

Chinook, Alta
Mar. 27, 1914.

Dear Mother: -

This is the first chance I have had to answer your letter dated March fifth. I have been doing little odd jobs around the place or hunting horses all the time. Saturday afternoon Mar. 18 the horses ran away. Sunday, Will went over looking for them and he didn't get back until Monday night. Monday morning, a neighbor found Mary with his horses so Will rode her the rest of the day but could get no track of the other three. He came home at night and Tuesday morning I started out on Mary, I rode around about thirty-five or forty miles on Tuesday and didn't find them, I stayed at a neighbor's house, seven miles from home over night and started out again, this time making a bigger circle. I found them about noon headed west, about fourteen miles from home. If I have my way of taking care of the horses they won't get a chance to run away again!

I ~~don't~~ suppose it won't do any good to tell you of our troubles except to worry you, will

it? It will not do anybody good to worry & you ought to know about us so I might just as well tell you. We ought to be discing up our land that was broken last year & break some more now but the money hasn't come yet from the H. and we got a letter last mail saying that they could not send any until after the first of April, so that unless we can borrow some of a neighbor we won't be able to use the horses for two weeks yet. We have no oats to feed them & no disc. We have a plow but can't use the horses without feeding them so we will be put behind at least two weeks, which means a heap at this time of year. Will has gone over to see Bird & if his partner Rideout has come out he will lend us enough money so that Will will start immediately for Alsask with the democrat & buy enough oats to last two weeks. Bird & Rideout are awfully obliging.

Will just came back. He succeeded in borrowing sixteen dollars, which will help very much. Will was planning to start tomorrow but he says he has to write some letters before he goes so that he is doing his usual way, when he has something important to do which he hates to do. He is reading now instead of writing the letters and he won't get off tomorrow because tomorrow he will have to write, which he could do just as well now, except that he doesn't want to. When I ask him why he doesn't get his letters written so that he can get off

3

early in the morning he says, "Oh, I don't want to shut up & let me read." I don't see how we will ever get ahead or ever ^{go} ~~out~~ even if we both waste our time & read or sit around & do nothing just because we don't like to do what has to be done. I like to go ahead & get things done but I can't do it because everything that I do by myself without his advice is wrong. He never likes to do the little jobs & neither do I but someone has to do them & if I don't, they don't get done & if I do them, Will always criticizes them & says everything bad about them possible. The stable door is one instance, the cover to the well is another, the paper on the ceiling of my shack is another, the roof of the barn is another. All these things had to be done. I am not an expert carpenter but I try to do the best I can with the tools we have, but in every case I mentioned Will criticized what I did so much that I wished I had never done it, except that ~~someone~~ ^{someone} had to & Will puts things off until too late always, or until my patience gives out. We get along fairly well however, but I will be awfully glad when you get here to help me out. Will thinks

that everything I say is "kempesking" I guess.

We have already planted a few seeds in the garden, just a few for trial, you know. A small row each of radishes, ^{tomatoes in the house} lettuce, beets, parsnips, carrots & turnips. It is too early to plant any but lettuce and parsnips but we wanted to try & see how they would do. Our big garden, we won't be able to plant until rather late, I fear, because it will take three weeks to get the seed after our money comes, as we have to send away for it. It takes as long to send a letter to Calgary & return as it does to Oberlin & back! I don't see why it should but it seems to. Calgary is only eighty miles or so from Bassano and Oberlin is over two thousand!

I have dug about three feet deep in the cellar to be for your house. The cellar dimensions are about ten feet by twelve and it is to be about seven feet deep. The house is to be three rooms, two of them about 9'x12' each & the main room, (kitchen, dining-room etc) just the size of the two combined 12'x18'.

We hope you will bring a couple of small table-cloths and some curtains, (cheap ones) which you can leave here. Our table is three feet wide & four feet long.

Thank you for sending us the Sat. Digest. It hasn't come yet tho. Yes, we got the tooth brushes. ^{Thank you.} Don't worry about our feet, they don't bother us at all any more. We get the Delineator. We think some of the series in Sat. Eve. Post are fine, agricultural articles & commercial articles fine too. Don't spend any more money on us please!! Yes mother & try an piley hand to be neat. I do most all the dish washing, cooking & cleaning up.
Love "Zeddy"
C.S. Beldem Elmook, Alta

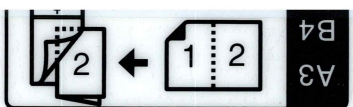
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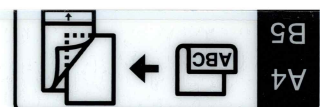


Mrs. J. H. Belden,
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A3/A4
B4/B5



FRONT
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B4/B5
A3/A4

