

Chinook, Alta

Dec 26, 1911.

Dear Mother

We received the chemistry
in the last mail. Thank you
ever so much for sending it.

We also received the song book
for which we thank you greatly.

It was very kind of Mary to
send us the check & we appreciate
it exceedingly altho I really
think that she ought not to.

Oh but you just ought to hear
the coyotes howling! It is after
midnight & the howling of the
coyotes certainly is the most
ghastly, ghostly, weird sort of

2.

noise imaginable. It always makes the cold chills run up & down my back. To hear a coyote howl makes one feel the vastness of the prairie as nothing else that I know of does. It also makes me feel lonesome.

I guess what started the beast to howl was hearing the cat creak to get into the shack. As soon as the coyote began however the cat was quiet. I guess the coyote was not much farther away than that one that you saw out of the window here one morning. It is very quiet tonight & is at

least 10° below zero, maybe more.

Christmas was rather good weather, but the two days before were very bad. Saturday morning there was a rather warm wind from the northwest when I first got up and it kept blowing harder & harder & getting colder all the time until finally the snow began to blow, about the middle of the morning. We both went over to help build the stable at the new schoolhouse but the snow got to blowing so badly that we had to stop. We stayed inside the schoolhouse until about noon.

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and by that time it was a
real bad blizzard the kind
you read about. We had
Mam & Buck tied on the lee side
of the building & blanketbed but
they got covered with snow &
were cold & restless so we had
to start for home on their account
more than on our own. The
first two miles was between fences
you know so we were safe that
far anyway. We could only see
five posts ahead of us which
is ten rods, the posts being
two rods apart. When we got
to the end of the fences we
followed the fire-guards &
arrived home safely. If it were
not for fire-guards showing
thru the snow or a trail, to

follow me could have gone
 within a hundred yard of
 the house or barn I never
 seen it at all. The blizzard
 lasted all day Saturday & all
 day Sunday until sunset. During
 most of the time we could not
 even see the barn & haystack
 from the shack so you can
 imagine how bad it was.
 When we reached home we
 found Bird here & his horses
 in the barn. He stayed until
 Christmas morning. He got
 caught in the ^{He was on the way from his homestead} beginning of the
 storm and was not going to
 stop at all at first but got
 past here a half mile when

6.

it turned so much worse
that he got scared & unhitched
his horses & galloped back to
the barn.

Bud is awfully slovenly,
worse than Will, if possible,
so you can imagine what
my shack looked like on
Christmas morning after he &
Will had been here together for
two days. I spent all day
Christmas clearing it up & washing
up all the dirty dishes & pots & pans.
Will went around visiting the
neighbors. He thinks I am a
fool to try to keep things
neat & tidy. He says it is a
detriment to be that way but
I am sure that being neat &

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keeping things in order is the
right thing to do & will be not a
liability but an asset to me when
I get thru here; if it is not now.
I don't intend to live in filth all
my life if I can help it!

There is a party of surveyors
working not far from here on a
line of the C.P.R. from Swift
Current to Coronation which
is now surveyed around in this
district. The survey runs from
the S.E. to the N.W. & goes thru
the country about half way
between here & the strip, very
near that spring & alkali lake,
that I pointed out to you when

8.

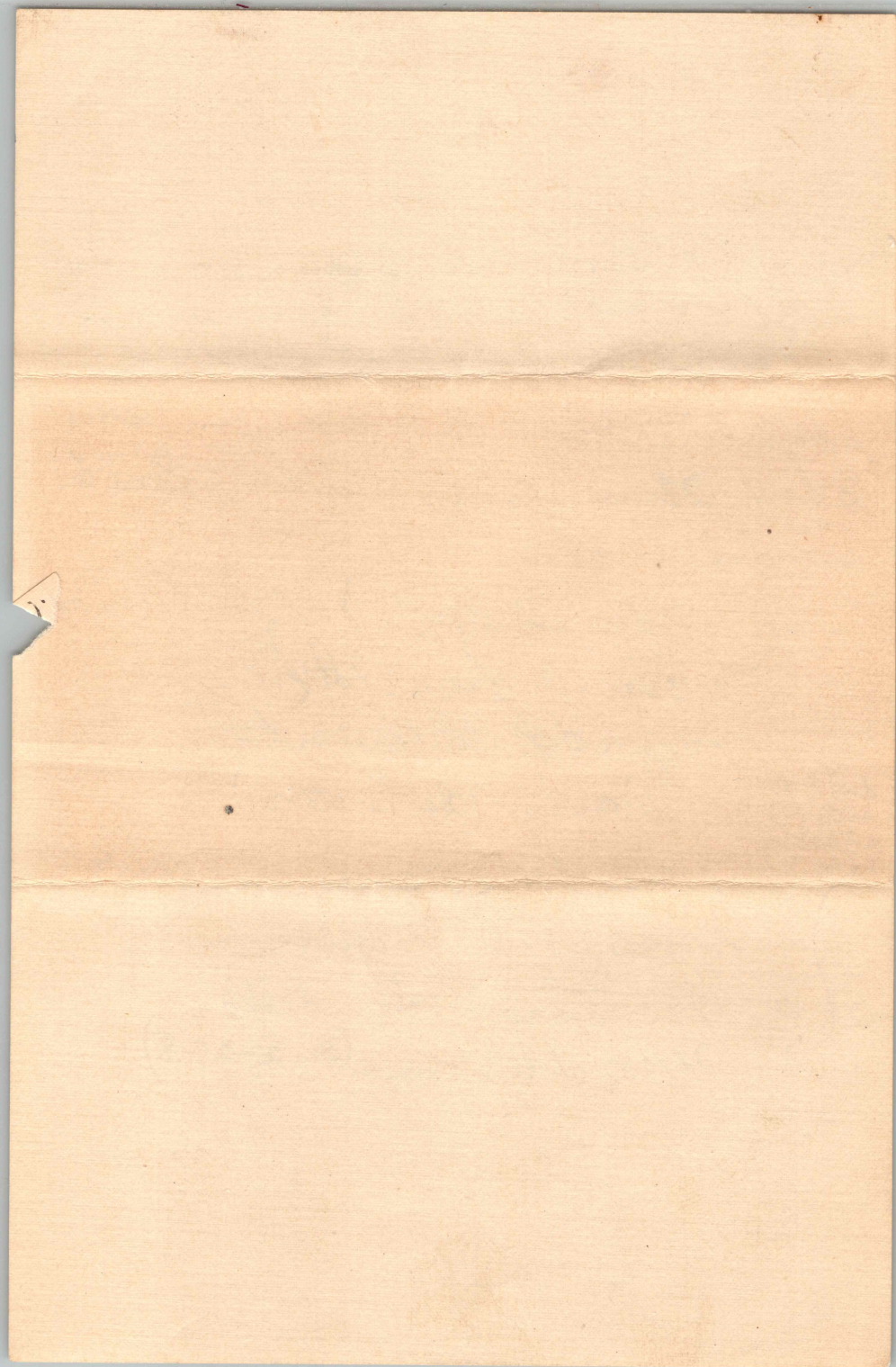
me drove down to the scrips. Do you remember that alkali lake? they say that this line of the C.P.R. wants to get them before the C.N.R. which is the one we have always expected, you know. They are planning to rush work on it so I hear. I imagine that the C.N.R. will rush too, in that case. I do hope that we have a railroad here next summer! I wish you were going to be here next summer too. Everyone asks if you expect to be here ~~next summer~~ & I say that I don't know but hope so. I gave your Christmas wishes to Mrs. Davis & she wanted to be remembered to you. She said she liked you very much. She is

