

I am worried
this. Afterward
Selden wrote a book
letter to tell about the clothes
you can send this
to Indiana.

Friday Oct. 5, 1917

Dear Mother

A letter came from you today. We are glad to hear from home - letters seem to be few & far between. You need never be afraid that your letters are too long.

I am sorry that money matters are so bad with you too. It is fortunate to have part of the house rented this & nice to have satisfactory people. I wish I could go East & occupy the third story at 287 with you. We have not enough money to pay bills that are due now so of course I cannot go. We had 1564 bushels of wheat & will have to keep at least 300 for seed. Our 250 acres of wheat you see yielded at an average of about 6 1/4 bushels to the acre. The present outlook for a good crop next year is most unpromising but we are going ahead with our preparatory work, plowing etc. just as hard as possible just the same. We will be busy every possible moment on the land until freeze-up, which usually comes about the first week in November.

We have one hired man now plowing steadily with horses. Pay him 75.00 per month board. He eats at the restaurant in town mostly as it takes less time to cook there.
Meal tickets 6.50 for 21 meals.

This certainly has been a hard & discouraging year for us. The latest disaster is that the well has gone dry! That is one of the things

that we could not have that possible. When the well was first bored the water rose twenty feet in it & we thought the supply was unlimited & it seemed to be impossible to lower it. The little shallow well I dug at the new place is only capable of watering four horses & we have ten there now so we have to haul water. The bunch of colts we have, would not stay in any fence at home besides our not having any water for them. We were fortunate in being able to get a neighbor to keep them in his pasture at a dollar each per month and took them there today. We have thirty horses now & it is more than we ought to have considering the lack of pasture & poor crops. The crops in Alberta are very uneven. The rain this year came in showers & some place got none at all - like us - & some had plenty. Some ^{few} people get yields of wheat as high as 50 bushels to the acre. Think of that at \$2.02 per bushel! And the land valued at \$20.00 to \$30.00 per acre. If only we had been fortunate this year!

Conscription starts here next week. I may get exempted from the first draft on account of being a producer. Naturalized Germans don't get conscripted of course. There is a big strong German bachelor ^{just about my age} living next to my new place who wants to rent more land. He owns only a quarter. He evidently hopes I will get conscripted so that he can work my place on shares & get rich.

at my expense while I am away getting killed or disabled. Imagine an Englishman in Germany making money out of a German's land that way!!! He says that when the war is over he is going to go back to Germany if he has made enough money here by that time.

I had a letter from Julia Kidd this week, the first & only word from the Kidds for five years. It came about because Coral's youngest sister Sarah is teaching school near where Julia Kidd lives & the ^{traveling} minister told Julia that he met a girl who knew a friend of hers - ~~treating~~ me. Julia Kidd teaches school four miles from home & ~~drives~~ ^{drives} back & forth daily. Her father had a bad sickness last winter & has not recovered & cannot work. His sickness was the cause of Mrs. Kidd having a nervous breakdown & she has not been strong since. Julia evidently did not marry that fellow we met in Brooks. Remember him? I must answer her letter. She doesn't know who the girl is that knows me so I will have to tell her.

Coral is going to start teaching school again next week south of Calgary about fifty miles. I went to Calgary last Sunday to see her as we have not seen each other but four times since last winter & probably will not again for

several months. You know I told you she kept house this summer & her mother made a trip East expecting to find a place to live but found none & came back & is going to stay another year in Calgary. Coral wants to get married but she feels that it is her duty to support her mother & younger brother as they have nothing at all. Coral is beginning to think that it will not be possible for us to get married for several years more & maybe never. She worries quite a lot about it & is awfully thin & ~~pallor~~ pale. She won't even tell her mother that she wants to get married because — oh well think up the obvious reasons. What can be done Mother? She won't let me say anything to her mother nor do anything. Have you any advice or suggestions?

Ellen sent me a lot of Will's clothes. It was lovely of her & I appreciate her kindness very much but the clothes won't fit me. I am several inches broader in the shoulders & several inches larger in the waist & an inch shorter ^{in the legs} than Will Taylor is evidently. I weigh about 160, sometimes only 150 so I cannot diet very much. Life insurance statistics show that a normal 28 year old man five feet ten inches should weigh 175 so I am not too fat. I can wear the coats & suits, but they are tight & make me look out of proportion. Please thank Ellen for me anyway. I wish we could have some of those grapes in the back yard at home. I believe I am getting "fed up" on this barren country! Fresh fruit here is ~~so~~ expensive we cannot eat any. I buy a few apples once in a long time tho' so I won't forget the pests!
Love Selden.