

Please read this long letter as a
serial as I may not be able to
send another letter for some time.

Port Harvey
May 21, 1903

Dear Mammy: - N.B.

I am sending you some
wild tiger lilies that I found here near
Port Harvey. I don't like it very
well here at Port Harvey. There
is a little store and some distance
away is the "Hotel" where we don't
stay. The principal business of
the hotel is selling adulterated
whiskey. There are generally from
a dozen to fifty men in from
neighboring camps trying to get
a little enjoyment out of
the money they have earned.

They spend it for this whiskey (The
bar keeper doesn't even keep beer) and
on gambling. The saloon keeper
has several women who help
him rob the men of their money
and has several "spars" (I think that
is the term the men use) who are
boasters whom he boards for the
drinks that loggers will buy
them. You see a logger has to
treat when he is feeling rich and
these boasters more than earn their
board by the profit on their drink.
This is by far the worst place I have
ever seen. At Lerd there is a saloon
but it is in comparison a very
respectable one. The Thulin Brothers
at Lerd (proprietors) are frugal hard
working Swedes and in common with
their ~~nation~~ don't look with abhorrence
on alcoholic drinks. They keep two hotels
One has accommodations for their
summer residents and is very nice.
The other is for loggers and while
very cheap is neat. Both the Thulins
have nice families. There are
several small cottages at Lerd.
We had a little three roomed one
and a very nice girl kept our
rooms very clean. She always
used to bring some of the children
around with her when she came
to make up our rooms or else
Mrs. Thulin or the Capt. boy would

take her place. The Thulins are always
very much disturbed if any one gets
drunk though they like to sell ~~drinking~~
They won't sell anything to a man
if he is drunk sometimes, but
give him doses of strong tea
red pepper etc and if he gets very
obnoxious back him up. The
only church service I have been
to up here was in the sitting
room back of their saloon,
where a young clergyman who
is running a hospital ship
preached to us and played hymns
on a little organ. The bar keeper

come over to get as bogs to come.
I don't know a man on the coast
that I wouldn't trust farther
than either Thulin. I wouldn't
be ashamed to present you or
the girls to him although I don't
believe he has the right idea
about alcohol. The Thulins own
a little sweller ^{summer hotel} place over on
Vancouver Island. They must
be worth from twenty five to
fifty thousand dollars together.

I think the loggers up here are
as a class the most debauched
men that I have ever met though
I think it is more their misfortune

than their fault. They are mostly
very good hearted and well meaning,
but have only one channel for their
pleasures and as it is to the interest
of unscrupulous men to make them
as depraved as possible they soon
succumb to the temptations. I think
one very big thing is that there
are so few women in this
country. If I should organize
a comp here I would try in some
way to have as many married men
as possible. A large proportion
of the foremen of comps are married
men and I have met several men
who gave up drinking after
marrying. You see a man that
wanders from camp to camp with
no ties to hold him would more
temptation and has less incentive
to keep his money. There isn't a
man in a logging comp who
during steady work doesn't make
it enough to easily support
a wife. The wages in a logging
comp now are from three and
a half to six dollars or more
a day. They might just as well
be making one dollar and a half
in the majority of cases for
their money all goes into the pockets
of these saloon keepers where it
keeps doing more and more harm.

I am very much interested in seeing
some come up started that will be run
for the good of the loggers as well as
the proprietors. Maybe I'll get a
chance to try some of my ideas. For
instance I'd keep a very full line
in my store of all current magazines
and interesting books. There would be
money in it I know. I'd possibly
try to put in a branch office for
a savings bank or something
similar. I think I'd keep lots
of good candies and light drinks
(soda, ginger ale, pop etc). I'd try
to get in quite a few men with
families. There are several other
similar things I thought of.

but it would take too long to tell them all.

This man that is running the hospital ship is doing very good work. He has a hospital at Rock Bay (supported partly by the church I believe) and also makes a trip every so often in this ship when he picks up any sick and injured men. His staff ~~are~~ only doctors in this whole district. He understands the loggers I think. We gave him over a dozen magazines when we last saw him.

By the way you will want to know what I read up here. Perry generally buys all the magazines that he can get at Vancouver and I have

also read several of the new novels.
"The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair I was
very deeply interested in. It is the book
that caused the new pure food laws
you know and tells of the Chicago
stock yards and the troubles of
the workers. It really is a plea
for socialism and not a novel
at all. It is I believe very true
to life but also very outspoken
hardly a book for reading out loud.
I think it is a very fine book
for any deep student of economics.

I have also read a book of ^{Upton} Sinclair's
"The Butcher" which
is rather light reading and not
even as good as some of
his others.

"Another book I have read is
"Lady Baltimore" which would I
believe be interesting to you. It
is a story of a very aristocratic
community in Virginia where but
counts everything. The book is a
satire rather on the "yellowrich"
and the author has some very
good ideas. There is some very
delicate humour in the book.
The story is good but not very
exciting and while I don't agree
entirely with the author I like
in the main his idea of a
gentleman and of true politeness.
I have read a couple of ~~other~~
medieval novels too that

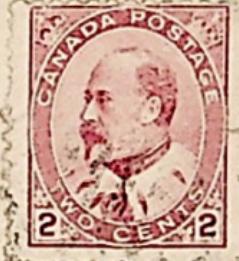
I can't ^{either} recommend or condemn
very much.

I hope you have taken my
advice and read this as a serial
as I can't always get a letter
off on the weekly mail and
this letter may have to do for
several.

Lots of love
Willie.

H. H. Belden
Port Harvey
B.C.

May 1907



Mrs. W. H. Belden

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