

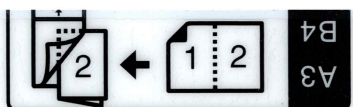
You probably  
will not get another  
letter from me until  
I am do not hope  
so don't get any  
wondering if you  
will get another  
letter from me until  
I am do not hope  
so don't get any  
wondering if you

Chinook Alta  
April 14, 1912.

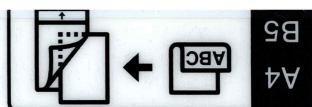
Dear Mother:-

We have been very busy for the past few weeks and so of course it has been extra hard to get any letters written. We have now sowed our wheat; twenty-one & a half acres of Red Eye, and two & one quarter acres of Margins wheat. The seed Margins wheat cost us ~~\$4.00~~<sup>\$4.30</sup> per bushel and we had three bushels. The Red Eye wheat we bought from Ed. Stewart for one dollar a bushel and it is the best of its kind around. We bought about thirty-eight bushels and paid twenty dollars down & intend to pay the rest as soon as we can get some money. The land for the Margins wheat is very well worked up so that we should have a first class crop from it, but the other wheat land is rather poorly done because we didn't have time to do it. We intend to sow fifteen or twenty acres of oats and have the land almost ready now & should have good crops if the season is good. Some of the seed oats we got by trading hay to a neighbor who has oats but no hay. We have bought ten bushels of flax which should sow about

