

Chunook Alta
October 18, 1915

Dear Mother

You will be interested to hear that we have a part of our crop threshed - the piece of summer fallow, rented ground near town. The threshing machine talled 3050 bushels & there were 85 acres in the piece. We are loading two cars to ship immediately to pay up the bank, interest on mortgages, insurance, lumber bills, etc, etc, etc. The thresh bill is ten cents a bushel. The grain grades number three hard & the price is changeable - 71 cents per bushel yesterday & 68 cents this afternoon. It might be either lower or higher by the time we get the cars. We have been unable to get threshed at home & probably will be the same for two weeks. We are just up to the ears in work & only a couple of weeks more until freeze-up probably so that we will be unable to catch up.

I am interested to hear what you are going to say in the private letter to me. Miss Coral Fowler is going to be Mrs. Charles Selden Belden but not for a long, long time because she has younger brothers

and sisters & an invalid father. You can imagine from that what sort of a girl she is. All the money that she gets from teaching goes to her family. You will be proud to have her for a daughter-in-law. I would prefer that you do not tell anyone that I am engaged.

I hope you are now coming to the place where you will be able to write to us often.
Your loving Selden.

Send this letter to Mary. Do you write sometimes to the boys? Of course it is harder for them to write than for us - they have no facilities, nor time for writing, are far from a P.O. and so on. Selden is like you Ellen, - he needs assurances of love. This may be the very best thing for him, especially if he & she can put it off awhile. Love is something that keeps one heartened up to do ones best for the sake of the other. I wish Millie were engaged to a fine characterful girl. Character, common sense, and a good mind whether cultivated or not are much more essential than higher education for they are a foundation to build on. When you are only eighteen there is time ahead for improvement in culture.