

June 23rd.

Dear Mother -

Many happy returns of the day! I wonder where and how you are spending it. I hope it proves a very happy ^{birth day} ~~one~~, wherever you are. I sent some little edgings to you a day or so ago. They aren't very much - just a little remembrance. I intended them for towels, but of course you can use them any way you choose. I hope you will use them. The colors are supposed to be boil proof.

This is the last week of school, and as far as I am concerned, it is a holiday. My six pupils in grade eight (trying for High School) are writing their exams and I have nothing to do but preside. For the last year in public school and each year in high, the exams are sent from the Department of Education

The same for the whole province they are marked there too, and we won't hear the results for a month or six weeks. I am putting in the time crocheting & writing and reading & just sitting! It is a glorious and glorious feeling and no mistake. I am finishing a camisole yoke that I started months ago, and

③ fall, and I haven't decided what to do. The crop is drying up again, right in front of our eyes. The trouble is that if there are no crops this year, there will be no money to run the school. My salary is \$465. behind now, and there is no sign of getting it. The chairman of the Board has been trying his very best, and some more will undoubtedly come from the Government in the course of time. The Boarder shut down on the municipalities and schools as well as everything else. Did you get Mill's address again? St. Louis, Excal, Alta., W. H. Garrison.

② I wish you could hear the three little girls explain over it. But that ~~is~~ is wonderful at all, but they set off a wave "Hein Gedy Shied" and they simply burst out over everything I do. "He now I look at that, the better I like it," is the favorite remark. One will exclaim, "Oh now Bessy, I don't see how you can crawl so fast! Great! I could crawl like you!" and then Ken Fay knows already and watch me miss every other pitch and point my finger in between. Two of them are dead. That accounts for the stony. People are asking me if I intend to teach like in the

(4)

We are expecting him home tomorrow or Saturday & stay over Sunday & Monday. There is a Federal by-election to take place on Monday and he comes to Chinook to vote. The farmers are putting up a man for the first time in a federal election, and we are very anxious to see the result. The farmer's movement here is quite different in its ideas from that in Dakota from what we read. I have great faith in it, but I sometimes almost hope that the farmers won't be successful just yet - not until they learn a little more.

Selden is making an experiment in irrigation, and we are quite excited about it. This country isn't suitable for any big irrigation scheme, but Selden began to wonder if he couldn't pump the water from the sloughs on to the crop near them. You know we have two large sloughs with trees that catch a lot of snow, and another large one which has been dammed. There are a number of others which could be used too, if the scheme proves successful. All the outlay involved was some pipe - about 150 feet.

⑤ He has the force pump which was in the well at the town place, but up at the spring the slough, and runs it with the little engine which we use on the well. After the water gets up to the house, it can run in almost every direction for almost a quarter of a mile. To make the thing pay, it would need a larger pump, and also 50 or 100 ft. of hose, so that the water could be carried over a large space without moving the pipes. It won't likely that we can do much this year except to experiment, but ~~if~~ it works so we hope it will. Nelson thinks we should water 50 or 60 acres every

year. I imagine what it would mean, if we were reasonably sure of 30 or 40 or 50 bushels to the acre on 50 acres. We have 225 acres in wheat this spring and the land is all in fine shape, but without rain we can't get in any thing. I want to try to make the letter blue, but it seems to get that way in spite of me. Besides the wheat there are 60 acres oats, 10 acres flax, 4 acres rye, and two of peas. We have practically no garden this year except the peas and potatoes. Nobody had any time to plant one, but I'd about to put a lot of raspberry canes from our own bushes, and

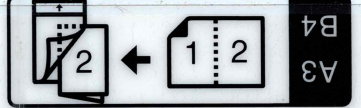
⑧
we have continued work all
spring. We had two kinds
and one since then. Yesterday
a second one came again
for a few days more, and when
I got home yesterday found
them had brought home
with another! This last acquisition
is a boy of nineteen, who
has been away from home for
two years. He was just off
the train while buying
beef a mile home, and
heem felt so sorry for him
that he kind him for a
couple of days - just enough
to buy a ticket home. I
fear the poor lad is never
to bright. He men have

⑨
accomplished a lot this spring,
and the farm is getting to the
place where we can feel safe
in it. We have got 60 acres
of raw land broken, and a
quarter section diced for
summer fallow, and most of
that plowed and cultivated.
Having the summer fallow diced
first is something that never
happened on our place before,
but something that seldom
has been aimed at for a long
time. It kills the weeds, and
conserve the moisture. We
hope to do more breaking, but
it is too dry now. Dry or wet,
we have to do 50 acres on the
town-places. Our aim this
year was to get enough new

(7)

over a hundred trees - from the nursery and slips from our own. We have one cherry in bloom. This spring Selden traded a horse to Mr. Mannen for 50 hens (and other things) and now we have 68 little chickens and 5 little turkeys, and still a number of chickens and seventeen ducks expected. Quite a poultry farm, don't you think? It is a wonder too, for they have had such little care. Then Selden traded another horse for a heifer and two little heifer calves, and we had two more little calves of our own this spring (both heifers too) so now we have eleven head, and expect still one more calf. Do you remember when we bought the first two cows a little over two years ago? It hardly seems possible.

