

Jan. 31, 1918.  
Chinook, Alta.

Dear Mother: -

You people have <sup>been</sup> pretty good about writing lately. Edden is still in Calgary painting automobiles most of the time.

In answer to some of your recent queries - I don't care to have you make any woven garments for me. I am fairly well supplied at present and it seems such an awful lot of work for the amount of result. Machines are so much better for weaving than human hands especially where the brain & other faculties are highly educated for better work. I don't mean to run down your activities in that direction, as I know it may fill some otherwise idle moments ~~but~~ I hope you won't allow the knitting to interfere at all with your other occupations, especially in order to send me a present that I don't really need.

As to the magazines - we are very thankful for the *Independent* which we enjoy. The *American* has not yet appeared. The *Saturday Eve. Post* which we take has not come for three weeks. I believe the reason for this is the congestion of the mails. It is going to be difficult to get any magazines I'm afraid.

As to my leg - I was glad to learn the doctor <sup>loved</sup>



considered it a nervous affliction as I was afraid  
it was a circulatory or lymphatic trouble. I misled  
Will somewhat in saying the pain was deep-seated - I have  
no fear of the bone being affected ~~but~~ the sensation  
is not just "skin deep": I don't think the football  
injury has anything to do with it as that is in the  
knee <sup>and doesn't bother me,</sup> while this sensation is above the knee. In  
fact I have had many bumps & bruises as severe as <sup>from horses</sup>  
the football injury - several pretty good kicks in the  
leg & bruises of various sorts. I have had no trouble  
at all with this leg since hard work stopped in the  
fall - the only time I notice anything is if the leg gets  
very cold. The icy wind often cuts through my clothes  
enough to chafe the skin on my legs & leave them numb,  
as I don't wear very heavy clothing on my legs. Possibly  
the cold might have hurt the nerve in the first place(?)  
All I was worried about was that the trouble might  
get worse.

I got weighed the other day (2 pair of overalls on & heavy  
arctic overshoes) and weighed 245 lbs. Allowing a little for  
heavier clothing that is about 20 lbs lighter than when  
you were here so at least I am not growing heavier  
it is however about 50 to 60 lbs too much.



Of all the topics you write about the one I am the least interested in is the war & newspaper clippings. This is because it is not a personal topic about your own life. You might tell the girls I feel the same about the letters. You know we have been at war about three years or a half here and have gone through a good deal of the enthusiasms etc that you are now experiencing and what seems fresh to you may be pretty stale to us. I can see no new developments in the uncovering of Germany's perfidy as you do and the efficiency etc of the Americans is to my mind something yet to be proved ~~it~~ rather than to crow about yet. I expect them to give a good account of themselves of course but the idea doesn't rouse any particular emotion of enthusiasm in my breast. This war is a bad business however you look at it and we all are losers by it whichever way the tide of ~~both~~ goes. My personal attitude toward the war is to pick out the part I should play in it and do the best I can in that end give other phases of the conflict only an unemotional intellectual interest. If a person allows his feelings full swing he might easily go insane on the subject of this war. It's something I like to dodge thinking



about to a considerable extent as topics of personal interest are of much more interest to me than war news especially in personal letters. I think you would have felt the same if I had written much war news ~~at~~ the first year of the war.

I haven't yet sent the \$54.00 due Mr. Loveland Jones but as I have been very low in funds but I will try to get the ~~money~~ soon. Has he sent you a notice? We have a new bank manager & he is going to be stricter by a good deal. We will have to go entirely on borrowed money this year.

We are hoping earnestly for a good crop. Most people expect one. For myself I'm not too sanguine though I believe we will make ends meet.

We are having a very changeable winter. Twice this month it has rained - once all night and one afternoon it rained hard for several hours - I was out in it moving a well boring machine and got soaked. The crust is very bad on the snow. It was 40° below yesterday and 0° today. Tonight it may melt in the middle of the night or it may be 40° again by morning. Trains are sometimes several days late and often 8 or 10 engines go "dead" between here and Alaska. You see if this water supply gets low they can't even keep up steam.

We are boring a well at our north place. Love to all  
Wittie



BERLIN, OHIO  
FEB 6  
6-30P  
1918



Mrs. W. H. Belden

287 West College St

Youngstown

~~Ohio~~

W. H. Taylor

Ohio

50-Woodbine Ave.



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1536 - 17th St.  
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Mrs. 845 S. Wabash Avenue  
Children's Museum  
Chicago Ill.