the fat lady who gave you that
part of milk, you remember, I
will give you a list of the
people to whom you might
send New Year's cards & Easter
cards.

- Mrs. Chas E. Jeff - Chinook
- Mrs. Andrew Aitken "
- Mrs. Ed. Stewart "
- Mrs. Davis (Sec 16-28-8) "
- Mrs. Joe Massey "
- Miss Kate Marr "
- Mrs. Louis Shabins "
- Mrs. Stevenson (Sec 2-29-8) "

don't know
initials
part section
no. on.





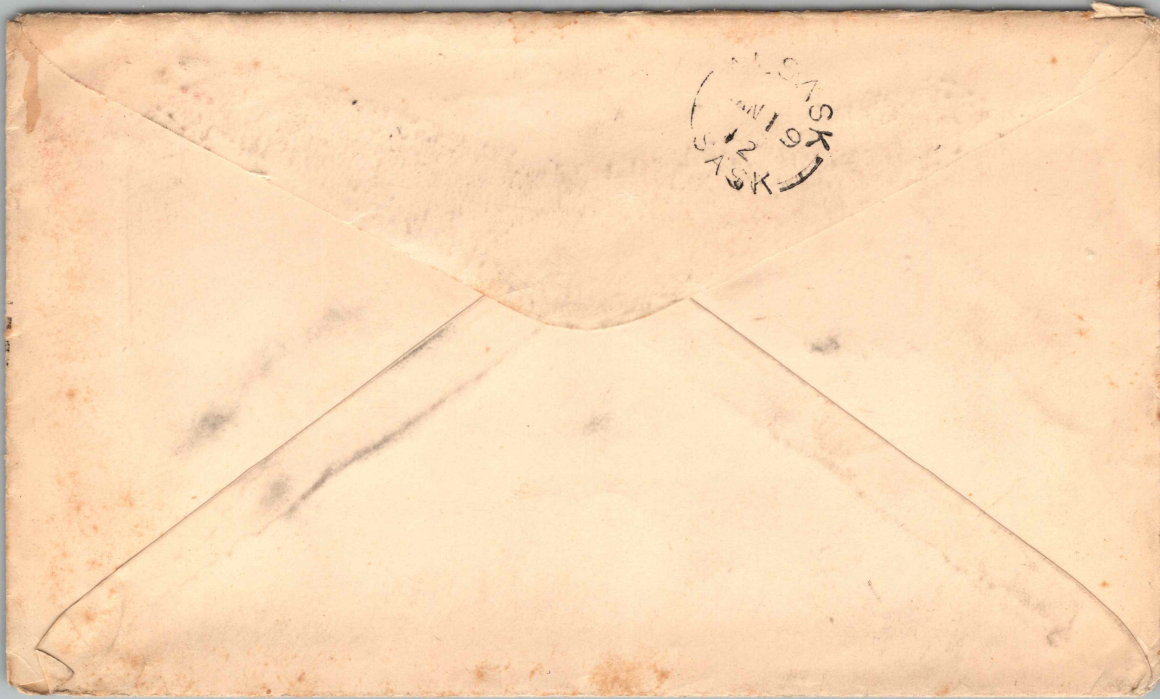
Dec 1911
Jan 1912

545
JAN 12
NY



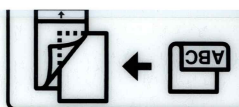
Mrs. William H. Belden
287 West College St.
Oberlin
Ohio.

CHINOOK
JAN 19
12
AETA



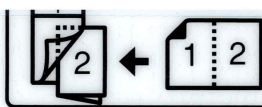
A3/A4
B4/B5

A4
B5



FRONT
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A3
B4



B4/B5

A3/A4