

EXTRACTS FROM SOME LETTERS TO A. G. BECKER 1899-1900

(in response to his letters enclosing repayments of Schaffner bank deposit claims)

"I feel that I must express to you my appreciation of the very high and honorable motive that prompts you to pay that which only your own conscience makes your debt."

"We wish to express our sincere appreciation for this act . . . we wish also to express hereby that we have never felt that there was any responsibility attached to you regarding this indebtedness."

"I cannot refrain from expressing to you the admiration aroused in me by the nobility of your character. Of course it is no more than would have been expected of you by those who know you well, but they realize that few men would have risen to such moral heights."

"I hardly know how to express my thanks and admiration and wish you Godspeed in your noble undertaking."

"I assure you that (I) can appreciate your feeling and the great effort and self denial (to) which you must personally submit in order to carry out your desire to square matters, which you had but little to do with complicating."

"We can assure you that we appreciate highly your sense of honor in voluntarily liquidating this liability."

"(We wish) to assure you that we appreciate the motive which prompted you to send the remittance more than the money itself. This is certainly a very liberal thing for you to do, and a man who carries into effect in his business life such a high degree of fairness is sure to be rewarded with abundant success..."

"Such rare deeds, the like of which I have not witnessed during my business career, increases immeasurably one's opinion of mankind."

"I must say I was not surprised (to receive your letter and check) for it was only doing what I always knew you would, and accomplish the desired end. I wish you success in your grand and noble work."

"Your honorable decisions stood at another bar than that of laws, and were by virtuous

delicacy nobly swayed. Such high-minded men are not to be found at random; such action is taken by one in a million. If our country abounded with a few more seeking justice and clamoring less for idle gold our state of affairs would be greatly bettered."

"Because you were under no obligation to do so, I appreciate the act as a deed of kindness worthy of a gentleman of the highest degree."

"An honest man has been termed "one of the noblest works of God." You are proving yourself to belong to that class. I remember the statements you have made to me as years have passed by, of what you expected to do; but, in the first place, I doubted whether you would ever have the ability, whether you would, like lots of other well meaning men, change your mind. But the payments you have made during the last six months, are evidence sufficient that you are on the right track, and are entitled to great credit."

"I cannot let this opportunity pass, my dear Mr. Becker, with out tendering to you our thanks and congratulations. This has been a long, severe struggle and trial for you; and the only recompense has been that which every honest and upright man feels in liquidating an indebtedness in which he has become involved; and this is an inheritance of inestimable value, which he leaves to his family. You always have commanded our high respect and esteem and this action on your part, simply confirms us that we were not mistaken in our estimate of your personality and character."

"An honest man wants no praise, but you are more than an honest man in the common every day acceptance of the word and are entitled to and should receive the plaudits of the community in which you live and of the world, since what you are doing is the uncommon, and shines conspicuously as a guiding start to us all. Such a deed should be proclaimed from the housetops and children should be told the story of the sterling integrity of A. G. Becker, as an example for them to build their life work on."

"We thought our time would come but not so soon. You should have let us wait until the very end. You are building up a priceless legacy for your children. We wish we could express our feelings and tell you how proud we are to be a (relative). We can only say God bless you."

"It is with cheerfulness that I acknowledge the fine sentiment which prompted you to make these payments. I trust that you will have many years of successful business life, in order to make up the losses which you unwittingly suffered and in the liquidation of which you have shown so much bravery and courage."

"In my thirty years of business affairs I have had occasion to meet and mingle with thousands of businessmen who hold their reward of integrity as standards; some boastingly, some quietly, but all with an ultimate benefit at the end, and while experience generally tends for a sterner opinion of humanity, it is just such things as this that will soften the hearts of every conscientious man. It is without motive and without foundation, but simply through a genuine spirit of trust that you have taken up the burden and carried it boldly. Few men in this world can bear such a record; words fail to express my feeling in this matter; the motive and the principal involved are such that no amount of money can equal. Your action in this matter will serve to make better, wiser, and broader minded men."

"My brother has requested . . . that I thank you for making this payment, which you were certainly not in any manner obligated to pay. I cannot refrain from utilizing this opportunity to personally express my admiration for the spirit which prompted you in doing what you have done."

"(Receipt of your check) was an unexpected pleasure . . . for which I tender my thanks and also my congratulations that you are enabled to refund the amounts due creditors; for I take it, since the act on your part is a voluntary one, your pleasure in giving it must be even greater than that of the recipient."

". . . Your check was a surprise, sunshine in a dark night, adding that your voluntary action is not only an honor to you and your family but what the whole world shares in."

"Your noble action in this matter is one which shows the kind of stuff of which you are made, and one which is sure to redound to your great credit."

"Actions of the kind indulged in by you in this behalf, are, unfortunately, so rare, that they are worthy of note, and I desire to express the great pleasure it gives me personally, to be able to count men of your stamp among my acquaintances and fellow citizens."

"Will you kindly mail back to me (my cancelled deposit document), after you receive it with your return voucher, as I desire to have the same framed, for the purpose of keeping before me at all times the good action of an honorable man."

"I have had a great deal of sickness in my family for the last few years . . . believe me, sir, that every cent is almost like a dollar to me in my present condition . . . may God bless you."

