Chinook, Alta
July 12, 1911.

Dear Mother:-

Will wrote to you from Alsask but the letter might not get to you so I will write also. He went to Alsask to telegraph to you but he got there on Sunday & one cannot telegraph on Sunday in Canada so he did not wait as your letter gave us the impression that you were not going to start on the eleventh anyway because you were not sure of several things. We want you to come to Brooks and will meet your train there on the 28th. If you leave Toronto on the 25th you will get to Brooks some time Friday afternoon, the twenty-eighth. I was thinking that it took four days from Toronto but I just looked in an old C.P.R. time-table & I see it only takes three. You may start from Windsor on the 25th instead of Toronto, you didn't say. We will meet you at Brooks on Friday the 28th anyway, unless

you send no definite word to the contrary, which you will have had to send before you get this letter. If you should answer this letter it would not get the answer until the second of August. We will go to Brooks so as to get there on Friday the 28th so do not fail to come!

I cannot find your last letter in which you asked several questions but will try to answer ones I remember. Do not bring any preserves if by so doing your trunk will be over-weight. Do not bring any pots & pans or cooking- or table-ware. Bring anything light-weight that you want to ward off mosquitoes, better get high shoes to wear & gauntlet gloves & several strong veils. Don't bring any very large hats because the wind is strong here. Be sure to prepare for the mosquitoes because there are more here on our one section than in the whole of Ohio & New Jersey put together. That may seem to you to be slightly exaggerated, but it is not. You will believe when you get here! We don't dare go outside

now without having everything covered but our eyes. We have to build a smudge in the barn & the horses stay in without anything to eat rather than be outdoors and get eaten. We tried to cut some hay this noon but had to give it up because we could not see to drive. We did get a little out however & are going to rake it up & haul it here tonight by moonlight when the mosquitoes are not so bad. I do hope they are not as bad when you get here!

The size of the high shoes that I want you to get is seven & one-half. You can get them at Person's for $3.50 and be sure to get tan, because the wear much better. You can also get me some cheap socks if you like, either woolen, lisle or cashmere(?) but not cotton. If you get any please be sure to get them big enough. I would also be glad if you would bring that album that has a lot of miscellaneous photos in which I left in Oberlin, the scrap-book-album you know. Also I would like to have a print of each of the photographs that I took of

is cheaper in Oberlin than in Canada, by quite a good deal. You can bring a hammock We will make a place to put it up. It would be very nice for you to have a hammock I think we can buy a rocking-chair for you in Alsask.

For goodness sakes mother don't get the idea into your head that we don't want you to come! You would be a very, very great help to us & comfort us a lot. The only inconvenience would be to you, not to us.

Be sure to engage your berth in the tourist in time. You couldn't possibly take the trip without having a berth & it is very hard to get one unless you engage it a long time ahead. The C.P.R. westbound trains are always overloaded. The trip will be tedious enough anyway. It will be quite a job for you to change at Toledo, and Detroit especially because your trunk has to be opened when you cross the river to Windsor & you only have a very short time to change trains from one side of Detroit to the other. You had better ask Mr. Heacox to tell you

about the changes because they are very hard to make & very intricate

Well it is too dark to write more and all the lamp & lantern chimneys are broken so I will say goodbye. I do hope we will hear from Aunt Jenny in this mail. I am awfully sorry if she is wasting her money on frivolous living. I don't see any reason why she shouldn't lend us some because it would be perfectly safe & would be bearing interest

Lots of love to you all & ask Ellen to write oftener. She has heaps more time to write to us than we have to write to her. I wish Will would invest in the quarter-section of land next to us. I would like awfully to buy it myself but of course cannot now. Help Will to write to me please

Love "Teddy"

Charles Selden Belden
Chinook Alta.
July 12. 1911

11/2/19