

after freeze-ups we have been unable to work very hard or regularly & I have put on the winter supply of fat - I always get fat early in the winter - and I have noticed that when I am fat & in good physical condition little things that are very disagreeable at other times do not bother me. Every winter I have the grippe badly at least once & lose about twenty pounds in weight & also my seeming happiness. I hate the winters awfully on that account. We certainly have enough things to worry about now. We are about two thousand dollars behind our expenses for this year & the crop prospects for next year are the least promising that we have ever ~~had~~ seen. The ground is dry now & there has been almost no rain this year to prepare the soil for next year's crops & unless next year is perfect as to weather conditions we cannot have even a fair crop.

The price of feed is so high & it is so scarce that we are contemplating getting a small tractor. Gasoline & kerosene have not advanced in proportion to horse feed. We have a chance to trade some horses for a tractor & we have more horses now than we need, so may trade. It remains to be seen. I am intending to work in a garage

or repair shop somewhere to learn about engines
this winter if possible. I may go to Calgary soon.

Next year we intend to hire one man and a
housekeeper - a man & wife if possible. We
have more work than we can possibly do
alone, & when we have a hired man it is
an incentive to us to work & we actually do
get a great deal more done ourselves. We wish
you would come & live with us next season
& keep house for us or at least help to
keep house. A housekeeper makes so much
difference to us in total amount of work
done as a hired man so if you kept house
for us you could consider that you were taking
the place of one man. Labor is very scarce &
hard to get & very high priced. We expect to
pay a man & wife about \$90.⁰⁰ or maybe
\$100.⁰⁰ a month & board for seven months
beginning April first.

Our first really cold snap began December
first. It has been 20 below zero I believe. I have
been in the shack alone here ever since it began.
Will has been up at the town place but he was home
last night & is going back now. This little house is
very warm & comfortable - you know I lived inside
last February. The shack on the other place is awfully
cold when there is a wind. We are going to fix it up
better. It is 10' x 10'. The barn up there is new & warm &
we just put up a good fence around the whole place & expect
to put the horses there the first of January. We have 30 horses now.
Love Silden.