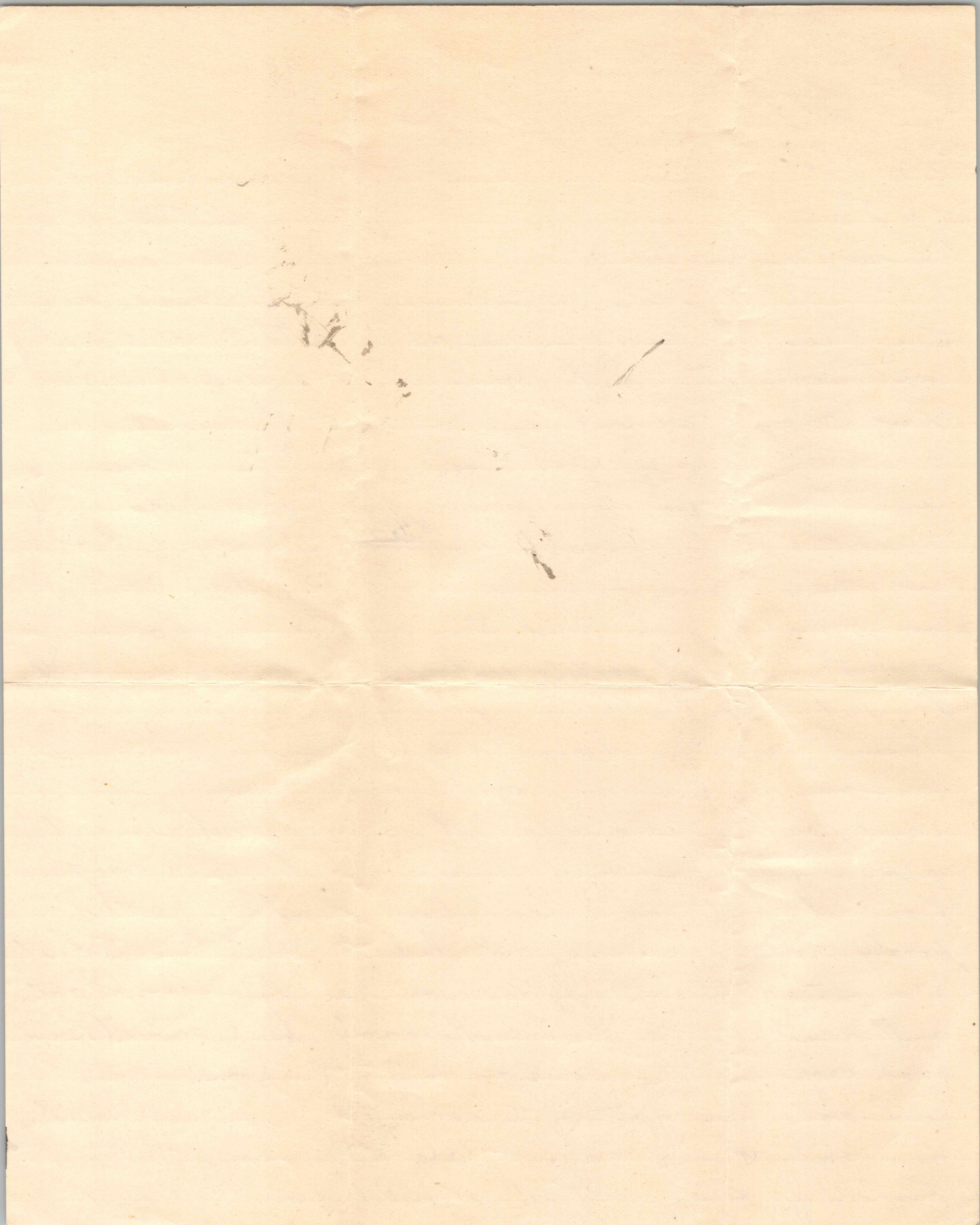
B4/B5  
A3/A4



FRONT  
↑



B4/B5  
A3/A4



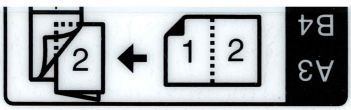
twenty acres. They cost two dollars per bushel or twenty dollars & are paid for. We have not even broken the land for the flax yet, but hope & expect to get it done in plenty of time and I think we will too. Most of our potatoes were frozen so that we will not be able to plant as many as we want to, but I guess we will have an acre anyway.

We are using Mr. Shabin's seed drill for sowing our grain. I have been taking care of his place for him most of the winter for nothing so we are using the drill as pay. To have all our seed put in would cost about fifty dollars so we save quite a little. I went to Alaska & hauled the drill (in pieces) and I put it together all alone. I have never had my hands on one before & I put this one together all right & worked it. It took quite a little time & figuring.

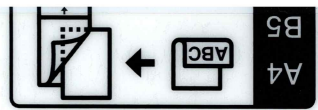
Wether you remarked upon our poor penmanship & also how very bad letter writers we are. I could write very much clearer if I had a solid table on which to do it but as a rule I have to write on a box with my arm in the air & it is not at all easy

