

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to Lura Miles, October 11, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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October 11, 1946.

Dear Friend:--

You will be interested in my correspondence with Charles A. Wells, who, by the way, is the son of Lindley A. Wells, long a leader in the affairs of Oregon Yearly Meeting and at one time its superintendent.

After you sent me the marked copy of "Between the Lines" which contained the statement that "The first plowing-under program was initiated under the Republicans, during the Hoover administration", I wrote to Wells asking the source of his information. My letter reached his office while he was on a trip to Central and South America, and I just today received his reply.

He did not know just the source of the information, though he said that the matter had been commented on by numerous newspapers in the east. He added, "I agree with you heartily that any extreme measure, such as the New Deal administration carried out, would be entirely out of harmony with the general tenor of Mr. Hoover's ideals and aims."

Well, I had to tell the gentleman that I was a bit sensitive about things said or written concerning Herbert Hoover, especially in view of the outrageous and sometimes impossible lies told about him during the dirtiest political campaign that I could remember. I mentioned the statement by the Haldeman-Julius publications that Hoover had 10,000 slaves working his Australian mines, that he made a million dollars out of the Belgian Relief administration, etc. I mentioned the fact that the dam that was named in Hoover's honor and had congressional appropriations made for it in that name had its name changed because the man in the White House could not bear even to have a dam named in Hoover's honor. I assured the gentleman that while it was entirely consistent with the Hoover policy to seek to guide agriculturists to avoid voluntarily those crops of which there was already an oversupply while raising those crops for which there was greater need, I was sure that Hoover would not have done anything in the nature of a "plowing-under" policy, especially since he handled the affairs of the National Food Administration on a purely cooperative, not coercive, basis. There was no law requiring that we observe meatless days, eat wheatless bread, etc. Hoover secured all this without law, and would not adopt any "plowing-under" policy without law. And I reminded Mr. Wells that if there had been such a law passed, it would have been by a Democratic ~~administration~~ ^{Congress,} since Hoover's main difficulty was a Congress that for political reasons would not cooperate. I reminded him that we ate with the Hoover's in the White House the day that Hoover urged the Congress not to "play politics with human misery", which that Democratic Congress did, nevertheless. I informed Mr. Wells that I'd have to have much stronger evidence than his letter before I could believe that Hoover inaugurated any "plowing-under" policy.

Well, it probably will not do Mr. Wells any particular good, but it relieved my mind.

Bertha May was here yesterday, and we enjoyed having her with us very much. She still enjoys her work very well, and it seems to be agreeing with her.

Mrs. Silver has been in the Providence Hospital in Portland for more than a week. Monday she had an operation for an obstruction in the small intestine. She came through it very well, the surgeon felt, and she was given a 95% chance for recovery. She had a pretty uncomfortable day yesterday, but was better again today.

I've got my work practically done for the Community Chest. Three of my four solicitors have finished their work and turned in their cash and reports, and the third one may be done, though I have not yet had a chance to see him today. I'll see him tomorrow, and hope that I can make a complete report, the first of any territory assigned to captains.

Again we are hoping to get out to the coast next week. Rebecca is much better, and has been working like a slave for days now, cleaning house. We have the shingles removed from about the house, and most of them in the basement, though there is still a pile of them in the back yard. And Rebecca has house-cleaned the whole house, attic and upstairs and down, with the exception of kitchen, den and the store room behind the kitchen. She expects to finish that job tomorrow.

And our harvesting is all done except the walnuts, and I have a man engaged to do all that even if we are away. He and I went to the hex place this afternoon, but the nuts there were not down yet. The ones here are nearly all picked and are drying up on the sleeping porch right now.

The weather has been perfect for weeks now. If there could be a good, hard rain, followed by bright sunshine, it would bring the nuts down faster. Hope it won't rain as it did two or three years ago, when it poured day after day until it was estimated that not half of the nuts that were grown were picket. Those that were were picket in the mud, during almost incessant rains.

But it is time that I started to get ready for bed. I did not get too much sleep last night, and I suppose I shall have a pretty full day tomorrow.

With love from us both to you and all the dear people there, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Mrs. Lura C. Miles,
Pleasant Hill, Ohio.