We had a card yesterday from Evelina, written at sea. It was awfully good of you to send us so many letters, and keep us informed about Evelina's plans. You must have been awfully busy too. We were deeply interested in everything and we felt badly all the time that we couldn't seem to find a minute to write. There has been



have given them another half
 hour. Both seem to read
 much love, and the
 books wishes for the
 whole year. Great.

land broken, and all the land in such good conditions that we could rent it to someone on shares, and then go farther west where rain does fall and rent another place the same way. If only, only the rain would come, we would make a small fortune this year besides.

Chinook had a bad fire last week, which burned all the buildings on one side of the street for almost a block. Had the wind been stronger, the whole town would surely have gone. The train which was passing thru was stopped for about two hours, and every man made to fight fire.

About a couple of weeks ago, we had a lightning storm, and about six or eight fence posts on our fence were split to pieces. We didn't know it at the time, but there was an awfully loud crash. No wonder.

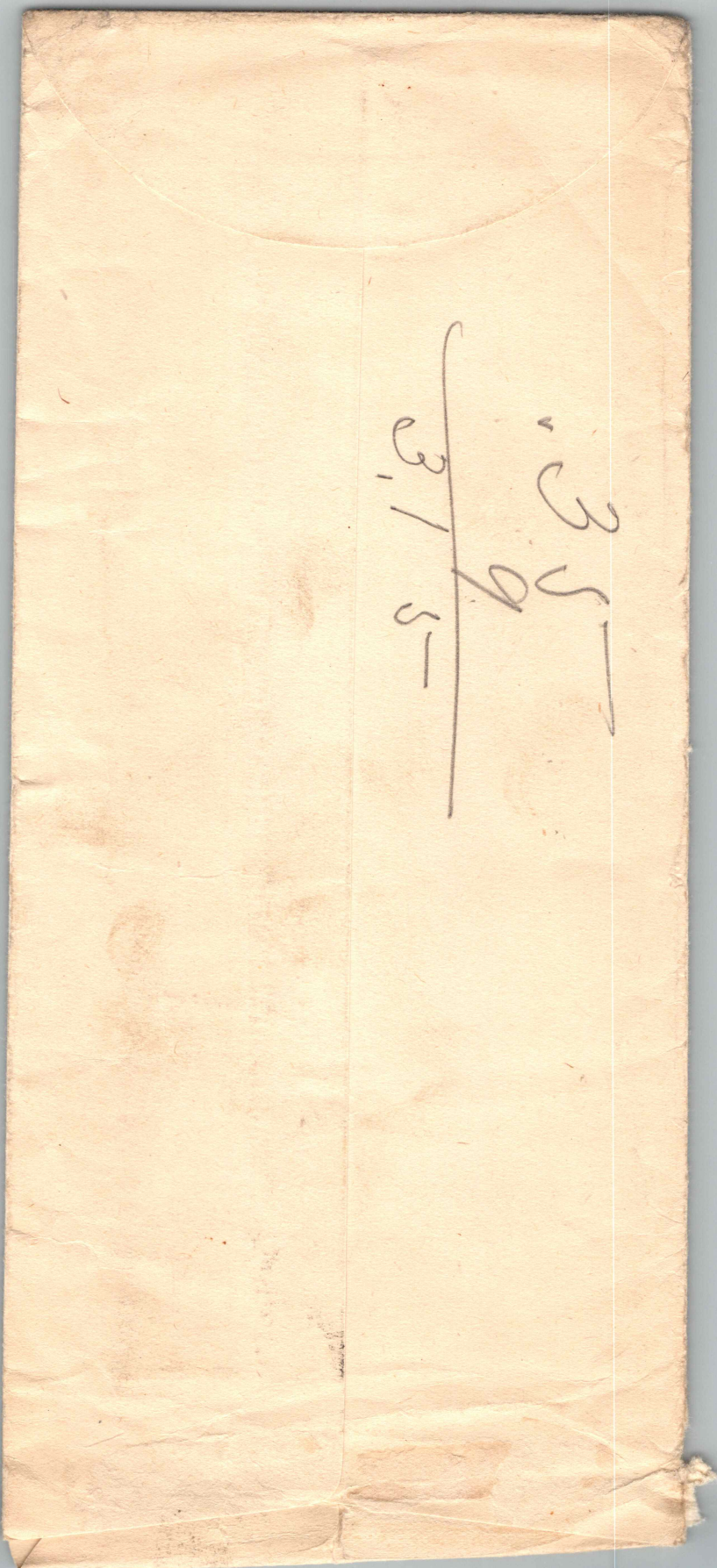
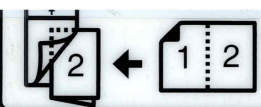
There is one more exam is finished and I guess I'll have some lunch. The subject this morning was Geometry. The paper was easy but too long for the time allotted. I wish I could

Carl Becken,
Chunook,
Alta., Can.

Please forward.

Mrs. Mrs. H. Becken,
287 W. College St.,
Oshkosh, Wis.





35

315