

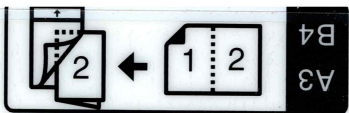
Chinook, Alta
June 9, 1912.

Dear Mother:

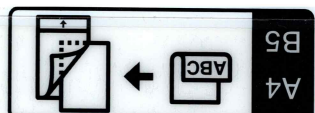
I suppose that you have been so busy with the S.M.U. and everything that you have not even noticed whether we have written to you or not. We have noticed that you have written on postcards etc.

I have been doing quite a little business lately at photography. If it was not so hard to get supplies I could have done quite a bit more too. I now have orders ahead for about forty dozen postcards from the little stores along the new line (to be); at sixty cents a dozen. The post card supplies should have come in to Laredo on the stage last night but the train was wrecked the other side of Casask, so no mail came in. I expect the stuff will come ~~in~~ Wednesday night. I have orders now for about thirty dollars worth of pictures; have twenty four dollars more in my pocket, and am owed ten dollars, which I am going to collect tomorrow, and good prospects of making quite a little more. If I had my

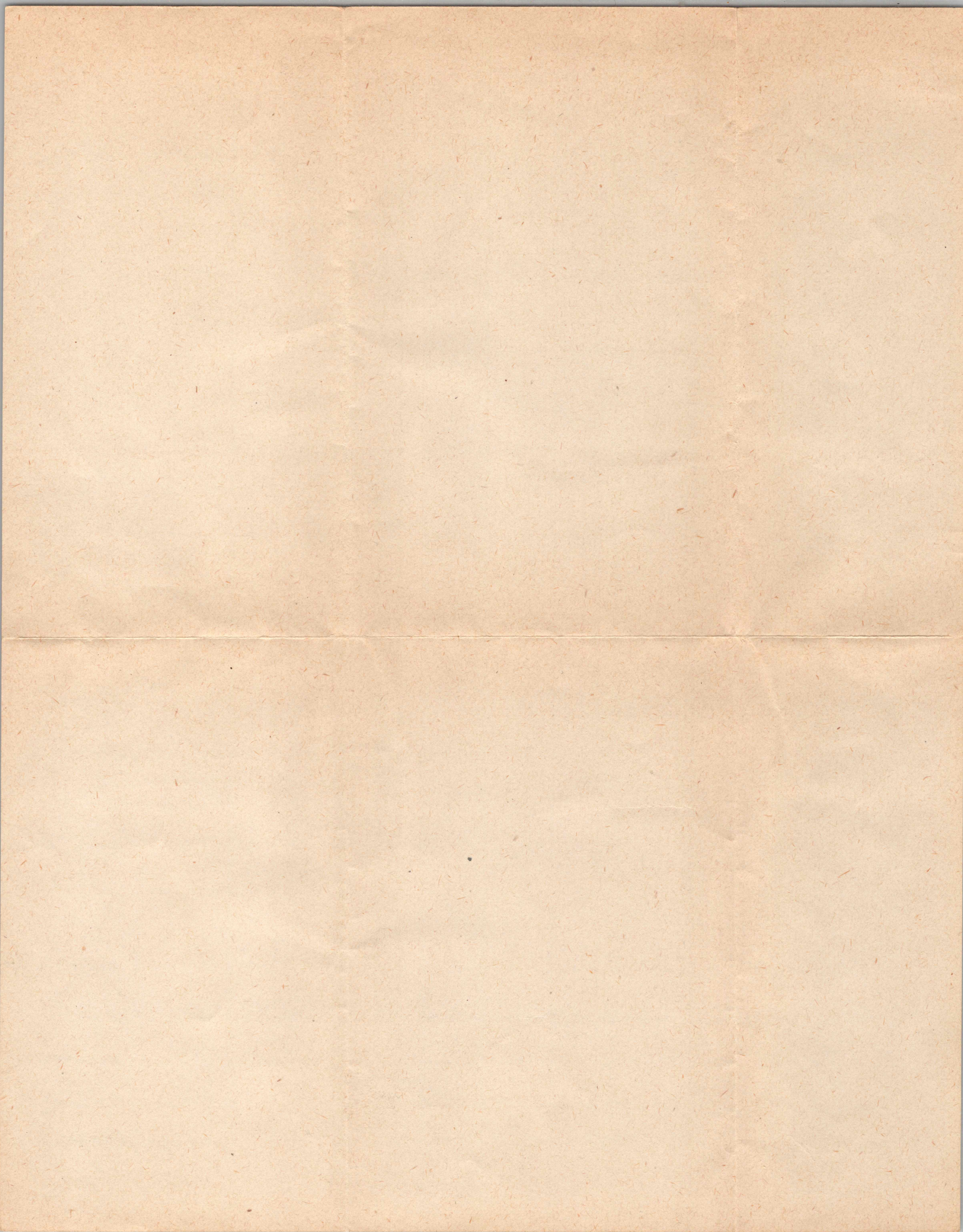
B4/B5 | A3/A4



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FRONT



B4/B5 | A3/A4

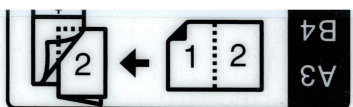


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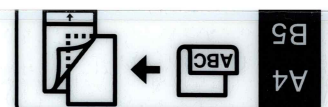
whole shack to myself I could get along much better but am getting along fairly well as it is. We have only one stove & so we have to cook in here. If I keep on taking pictures we will not get much breaking done because we only have the five ponies & we cannot use many now until after she has her colt & gets a rest. When I go away with a team we have to not use the others. We have a borrowed pony just now that helps some. I hope to get enough money soon to buy another one.

It is my plan to keep all the towns between Alaskan & Calgary (a distance of nearly two hundred miles) supplied with postcard pictures of everything that happens of importance. I am just getting a start now, having seen & got orders from only four stores. There is a store or postoffice about every ten miles and as soon as I get enough supplies in I want to drive or ride to get to them & get acquainted & get orders. If I am the first photographer to do that I will probably get all, or nearly all the trade.