A3/A4

B4/B5

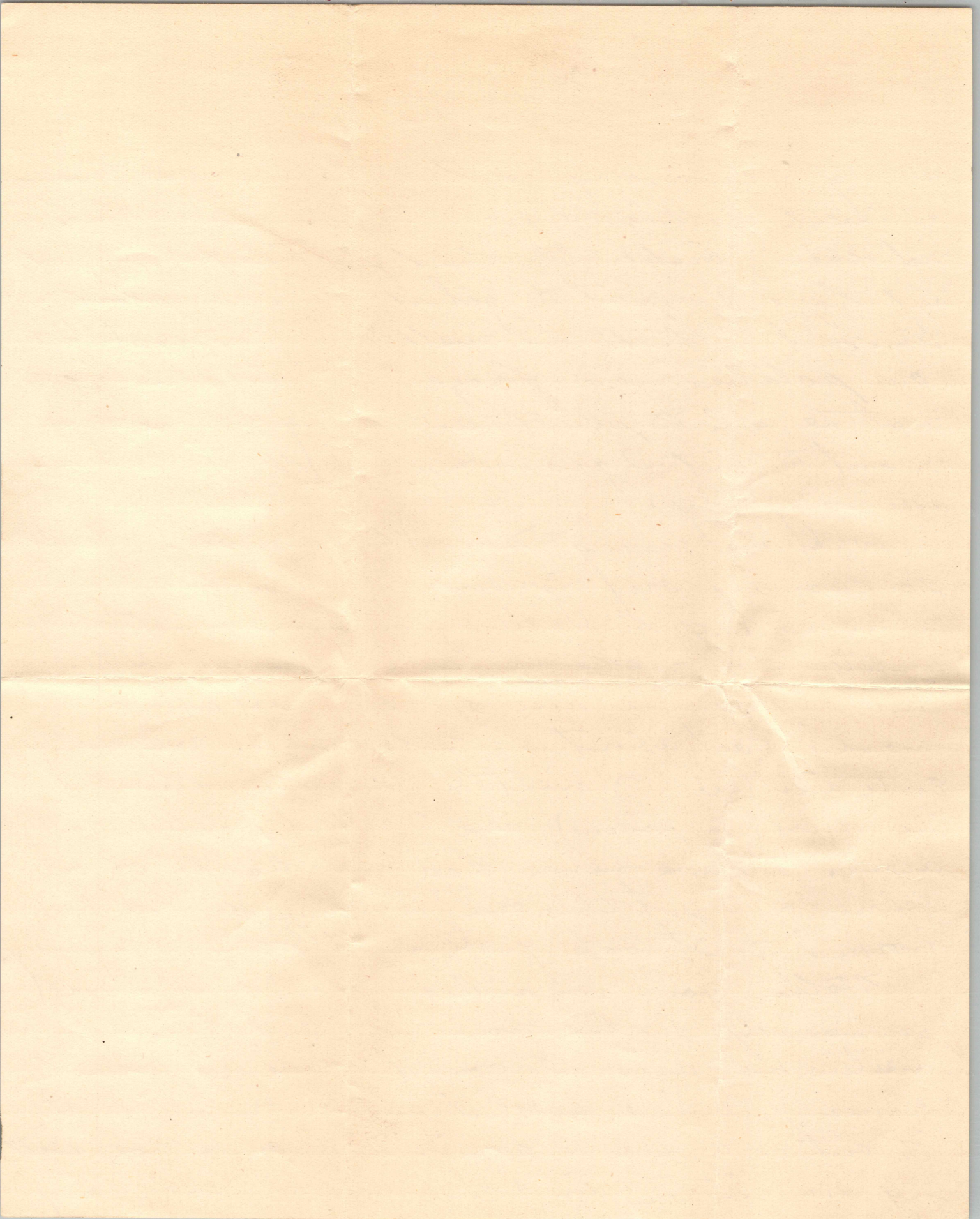


FRONT



B4/B5

A3/A4

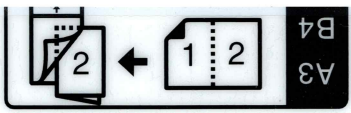


or comfortable. You can tell a person's character by his letters. I have no doubt, about it at all. I wish you would give this & the rest half dozen letters (if I write) to Mary & have her correct them & return them to me. I would like to know how to be better at it. I wish she would also read my character from the letters (each one) and write down her impressions at the end of the letter. Please tell her to be honest about what she says. I think it would be of very much more value to me to know how to write intelligent letters than to take two years of courses in English, which will be of no practical use to me whatsoever.

This brings me to the matter of which you speak in your last letter, dated March 24<sup>th</sup> (three weeks ago today). As far as I can see now it will be absolutely impossible for me to go to school this coming September. In September (unless something turns up that we do not expect) we will be so poor that we will probably have to go barefoot. The crop will be just about ready to cut & we will have to pay to have it cut which will

A3/A4

B4/B5

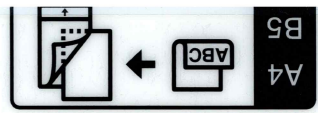


FRONT



A3/A4

B4/B5

