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METROPOLITAN BUILDING

VICTORIA, B.C. March 16th, /09.

Mr. Will H. Belden,  
Oberlin, Ohio.

Dear friend Will,-

Your letter is here. Percy left Victoria the middle of February going to New York, and on reaching there matters came up that seemed to demand his attention at London and he went on there. When he returns he will answer your letter, but there are so many things that have come up that it may be some time before he comes to yours. Dont get alarmed and think he is not going to answer.

In regard to positions. I think that many men will find it very hard to get any work here this Spring for so many are coming. I came home from Chicago on the 2nd day of March. That was the second day of the cheap tourist rate, and there were nineteen cars loaded down, and the Tacoma papers said that on the 8th day of March there had already been sold 30,000 tickets from Eastern points to Oregon, Idaho and Washington; and the cheap rates run until the close of April. In addition to this cheap rate, which is a one way rate, the Fair rate will commence May first or perhaps a few days earlier, and that means another influx of many peoples and tongues, so that if I were you I would not give men much of an assurance that they will find work. While at Chicago I spoke at the Moody Bible Institute to a men's Bible Class, and also in one of the Mission meetings, and men from every side wanted to know about opportunities in the North West. I think they will have to have some idea as to what they are going to do, or have money enough to pay their way back unless they are willing to suffer a little.

With best wishes for you and yours, I am,  
Sincerely yours,

*W. A. Hillis*

WAH/FT.

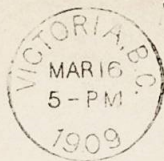


RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO

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VICTORIA, B. C.



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