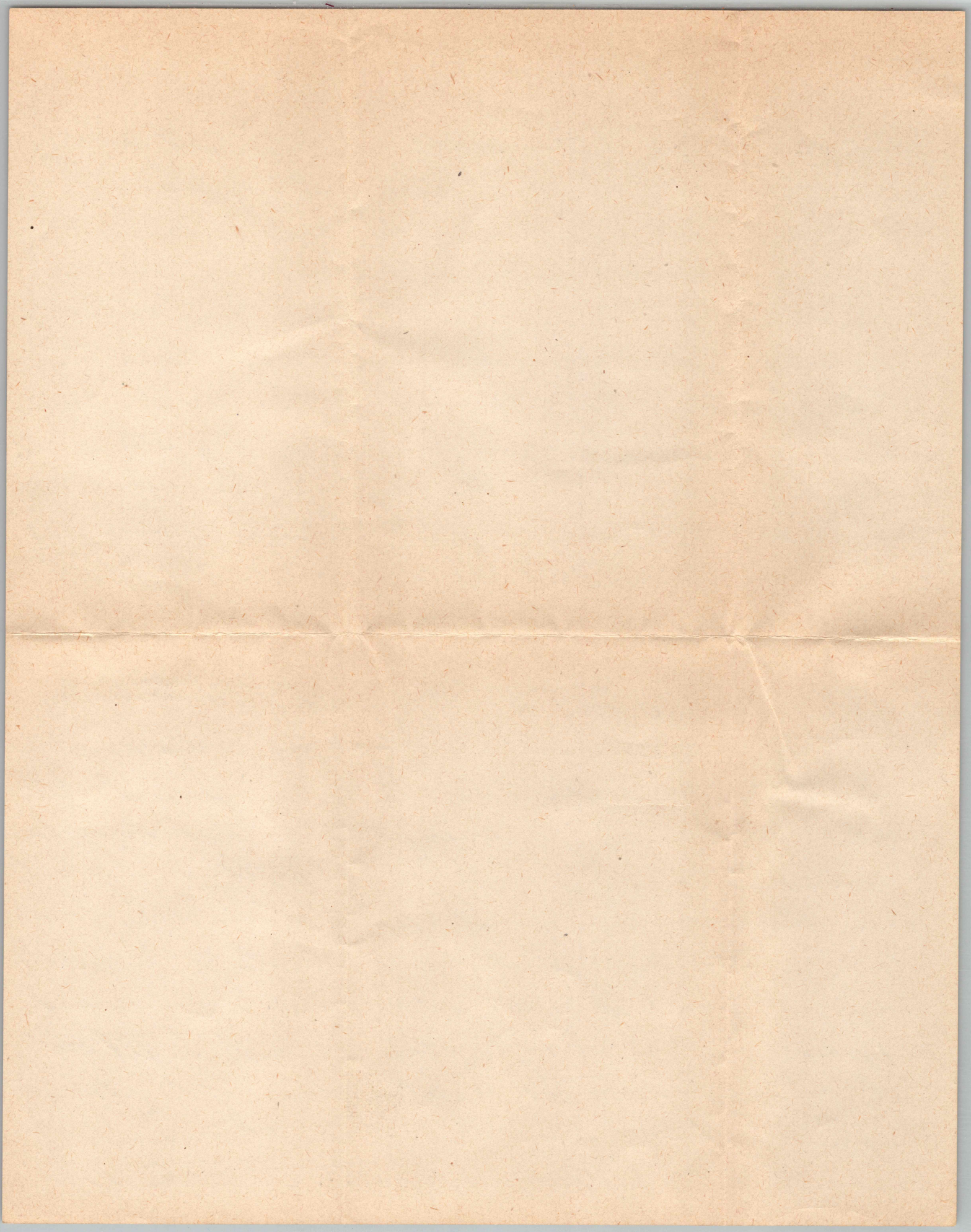
A3/A4
B4/B5



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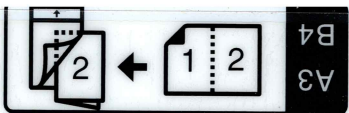


B4/B5
A3/A4



The only trouble is that I have to take the team away so much because we want to get a lot of breaking done. We need money now, badly, so I guess I will take the team anyway. I may make enough so that we can get another party before the breaking season is over. This country is certainly different now from what it was even when you were here. There are railroad camps ~~gladly~~ all the way from the end of the steel, which is about eighteen miles from here, to Dobson's which is the townsite four miles north of here. The graders are buying hay & oats, potatoes and provisions from the homesteaders, so that all of us that have anything to sell are getting busy. We hope to sell some hay soon. The grading is progressing rapidly & I am pretty sure that we will have rails running to our town this fall. If our town gets the Chinook post office it will probably be named Chinook. Otherwise it may be named Bison. Either name would suit me, altho I prefer Chinook. There is a general store, a hardware store & a blacksmith shop

B4/B5 | A3/A4



FRONT ↑



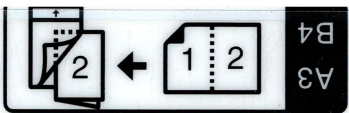
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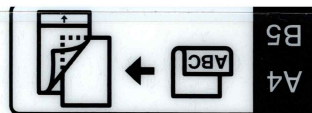
now in town and several other buildings are going to be built soon. That fellow that owns the horses that ate our oats is going to have a livery stable. You ought to suggest to Mr. Charlie Persons of Oberlin that he come out here & have a drug store. He would make a whole lot more money here than in Oberlin I am sure. The prices are ever so much higher; retail, I mean, & the wholesale prices are practically the same. I know the druggist in Alaska does a very big business & his prices are something awful.

You will be interested to learn that we traded Buck for a five year old mare about his size, a little smaller I guess. She is in foal & will probably have a colt in three weeks or less. Buck is nine years old & a gelding. We gave the fellow a part of a load of hay "to boot." I think we made a pretty good bargain because we will get a colt this year from her & she is younger than Buck. Of course we cannot use her now either, but while I am taking pictures we can't anyway. We will soon have to give Babe a rest too. She is due last of July.