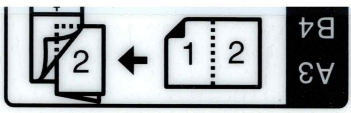


4.

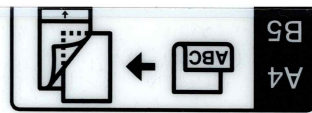
cost about fifty dollars, then if we can get it threshed the bill will probably be about one hundred dollars (minimum) and might be as much as three times that if we had a very extra good crop. Probably we will not be able to sell our crop at all, this fall and if we do it would not be until near Christmas. We have several different kinds of grain and not enough of any one to make a carload, so could not ship it. Besides the bills occurring because of the grain we have several others before that. In July the premium on Will's insurance is due (\$57.25) also the interest at Oberlin Bank (\$4.00) In August the first payment on our preemptions is due \$160.00 each = \$320. ~~also~~ the back three years interest amounting to about \$75.00 each = \$150.00 the which if we do not pay we will probably lose our preemptions. Besides these, Will's note to O. College for \$42.00 with interest for several years overdue. There is a note due first of November for the mower & rake \$75.00 with interest at ten per cent. We owe Mr Sperry the one hundred dollars with seven per cent interest dating from March 1st 1910. We have to find about ten dollars a month living <sup>(for food only)</sup> expenses all the time.

