

Hernando Island

Mar. 10, 1907.

Dear Mamma:

We are spending Sunday at this little island where we will probably get a couple of square miles if not more. You evidently don't understand what I am to do from the letter I had from home. The laws regarding timber lands are very different here from those in U.S. Any person can take up as much timber as he wishes. The taker really only leases the land and does not own it. A claim or rather technically speaking a "limit" is one sq. mile. To take up the limit you have to put corner posts on the four corners. Then advertise in the B. C. Gazette for sixty days and then if no previous claim is advanced by another

partly the land is yours as long as you
pay taxes on it. The taxes are one
hundred and sixty dollars a year
for each square mile. When the timber
is cut off the government charges a
tax of fifty cents a thousand for the
logs and scales (measures) them itself
so that if you sell the logs, ^{neither} you nor the buyer
needs to scale them. The company for which
I am working, intend to establish a mill
and are taking up all the land they can
get and are also buying leases. The
land is going very rapidly as the ^{price} is
far below the market price. When you
get a claim you are assured that the
tax on logs will not change till
the expiration of your lease. More
lands were taken up in 1906 than

in all previous years. I intend to get
abold of a claim or so if possible. If
I didn't or couldn't sell it I could
log it and make better money than by
selling it.

Quite a few men do what the gov.
calls "hard logging". You pay a fee of
~~ten~~ dollars (no taxes) and 50 cents a
thousand for all logs you sell. (The
money is taken out when you get
paid for them.) Your \$10 only gives
a one year's license which can be
renewed. You can use no machinery
(Donkey engines etc). Generally two or
four men go in together and take
a steep slope and with hand levers
jack screws, and like machinery work
their logs into the water. Logs are

now worth fifteen dollars in the water.
Tugs will be sent for them. Logs are worth
ten dollars all year round. Two men
can fell about fifteen thousand in
a day if they want to, but when the trim-
ming and bucking (rawing with an eight
foot saw) into logs and putting
them into the water is over six thousand
would be a big days work. Often
things will go at sixes and sevens
and only a few hundred feet
will be the day's result. On the average
a good man should make from
\$15 to \$25 or \$30 a day. Of course the life
has its discomforts. A person would
likely be marooned for several months
at a time and wouldn't have much

time for cooking and housekeeping if he intended to make much money. His grub would likely be pretty plain for in spite of the game and fish he wouldn't have time to hunt much. I think a nice way for two fellows would be to take some younger boy along to cook and keep house and keep the larder full. He could have traps and make some money off of furs and could put in some of his time with a saw and axe to fit himself for hard logging if he so wished. Of course I am planning to be in school next year but if I should not or even if I spent the summer in logging I think that might be a nice vacation for Selden if my father should be willing and likely the

would be some money in it. If we had good bulk I'd be willing to do the generous thing. I have signed a contract with Percy till the first of July at \$100 per month and expenses. That only leaves two months this year before school hardly time to get a good start. Though I might try it even for that time if I find a good opportunity.

We have done quite a little travelling this week. On Monday we spent the night up above the snow line on the mountain. The country is very wild. There hasn't been a day we were in the woods that I haven't seen several deer. On the water we see myriads of ducks and some geese. Just a minute ago I counted five eagles soaring in the sky.

We have several times seen whales and often seals though the seals are not of the fur variety. The waters are full of fish. In the sea are cod and salmon principally while on shore are the trout, rainbow trout, mountain trout and salmon or steel head trout.

The game laws are very lenient here. In the U.S. no one can shoot Elk or caribou and only three deer (no does or fawns) and those only in a short season of several weeks. Here you can shoot anything for food any time. No one does shoot deer here because the flesh is not good at most seasons. During ~~the~~ two summer months you can not shoot deer, elk, moose, caribou etc except for food and can not sell

them. No one person can sell more than twelve such animals in a year a person can send a mounted head of each variety to the U.S. duty free if they are mounted on this side. I suppose furs cost duty. Sea other skins raw cost about \$100 here. I saw one stuffed in a leather window that had a mark of \$1000 on it though I suppose that was just an advertisement. The land others are much cheaper. I am hoping to get some heads to mount later. All the deer have shed their horns now. I am going to try to get a mountain goat later maybe.

Well I guess I'll close so
goodbye to all

W. H. Belden Willie.

Lund. B. C.