

Oberlin, Ohio.  
Jan. 14, 1906.

Dear Will :-

I would like to tell you about the things that I am interested in and doing, if you do not mind.

Down cellar, front cellar, I am making a clearing where I can have a shop. As soon as I know enough and have enough money I am going to make a lathe, wood-turning lathe. I am now making plans and getting stuff together for a steam engine that will run small machinery.

I'm most interested in electricity now. Friday last, I put in an electric push button door bell from our front door. The button is at the side of the door and the bell is on the stairway going down cellar so that the person in the kitchen can hear it ring. In my shop I have a small motor which runs by a dry <sup>or wet</sup> battery. I belt the motor to some small machinery that I made on Sydney Dart's woodturning lathe. Some of this machinery goes awfully fast. So fast

that a candle put near the wheels  
is blown out by the wind from them.

You do not know how much I  
want to get a gasoline engine and  
dynamo so that I could make electricity  
to light our house. Maynard Taylor  
was telling me the other day about  
a company that makes outfits, engine,  
dynamo, etc just for the purpose of  
lighting houses. He said that they  
sell the gasoline engine and dynamo  
to make electricity to light sixteen,  
sixteen candle power lamps for \$80.00  
That is not at all expensive and  
would light all our house, porches,  
and cellar. The cost of running the  
engine steadily for a whole day, which  
you would not do, only using it in the  
evening would not be over ten (10) cents.  
You can see that at that rate, after  
the outfit is installed it would light  
the whole house every evening cheaper  
than the gas lights part of the house.  
In the end there would be a great  
saving of money if I should put this  
outfit in. I know that I could  
install it myself with very little

help and without much trouble.

But of course \$80.00 is more  
than we can afford now, and even  
if I had that much I think I  
would give or lend it to you to help  
get a claim as I want you to  
take one and do it soon if you  
can possibly find, earn, borrow,  
or beg enough cash.

Well I am afraid that I will  
have to quit now because it is  
late. Good bye.

Your most affectionate brother  
Charles Selden Belden.

P.S. Please write to me and tell me  
what kind of work you are doing and  
what kind of saws you saw the big  
logs through, whether circular or  
band saws are used in the mill.  
If you see any bargains in  
small engines, motors, dynamos etc  
when you are in the cities please let  
me know about it.

Good-Night.

(over)

I have just written to Evelena  
asking her if she will give a <sup>\$</sup>1.00  
with the two of Mamma's and  
mine to help buy a 4x5 camera  
and outfit at Sears, Roebuck. This  
camera I told you about in a previous  
letter, costs \$3.10 (three dollars, ten cents)  
that is, for the outfit and camera  
I suppose you will pay the express  
will you not? Although I suppose  
it would be more polite and brotherly  
if we did.

For goodness sake please make  
a check of your own when you  
will shut down again even if you  
have only an hour at a time  
because I think it would pay  
in the end, if you did not have to  
buy any lumber.

Mama wants a claim so much  
that she would ever mortgage the house  
to get the money if she thought that  
you would ever pay it back. She thinks  
that you would not be liable to pay it back  
to one of the family as you would to some one  
not connected with us.