A3/A4

B4/B5

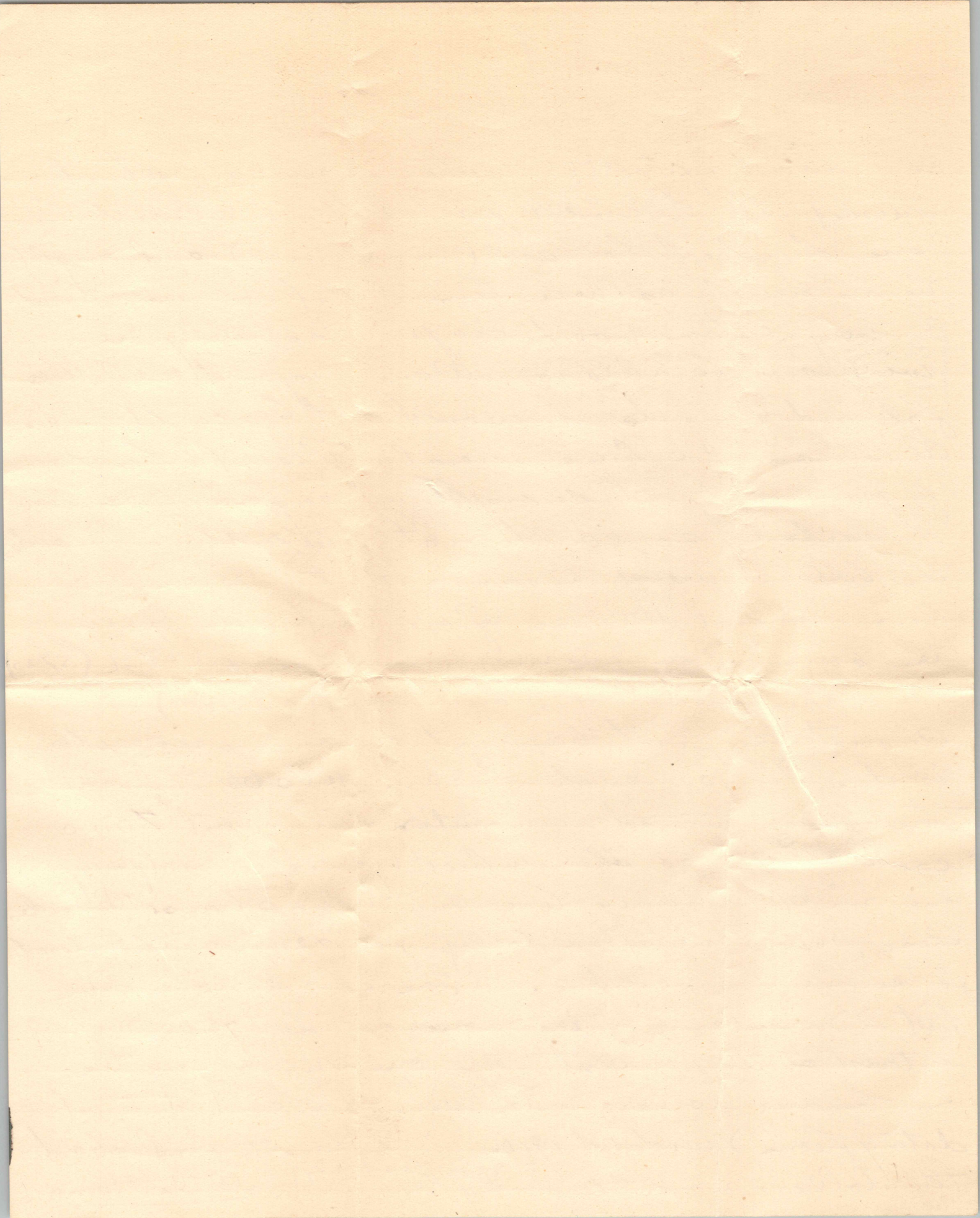


FRONT



B4/B5

A3/A4



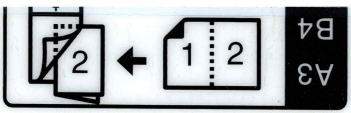


We have not enough clothes to even take us thru the summer. Then in the fall we will have to buy some winter clothes. The first of January there's life insurance & interest to A. M. Loveland (P. B. S.) (Professional Blood Sucker) In February we will have to pay station fees amounting to about forty dollars. Beyond that the other things mentioned are all duplicated the same as this year.

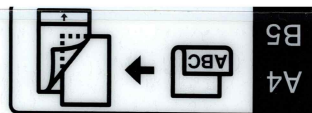
Next year <sup>we</sup> will have all our own seed & feed & our living will be very cheap. We live mostly now on eggs & mush. There was some wheat left after we sowed our land and I took it to cereal & had it ground. Ground once makes fine cracked wheat for mush or porridge or in heat let or whatever you want to call it & ground in the mill twice makes whole wheat flour rather coarse. We have one hundred pounds of wheat for mush & two hundred for flour so we should not starve. We eat mush three or two times a day now. It's very nourishing I made some bread yesterday, mostly of the whole wheat flour. It is all right but a little heavier than with fine white flour. I will put in more white next time. Today I made some fine whole wheat cookies that were really first class.

