

From H. N. Belden
Care of P. D. Hillis
Rural Mail Delivery No. 3,
Victoria, B.C.

Victoria B.C.
Jan. 22, 1919.

Dear Mother:-

Your letter of Jan. 13 came today and I'll answer at once. It's very strange about the letter that was returned from Chinook especially if Rideout is postmaster. Perhaps if Rideout was sick and a stranger was temporarily in the office he or she might have been stupid enough to follow the directions on the envelope implicitly. If it had had no directions on the envelope perhaps it would have gone into Selden's box.

I've written Selden three letters since I've been here - one letter contained a \$45.00 money order from me and he didn't answer the letter for about four weeks. I wrote about two weeks after sending the money order ^{asking if he had got it} but when he finally replied he never made any ^{apologies or} explanations or apologies.

I'm very glad you paid the \$54.00. I hope you have some way of keeping account of such items.

I'm very sorry to hear of your illness. I hope it is not painful and that you will soon be better. I didn't know Aunt Mary was in Okefenokee or that you had been able to rent the house. I hope you will be as careful of your strength as you can.

As to your question about my weight I am about sixty or sixty pounds lighter than when I saw you last and weigh about

two hundred pounds without an overcoat. Maybe I will be able to get off a few more pounds. I got rid of the weight by dieting - eating about half what I want to. I feel much better, don't tire so easily and have much better wind - walking rapidly up the steepest kind of a hill scarcely makes me pant now while it used to make me pant some times on the level. The leg which bothered me so much very rarely bothers me in the same way by the tingling nerves but the Knee joint gives me a great deal of bother this year by slipping out of joint at the least provocation or often without any excuse. I have gotten so I am very careful of it and never twist it or jump on to or off of that foot etc so get obd. Occasionally I get a good deal of pain from it for a time.

As to being busy I am very busy and tired at night - we get up about 4:45 (seven days a week) and get through work about 7:30 or 8:00 and Saturday nights about 10 P.M.

Schools are open again this week but there are still a large number of cases of flu. turning up.

No I don't keep up courage in spite of crop failures etc - I certainly couldn't be more discouraged or blue. I think however we will likely get a crop soon, it's quite often the case that if you hope & hope and work for a thing you get it after you don't care anything about it any more and that's about the way I feel about the crops.

I wrote May a short letter. She has written me three times since

one of P. D. Hillis
15 m 10 #9 Victoria B.C. Willis

Please read + return in your next

1-22-19

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