

Did your sister read the letter if it is too long
or too hard to read. Puffer Montana
Monday AM.

Dear Selden: - I see Grandma put an envelope in
my bag addressed to you so I will try to tell you some
of the things that I think might interest you
but you needn't consider the letter strictly private.
For the last day or so I have been camping
in the midst of the Indian country. I wish you could
have seen all the camps that I have on my way out
here. Of course I saw camps before I shipped on
the "Kawanoosh" at Newark but from there we went
immediately out into the middle of the lake as a did
see much till we were in the St. Clair canal. The canal
is built miles right out into Lake St. Clair and the
strip of land on each side of it is only a few yards
wide. In several places there were sort of harbors
where there was really no diversion between the
canal and the lake. At these places there
would be houses built on top of the water
on piles. In one town I counted 24 houses
built above the lake and all connected by sort
of a pier. There were lots of camps along the
St. Clair river. Every little while we would pass
a lot of tents with a big sign up in front like
this, "Hunting and Fishing Club, Allegheny Penn."
Electric cables run all along the river on the Amer.
side, and nearly the whole side is taken with camping
grounds. They fish mostly from row-boats. I guess
it's what is called trawling. Instead of a pole they
hold a short stick about 8 in. long which he keeps
jerked in somewhat the same way that Prof. Kimble
leads the choir. The motion also looks something

like the kicking of a "wiggie" in a water barrel.

I had to stand my four hour watch in the Howonush and I tell you what but it was cold, and rainy too. When I sailed through Lake Huron I was on a steamer and didn't have to stand watch. I was awfully glad because it was freezing cold and very rough. Our boat sometimes seemed to nearly stand on end for a little while. I guess after you get to Lake Huron there aren't many camps because it begins to get too cold. Lake Huron is deeper than Erie as you can tell from the color of water which is quite dark. In Superior the water is nearly jet black and the water is so cold that they say if a fellow stays in the water for ten minutes he will turn blue all over. All along Lake Huron and Superior are nothing much but pine forests. About all the best wood has been cut from the forests although there are still some camps. The logs being up long lines of up the look like logs chained together. They put the sawed logs inside of this chain and make great rafts a mile or more long. I didn't see any rafts but saw  one that was being filled with ^{logs} ~~logs~~. It looked as if they had a rudder at the end of the raft. I don't know whether I said anything in my last letter about the lumbermen's costume but they generally wear overalls that are turned up or else cut or torn off nearly up to the knees.

showing heavy woolen stockings, Quite a popular
sort of coat ~~is~~ rather overcoat is one that comes
about to the waist and is made of heavy stuff
like what '03 men (I think it was '03) had for
class distinction. The coats are generally about
the red color of iron ore and the slouch hats
generally the same. The shoes are heavy with
lots of spikes about a quarter of an inch long stick
out of the soles. I suppose the spikes are for
walking on the floating logs. Of course
the dress of all is not uniform but what I have
described seems the most popular.

I've been sort of confining myself lately. Wednesday
night I slept ~~in~~ the freight of a steamer. Thursday
I slept in the train. Friday slept in a standing
car filled with Italians. Saturday night about
o'clock I had ridden my wheel about 60 miles when
a plus blew out of my tire. It was 30 mi. to the
next station but only fifteen to the next pumping
station where I could get water. I walked the
fifteen and tried to sleep on the leeward side of
the pumping station. I nearly froze to death till
about one o'clock, when two hoppers come along.
They had just gotten off of a freight that stopped
for water because it was so cold riding against
the wind. The three made a fire of an old railway
tie and slept till about 5 o'clock. Then I walked
the fifteen miles here to Poplar. Last night I
had the good luck to find an empty box-car

in which to sleep. This is a awful poor country
for sleeping out doors. The thermometer on the
depot said 105° in the shade yesterday aft. and I
guess it drops to nearly freezing just before
morning. Even in the box-car I nearly froze
before morning with my coat on. I was going
to try to walk the 60 mi to Glasgow but I am
afraid that I'd get stuck. One place it is
nearly 30 miles between watering stations.
I take the train this afternoon. This is an
Indian town and along the track are quite a
few houses nearly all log cabins with tapers
standing in the yard. They are busy now making
hay for their horses. It is too dry and sandy
here for grain to grow. I have seen lots
of sage brush and cactus. The Missouri
River is in sight. I have seen lots of what
I suppose are gophers - little yellowish grey
fellows as big as grey squirrels. Soth. side
along the Missouri I scared up sort of a grey
wolfish looking animal that I suppose was a
coyote. I have seen quite a few snakes but
not any rattlers although I guess there are
enough of them around. My train goes at
5 P.M. for Glasgow. All the 6,000 telegraph
operators of the U.S. are on a strike so you have
to get on the train without tickets. If everything goes
right I'll be in Monroe by Thurs or Fri.
a Londonville.



Mr C. S. S. Belden
207 W. College St
Cherohoke
Ohio