A3/A4

B4/B5

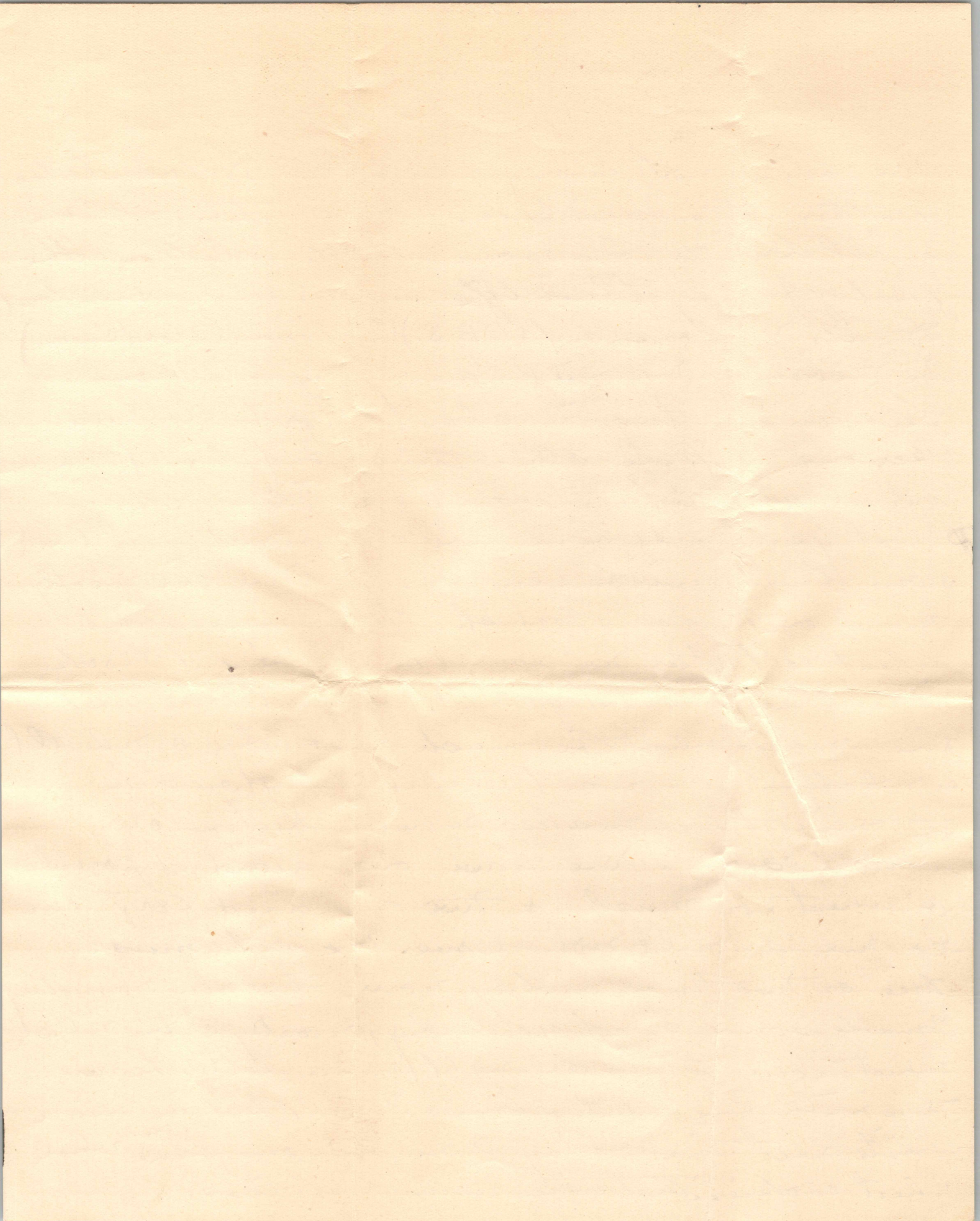


FRONT



B4/B5

A3/A4

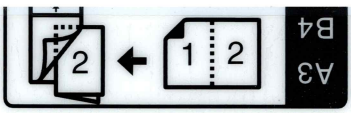


We get from five to ten eggs a day now & one hen is setting. We got the setting of fifteen eggs from Mrs. Atkeson. Between the eggs and the whole wheat flour & mush we live very cheaply. If we only had some way of taking care of a cow we could get along finely.

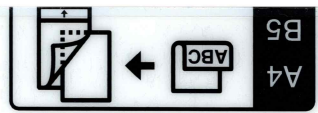
From what I have told you, you can see how impossible it would be for me to go back to school this year. I hope that we can arrange for me to be there sometime while you and Mary are there. When I do come I will have to buy a new outfit of clothes from bottom to top, underclothes included. I have nothing fit to wear in a civilized part of the world. All the styles have changed since I was a child you know and if I went to school I would have to be up to date! There would be no pleasure in going to school unless I had enough money to go to things & places. I would rather work a little longer now & wait until I can have some money to spend. There would be no sense in my going back to school if I had to work & could not afford to have good times. I would rather work while I work & play while I play.

