor or other organization, nor in the interests of capital as against labor or production, nor am I going to draft a bill to locate any city, county seat or business center. These duties have already been delegated to others. The battle between the opposing political parties was fought out in old Yamhill last June; and having been settled then and there, it is a dead issue, and has no place in the halls of legislation. The senators and representatives are no longer fighting political battles. They are the representatives of the citizens. They are the custodians alike of the interests of democrats, republicans and prohibitionists. It is to you we all are looking for such legislation as will prove advantageous to the citizens without any reference or regard to any difference that does or may have existed, whether political or otherwise, or without regard to what vocation or calling in life. Are not all citizens, whether democrats, republicans or prohibitionists, interested alike in good, wholesome laws? Are not all citizens, whether capitalists, bankers, business men, producers or laborers, interested alike in good, wholesome laws? Is there any good citizen of the state of Oregon who is not interested and benefitted by good, wholesome laws? If any, they are anarchists or communists and have not are not to be considered in these articles. You legislators of the state of Oregon may give them such consideration as you deem them worthy of.

If you consult me about it I would have you enact a law, if none exists, to make it a criminal offence with heavy penalties for any set of communists, under the name or guise of any organization to stop any train or switch off on any side track any car of goods manufactured in this state or the United States or in any foreign country, no difference where produced or by whom the labor was performed in its production. Whether it was raised by a white or black man. It has become an article of commerce, and there is not or ought not to be any authority in rail roads or money kings to detain it, much less kings of anarchists or communists. If these clothes don't fit any one they need not wear them. They are at liberty, if not too infernal lazy, to work and make their own clothes. There is not or ought not to be any law compelling capitalists, farmers or other laborers to do so for them. Are not all laborers? Is not the farmer just as much a laborer as any who have no higher ambition than that of being somebodies hired man. What a high aim it is to be somebody's hired man. Is not the banker, the business man or the professional men, the wheat buyer, the capitalist, the merchant, your printer, one and all laborers? Yes. The only difference is in their aim. Some aim no higher than to be the hired man on some farm.

Others aim to own farms, others to be lawyers, doctors, bankers and business men.

Others aim to be statesmen, legislators, rail road men and owners of rail roads. But they are laborers all the same.

The only difference is some aim higher than others, hence any and every good wholesome law that is passed, in the interests of labor, benefits all. Any good wholesome law that benefits farmers and producers, benefits alike capitalists, business

and professional men.

Any good law that benefits prohibitionists, benefits republicans and democrats.

Any good law that benefits the state of Oregon, benefits every county and city in the state. Every good law passed in the interest of our metropolis, Portland, which builds it or any other business center up is a benefit to the state at large. Every good and wholesome law that is passed for the benefit and building up of the cow counties, as we are sometimes called, helps to build up the business center, and so on, ad infinitum. If we are right, there is no occasion for our representatives to be quarreling or snapping at each other because one is a republican and the other, democrat or because one is a democrat and the other prohibitionist. Because the gentleman was from Portland, the metropolis, the other was the representative of the cow counties. If you are so constituted you have to quarrel and fight over such matters, we prefer you would choose your own weapons and go out in the back woods somewhere and fight these matters out before you go to Salem. We don't want to be taxed to pay you for any such nonsense. We want you to do something that will be of practical use and benefit. Do something to restore confidence. In our former articles we endeavored to show by taking the laborer who started by digging stumps, driving drays, etc., and who labored with an aim while their aim was at long range, but by perseverance and grit they got there and have the game to show for it, and can furnish all the doubting minds with abundant proof and collaterals. While they could doubtless tell you of many fears and hairbreadth escapes from wreck and ruin, we leave that to them, for such is life no matter how high or how low you aim. It is so with individuals, it is so with corporations, it is so with cities. How many towns and cities are there that once promised a glorious future whose streets are now good for pasture, grass will grow on streets when once seeded and left to grow.