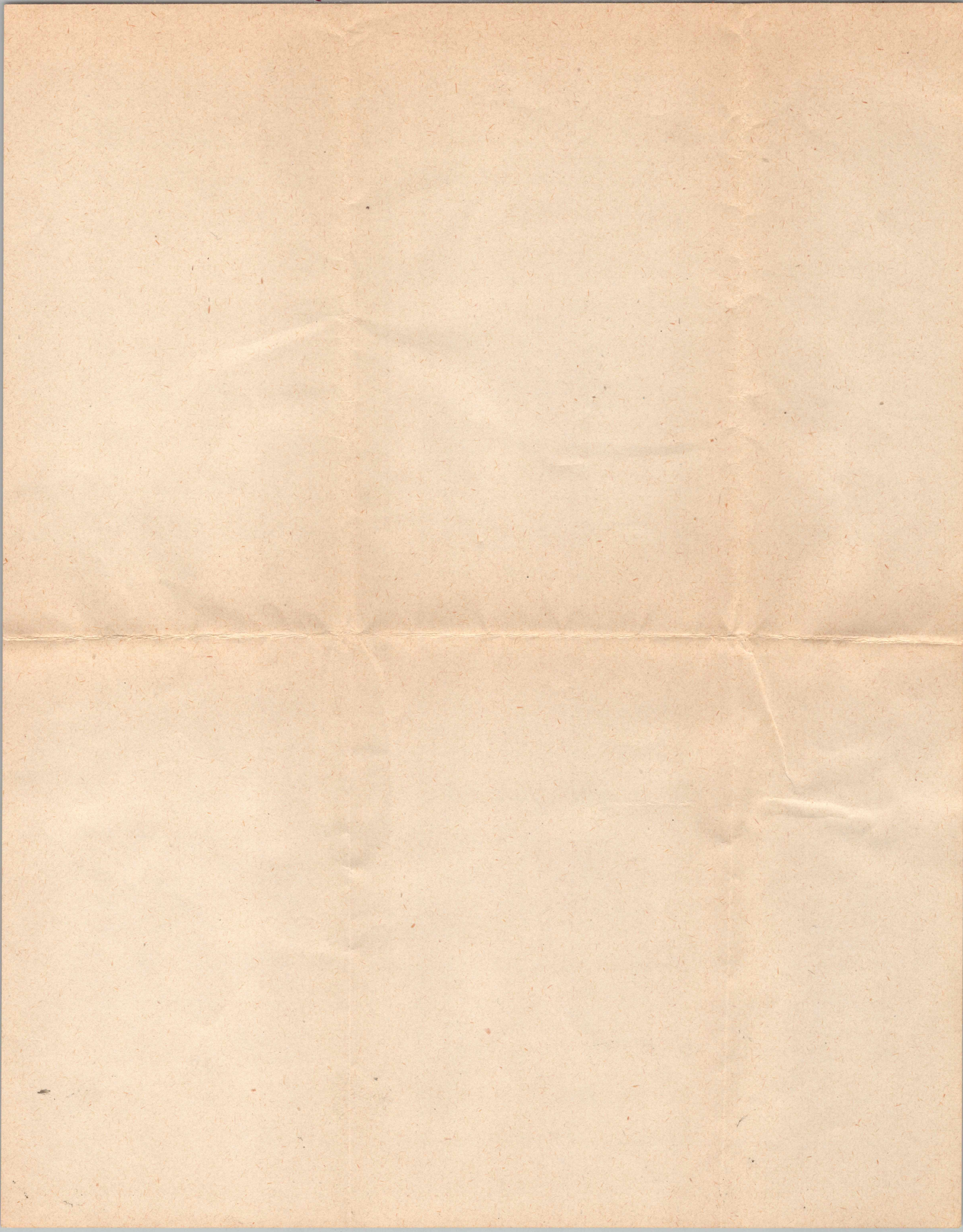
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B4/B5 | A3/A4



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In about three years we ought to have enough horses to work if we keep on raising colts.

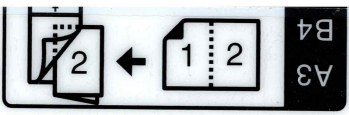
We are having the longest days now that you could imagine about. It is not really dark yet and it is half past ten! The day keeps getting longer for two weeks yet too. The only trouble with these long days is that I have to stay up so late to develop my plates because I have no dark room. I have to hustle when I have a lot of plates because it is not dark enough until 10:30 and is light again before three o'clock. When I print I darken up the windows & use part of the big camera at one window & print by daylight. It is much quicker than by gaslight the way I did in Berlin, is cheaper, & doesn't keep me up at night so much.

I hope you are well and I hope Mary is not overworking because of the nearing of commencement. I do wish Eelina would keep me posted often with her address. I would have sent pictures to her but I can never remember the address nor find it on any letters or post-cards. Love to you all.