A3/A4

B4/B5

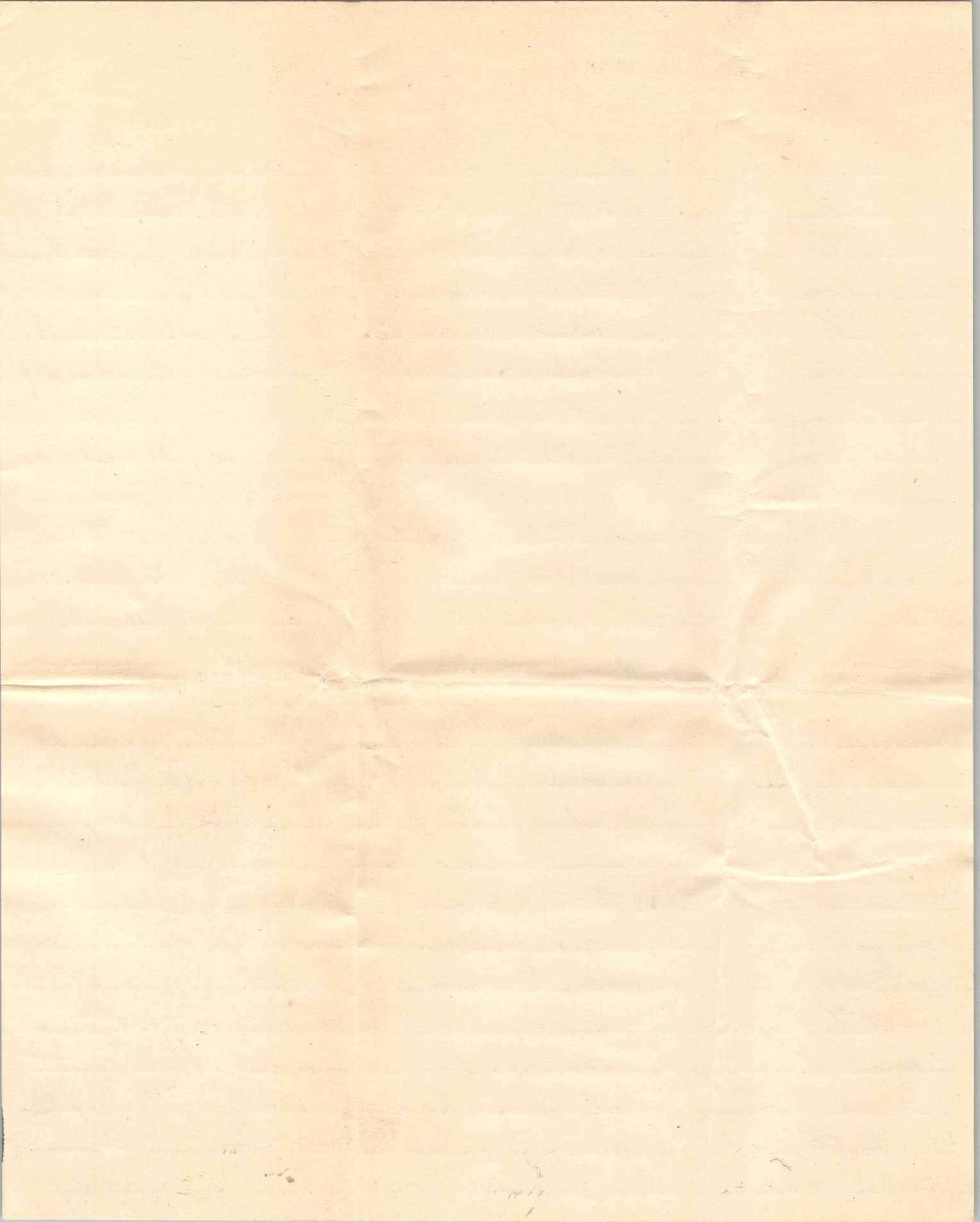


FRONT



B4/B5

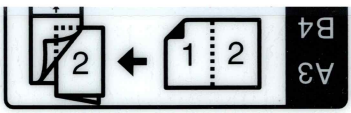
A3/A4



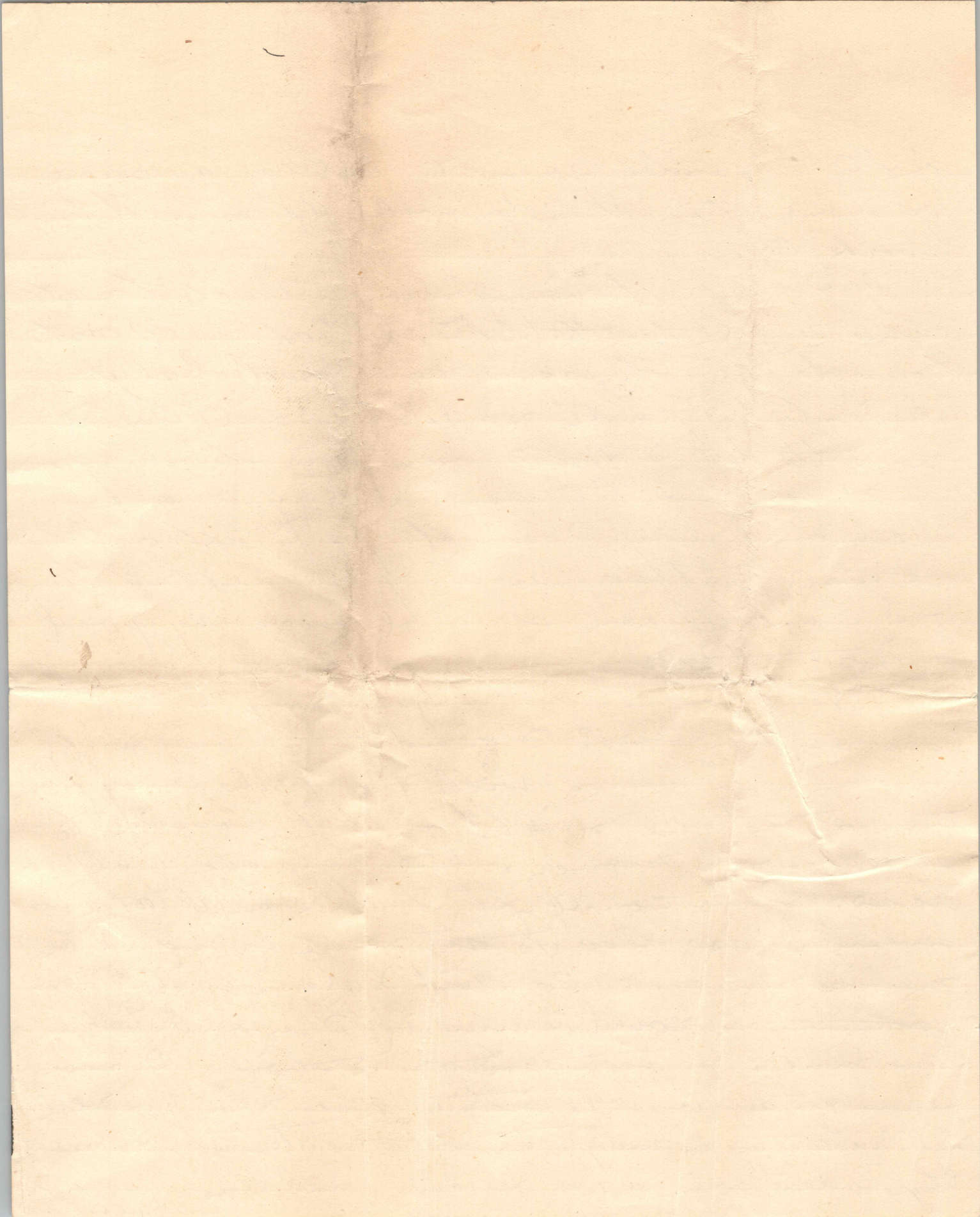
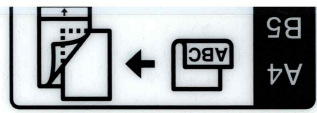
7.  
and I consider going to college as more  
of a vacation than of work. Of course it's  
work too.

If I ever get enough money I will have to  
have my teeth attended to, which will cost  
considerable. They cause me a great deal of  
discomfort & trouble now. They will have to  
be attended to before I can go to school again.  
If you want to know any more  
reasons why I cannot go to school  
this fall just say so in your next letter  
& I can tell you several more very good  
& important ones.

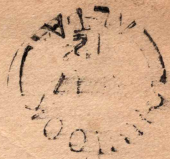
Have you heard from Aunt Jenny lately? Is  
she still in Texas? I thought that maybe if  
she were in Texas with the girls away from  
the rest that she might find it possible to  
send us some money. We hope she will  
do so. If we could get it, it would take us  
several years less to get where we would be  
making money. Is Aunt Melanie rich? If  
you think she could be interested I would take  
any number of pictures for you to show. I have  
never yet developed the pictures taken when you were  
here. We had to use my developing tray for cooking utensils for one reason.  
I hope to do it some day. Lovingly, Selden.



FRONT



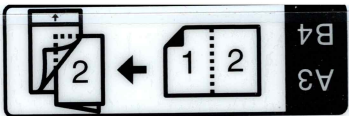
4/14/2



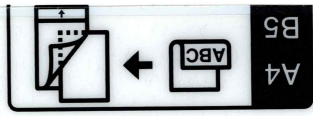
Mrs. Ellen Seranton Belden  
287 West College St.  
Columbus  
Ohio.

A3/A4

B4/B5



A3  
B4



A4  
B5

B4/B5

A3/A4