Then, honorable senators and representatives, when in the legislative halls of Oregon assembled, please don't forget that there is no miraculous mysteries connected with modern ideas of laborers or business men. Business, pure and unadulterated, stripped of all sentimentality, means simply that it is for margins and not for health alone we all work. For instance, our clergy, our teachers, hired men who work on rail roads or on farms, clerks for salaries, the salary they get is their margins upon which to support himself and family. Does not the farmer toil, sow and reap for a salary for a margin he anticipates to get over the costs of producing his goods. The merchant buys and sells goods for the margin he gets over first cost. Rail road men invest their money and build rail roads to open up new countries in hopes the margin they get over the cost of transportation may return to them their money with a profit. Capitalists invest their money in mills and factories in hopes some day to realize in return a margin from their investment.

The bankers and capitalists loan money for the margin in shape of interest they may get out of it. The lawyers, doctors, editors, and all are working for a margin and not exclusively for health. Hence our interests should be mutual. Can you expect success to crown your efforts so long as you keep your cow counties fighting your cities, or vice versa, can you expect to prosper with your cities and business centers fighting the country or county people. Can you capitalists expect to succeed by constantly fighting labor, or you laborers expect to succeed by fighting capital? The tendencies of such things always was and always will be to destroy confidence between these mutual interests and to just the extent that you destroy that confidence will you produce business depressions. Laborers just so long as you keep up your fight and strikes against capital, just so long will capitalists refuse to invest

their capital in factories or manufacturing industries to which you must look for the building up of your state, city or county, which will furnish the laborers with that work you pretend to desire so much. Did we not show in our former articles that the success of Messrs. Ladd, Thompson and Jacobs Bros., all successful men, was due to the harmonizing of these various elements. First it was the genius of a master mind conceiving the thought or aim in life backed by pluck and grit, then capital was added or combined and the partnership was completed, and success crowns the effort. It is so in the building up of states, cities or nations. These various interests ought and must be harmonized. Confidence must be restored, and this idle capital employed. These laborers put to work on farms, or manufacturing industries. Then will our states, cities and counties build up and prosper. Then will our markets improve, our profits and margins increase. Then and not until then will we be on the road to success. The fact is, during the business depression the margins have been reduced to that extent that none have had what they should have had. The capitalists, bankers, business men, producers and all suffer alike. So what use is there in quarreling longer about it. Let all profit by the lessons learned, and with a will work to harmonize the contending forces. Restore business, and we will then have better markets, better margins and profits. Contentment will then take the place of discontent and success crown the well directed efforts of the many. Let old Yamhill take the lead and to her will we accord the glory in proportion to the success attained. "Let your fog horn" be heard, from the capital of Oregon, to Portland Maine. The eyes of the New and Old world are turned this way and will be upon you, statesmen and legislator let your light shine so that your work is wisely and well done, if you do your whole duty we shall have better times, a more contented and happier people, not only in Yamhill but all over this state and nation. By your fruits are you to be judged, let us hope the verdict may be general, well done good and faithful servants.

A word to the signal service. It was deemed best by the good people of Yamhill during the session of the legislature to remove from our county seat in the person of the Hon. J. W. Wattle, who has been dubbed the fog horn of Yamhill, to the state capital, therefore if you should hear the signal of warning coming from the state capital instead of old Yamhill, don't be alarmed. Keep the vessel straight upon her course and she will not be wrecked. We send him there for a good object and expect to hear signals at short intervals. Let it sound long and loud in interest of the whole people. What they want, see that it is granted, whether it is to vote on prohibition, the location of county seats or what not.

If my articles have been too long, too shallow; or if I have not been plowing deep enough I will gladly yield the pen up to abler hands; those with better education and more culture. If they will only let their light shine from the pulpits through the various newspapers of our state, and educate the people to know their rights, in order that they may be the better prepared to protect those rights at the polls, in the halls of legislation, as well as in any and every vocation or calling in life.

Wishing all a merry Christmas and happy New Year, I bid you - adieu. UNCLE EZRA.

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