

Chinook Alberta
Aug 17 1910.

Dear Mamma:-

We are getting our wet season here at last. Though it is two months late and very unhandy now for some reasons still we are glad to get it. It has rained three days out of four for the last two weeks and though yesterday afternoon and today are clear I expect rain within two days. We had about five or six tons of hay that we had dumped off in a pile without stacking as there was only one man to unload and we never expected any rain now in the dry season. I've been tearing the hay apart this morning and I hope will be able to get it dried and stacked before it rains again. We also have nearly as much hay lying on the ground fifteen miles from here. I suppose much of it will be spoiled. We're unable to go down at present as we feel we ought to "break" while the ground is wet. We've nearly twenty five acres broken now and every acre broken now

will be money in our pocket next fall. This rain is helping the grass here also and while there won't be hay there may be fair grazing by winter time.

This rain will help the potatoes greatly. Though we only had in a few ours have done very well.

I guess I wrote you last from Bassano. I had bad luck with my wheel. Although the man especially recommended the tires as nearly new and worth the price of the wheel I got four punctures inside of the first three miles. Then I had no more bad luck for forty miles when I had another puncture. I decided it was the fault of the inner tube as all punctures had been on the hind wheel so I put in a new inner tube that I had bought. I went about a mile and that went up and then I walked about fifteen miles as I was losing time riding. The next morning I again fixed the tire and got started about quarter of nine. I rode ten minutes and my front tire blew up both inner and

outer tubes. After that I walked only stopping for dinner at a homesteaders. It took me till nearly midnight to get home. Altogether I figure I rode forty two miles and walked ~~fifty eight~~ ^{sixty} in two days. It's only one hundred miles to Bassano but by experimenting and trying a new trail I went out of my way more than two miles. By the way the trail gave out completely and I went about ten miles cross country. for a couple of hours I was out of sight of a house. On the trail it's the same way in some places.

We have been down to my reef and have put three furrows of a fire guard around the half section and fire guarded a spot for a barn and hay stack.

My I hope it will be a mild winter this year. We may find ourselves short on hay and I know many others will if this is a severe winter. We'll have a hard time hauling in our provisions with our ponies I'm afraid and yet don't

afraid to invest in a team of oxen. For one thing we
very short of money and for another I'm afraid
will be short of hay.

There is a rumour that the railroad is laying
steel and may get this side of the border, that
is to say within forty miles of us. If it does
it will be a great thing.

When I was in Berreona I happened to be making
a deposit in the bank and the banker remembered my
name and Selden as he took photos there you know.
Well he asked me, "Is your father out there with
you two boys". I said, "No". Then he said, "Well
did you have a beard on last time you were in
town." When I said yes he said, "Well I thought
you were the other boy's father." I had some
other people for similar remarks. Of course
I didn't have quite such a bad looking beard
as Selden photographed as it was longer and
trimmed.

Give my love to the Roes
W. H. Belden
Chinook Alberta.

Willie