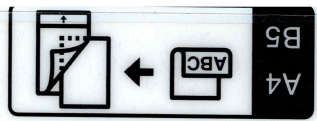
Please address me at Creal, ^{next} Selden. ~~It is easier to get mail there at present.~~ ~~letter~~ winter it

A3/A4

B4/B5

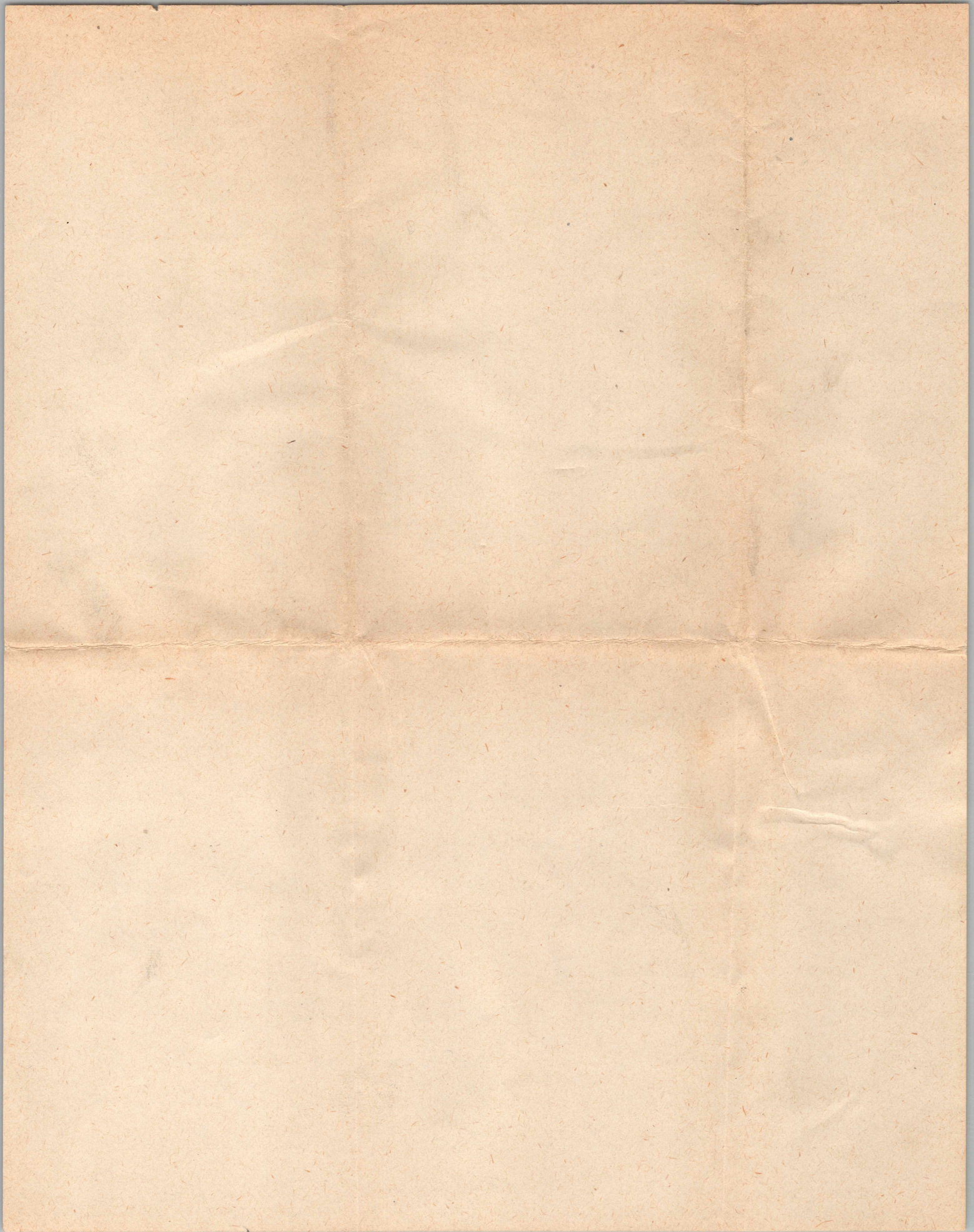


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A3/A4



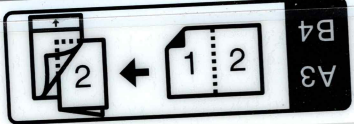


1914
OBERLIN
OHIO

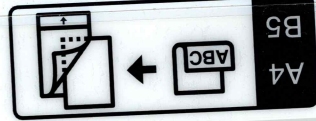
Mrs. Wm. H. Belden
289 West College St.
Oberlin
Ohio.

A3/A4

B4/B5



A3
B4



A4
B5

B4/B5

A3/A4

