Victoria, B.C. Jan.10, 1910.

Dear Selden:-

Your letter was just received today. I wish to emphasize the fact that I have not received the letter that you say thatyou forwarded to me. I think that you also said in your last letter that this letter had been forwarded to me. It must have been lost. Will you please try to remember what the letter said as nearly as you can and write it to me as I would like to know what the letter had to say. In your letter you say that we get sixty days beyond our six months. Mamma says in her letter written the same time and also telling me that the letter has been forwarded to me that we get an additional six weeks above our six months. Of course I suppose that it is just a slip of the pen. I have known ever since we filed that our entry was protected for the extra sixty days, in fact my copy of the laws states it . However according to my copy of the laws we should have had no trouble to get our time extended. It doesn't seem likely to me that the extra sixty days give us the same priveleges that we enjoy for the first six months or why should the time be divided into the six months and the extra sixty days? It may be and I think very likely is that we are given sixty days grace if no one else applies for our land, and we are given sixty days to prove that we are on our land if any one applies for it.In case that we have to go on to our land and also to prove that we are on it before the sixty days are up that would cut down our time about two weeks.

What also seems very possible to me is that the sixty days granted us is the usual sixty days granted to a person who has cancellation proceedings against him in which time he has to prove that he is in good standing and can not be cancelled. In other words if we are not on our land before the third of February maybe anyone who knows of the circumstances has the chance to cancell us but we are allowed the sixty days to show that his case can't stand, while if no one tries to cancell us we can go on at any time. I have been misinforme by persons who ought to know once and I wish to be sure this time. I wrote a couple of weeks ago to Ottawa asking about this extra sixt days and several other questions. I also applied to get the time extended on our homesteads even if we could not get our time extended on the preemptions.

I don't know how Mr. Hillis got his ipression that you had seen Mr. Williams personally, but probably you told him that Mr. Williams had come down to meet us boys and you also told him that you had had word from him or from the government that we could not have our time extended or some thing of that kind, with the result that he had the two events confused in his mind.

You say in your letter " I don.t see why you should think that we shall necessarily lose our claims". I don't know where you got the impression that I thought we should necessarily lose, in fac it seems to me that it is very evident that I am not certain of losing as yet or I would not puzzle my brain to alter a certainty.I even hope that we may save our claims without resorting to any of the expensive schemes that I have suggested, as any kind of refilin before the third of February or even after for that matter would be.

I don't think that you should blame me for thinking of everything that I can to make it certain that we shall not lase our claims. I think that that is much better to plan for any emergency than to let things slide. You must remember that I had not even heard from you that we had the extra sixty days when I wrotethe letter to you, and even now I have not seen the letter myself. Also I can't make out from your letter whether the information that we have sixty days came from Ottawa or from Calgary. If it came from Calgary I wouldn't relie too much on it till I heard in answer to my letter to Ottawa. Also aletter from Ottawa might seem to give us extra time when it ha some other limitations that might miss us the first reading.

As to my having said that we had plenty of money to get alon on the first year you are entirely mistaken. I have never thought since we had the money from the bank that we had enough to run the farm on a basis that would pay well. Our money went even faster than I had anticipated when we came out to Albrta and I know that it will do the same way when we start to work. If we each bring back as much as we took away with us I doubt very much if we will have enough to have a team of cayuses and one of oxen with plow wagon and harrow and no haying machinery. If I should borrow any money from Harry or any one else I don't see why it should bother you any. Of course I would assume the debt myself and you would undoubtedly benefit from it no matter how I used the money. Even if I should use it entirely on my half section you would have the benefit of not having to share to such an extent the small equipment that we would own together an of course I don't mean to in any case take less than half of the responsibility for the debt at the bank. Of course if as I wrote in my letter I should take the whole thing I would expect to take

the whole debt. Of course , as I tried to make clear in my letter , I wasn't planning to take the whole section unless that were the only way or at least the best way of saving our land. I might not be able to get the money to handle such a deal if it were the wisest plan anyway. I would be willing that you should take the whole thing under the same circumstances if things turn out that way and I would try to help you out of whatever wages I was earning though I suppose if Harry should be willing to lend me the money I would have a better chance of making a success of the thing than you would. I don't think that I could quite get Harry to make the same proposition to you as it is a question of friendship largely. In case anything like this scheme should go through,I tried to say in my letter, I wished to know what you and Mamma would think was a fair division of the spoils but as youare sure we will not need to try such a scheme there is no necessity for discussing the subject. I only wanted to make it clear to you that I was only trying to get your idea of what would be a fair deal and I wasn't trying to go into business with Harry in preference to yourself. I am sorry that you and Mamma feel that way ### about it. I'd prefer to drop the whole thing to #### having you feel that I was trying to beat you out of anything.. I think that Mamma if she feels that way about it should have said something about it in the letter that I received from her in the same mail that your letter came..

You are mistaken about the amount of my salary. I do not get $75 per month and expenses. I get my expenses only when I am traveling which is less than half of the time. I do not pay for staying at Percy's but I only eat one meal there each day, and really my expenses are as heavy as if I were paying for my board. I have had some

I am in the same fix as you in regard to needing new clothes. You know that I needed some very badly the last term in Oberlin but felt that I could not buy anything as I would soon be farming anyway. Well I just had to have good clothes on this job so I had to get a new suit and a hat (you know I only had a cap) and new shoes and several articles. Also I am in the position where I have to go into the woods quite a little so I had to buy woods cloths also. Just my shoes cost $7.50 a pair. It would be foolish to try to do without them as three days in the woods would wear out an ordinary pair of shoes as quickly as six months of ordinary wear and besides they wouldn't be safe. Another big item that I have had to put on my bill is a policy for $5000 life insurance, something that I really had to have to be sure that I don't die before I get the debt cleared up at the bank and so leave the family in debt. I am sure that I will get no benefit from the insurance personally. The insurance cost me over a hundred dollars. You are mistaken about the fare here from Gleichen, though that is probably due to my note to you from Calgary. My fare from Calgary was in round numbers about twentyfive dollars but was accurately nearly twentyseven dollars. This did not count two dollars from Vancouver to Victoria, nor a dollar and a half overweight on my trunk, nor the fare from Gleichen to Calgary, nor a day's hotel bill in Calgary which I spent as I thought I might be able to get a rate by seeing Mr. Ives. It does include however my meals and birth because I travelled from Calgary to the coast without a meal or birth. I don't think that I have been at all extra vagant of my money though I have bought several things that I could have got along without, for instance I bought a film pack adaptor and a film pack.

You are also mistaken about my getting a job the minute that I got to B.C. as I was here a week before I went to work. I worked a week in November.

In regard to your visit to the Dowsley's, I hardly see how you could expect me to have heard that you had not been there.

I am sorry that this letter sounds so cross but I feel pretty sore just at present that you and Mamma should think that I am trying to beat you out of your interest in the land proposition. I am sure that I want to be fair especially to any one in my own family. I'd rather that you should get a little more advantage than I out of the deal as you are the younger and are bound to accept my sayso on that account more or less where we have a difference of opinion. I don't feel however that you and Mamma should object to my getting more capital if I can and if I borrow on my own account.

I am sorry that I have not got the money at present to pay the interest at the bank. I did have it when I wrote to Mary and I might be able to meet the payment at the end of the month. The matter should have been attended to two weeks before this letter reaches you. I will write to Mary about it as soon as I possibly can get the time. I have to go away tomorrow to Saturna Island to look after a job of cutting wood and shingle bolts. I expect to be back before the end of the week, and I may then go down there permanently.

Will

W.H.Belden,

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