

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

Port Harvey
May 20, 1907

Dea. Mamma: - 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 "spears" (I think that is the term the men use) who are loafers 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 loafers more than earn their board by the profit on their drinks. This is by far the worst place I have ever seen. At Lund there is a saloon but it is in comparison a very respectable one. The Thulin Brothers

at Lund (Proprietors) are frugal hard working Swedes and in common with their ~~nations~~ 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 Lund. 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 come to make up our rooms or else Mrs. Thulin or the Jap. boy would

take her place. The Thulins are always
very much distressed if any one gets
drunk though they like to sell the drink.
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
opnoxious beat him up. The
only church service I have been
to 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 us boys to come.
I don't know a man on the coast
that I wouldn't ~~trust~~ 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
Boncauvee 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. Other
one very big thing is that there
are so few women in this
country. If I should organize
a camp here I would try in some
way to have as many married men
as possible. A large proportion
of the foremen of camps 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 ~~more~~ more
temptation and has less incentive
to keep his money. There is a
man in a logging camp who
during steady work doesn't make
it enough to easily support
a wife. The wages in a logging
camp 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 ~~comp~~ started that will be won
for the good of the logger 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 sewing's 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 the 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. Peleg 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 ^{English} Bas Metchon "Jones Labl" 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 birth counts everything. The book is a satire rather on the "yellow neck" 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 ~~the~~ medieval novels too that

I can't ^{either} recommend or condone...
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
Villie.

W. H. Belden
Port Huron
B. C.

May 1907



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