



George B. Wright and Family Papers

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VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Very dear —

Jan. 1. 1912.

This has been a quiet day. I have had nothing pressing to do and have had a chance to "consider cow". Our friend Vic Field says that he thinks the sub-committee will very likely make a contract with us but he has a good deal of doubt whether it will go much further. Former mayor D. M. Brown is going to try to get back into the lime light by placing himself at the head of the opposition. They can undoubtedly make a good fight if they try. But we are fortunately not dependent upon carrying the plan through and if the city doesn't want it we shall not break our hearts over the defeat.

The day is cold, clear and pleasant if one doesn't have to be out doors too long. A walk from C.D.'s house is about far enough with the thermometer at 6 to 16 degrees below zero.

You have given me new cheer and grip and I am obliged to you. Yours V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest —

Jan. 3. 1912

I don't think I have said anything about receiving a beautiful set of cuff links and shirt studs. They came on time and are very beautiful. The automatic pop gun trick of the studs will save many tempers and save time.

Thank you very much. Have you got your firs picked out yet. If not you had better do so.

This was to have been a committee meeting day but the mayor says he is now waiting for Mr. Clausen's supplementary report. Apparently they asked him to put in writing the things he told them while here. Of course I don't know how long a wait this means but it ought not to be more than a day or two more. So in the mean time there is an opportunity to practice patience again.

Yesterday and today have been perfect winter days. Temperature yesterday - 28 and today - 18 but no wind and plenty of sun. At noon today it was 11 below while the sun was as bright as it could ever be. Walking is not disagreeable if one's ears are covered. Your good letters are very cheering. V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dear Sir —

Jan. 5. 1912.

Yesterday and today have been about as cold as the weather ever gets in these parts. The thermometer was 32° below zero at 9 o'clock this morning and 24° at noon with the sun shining as cheerfully as summer time. There was a fairly brisk wind too. Still it is not so bad.

We had a committee meeting last night without coming to blows and seem to have made progress. We submitted our price and I think there will be no objections made on that account. There are many other matters to agree on and there is a tendency on the part of the committee to load us down with burdens to the limit. We shall probably decline to bear some of them which ^{may} make trouble but we are hopeful. Mr. Barrons is very busy clearing up for his departure on Sunday rain or shine so I am trying to get definite action before he goes — that means tomorrow. I am glad you are enjoying the departed Herty as much as the live Herty. That is the penalty of being a pig. I enclose your March check.

Yours very v.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dear -

Jan. 5. 1912

This is another day of waiting. Mr. Parnes and Mr. Field have undertaken to draw up a contract but could not finish today so I understand they asked the council to adjourn until tomorrow night. I hope that is the arrangement at any rate.

In the mean time I have been looking over many numbers of the Etc. World for cuts and accounts of similar work which has been done.

I have not anything to say except that I am still here and well and still hopeful but not sure. At the hospital meeting today Miss Bratten said they had been running very light lately - partly as a result of Dr. Freeman's stance I imagine. Mrs. Evans wished to be remembered when I wrote.

Chas. D. and E. E. G. had another interview yesterday at C. F.'s request but without definite result. - as usual.

It is cold again and I am wondering how you get on in the cold wave which has spread over the entire country. Will love and lots of it

U.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G. -

Jan. 7. 1912

The weather is as cold as I have ever experienced but it is strange how we quickly get accustomed to it. Yesterday it was 20° below at noon instead 24 as on the day before.

This morning it was 26° below at 9 o'clock.

Last night we came pretty near to an agreement with the sub-committee and this morning I have seen the mayor and I think everything of importance is practically settled. He expects the sub-committee to recommend the contract unanimously to the full committee and that nearly all the members of the full committee will then recommend it for acceptance to the city council. It is now the turn of Mr. Parsons and Mr. Field to draw the contract embodying our agreements. If they can do their work tomorrow the contract may go to the council tomorrow night at an adjourned meeting but that will be pretty rapid work and I hardly expect so much.

Mr. Parsons goes today. The Adamses and the Turnants go in a few days and your V now hopes to go before very long. I have told mother I won't stop in Michigan on my way home. Thank thee for the cheerful letters. They are an inestimable help. V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Draught G.

Jan. 10. 1912

This morning there was to be another meeting of the full committee at which Mr. Parsons and I were expected to appear but I protested to the mayor that we had been given to understand that we should have only the sub-committee to negotiate with. Therefore I declined to meet with the committee of nine and asked to have the smaller committee convened again. The large committee had already got together but as we did not appear the members strayed and presently we got the small committee together again and spent the morning with them. We went over the points of difference and then adjourned to meet again at 4:30 after the contract had been written out again in typewriter form. Then we read it all over again and made modifications of wording in some points. The sub-committee then passed a motion to report the contract to the full committee ~~to~~ as the best that could be obtained. This means that it is not subject to further amendment and they must accept or reject it as it stands. Possibly they may not do either and then I shall probably stand pat and give it up. If they report to the council the latter will meet tomorrow night and I hope will

take definite action and call an election or else
decline to do so. Even this I cannot be sure
of. Some of them may want to delay. At any
rate my work is about done and I think I
can fit away very soon. I have told mother
that I should stop in Michigan to see her.
It is some relief to know that my work is about
over and by tomorrow night I hope to know the
worst. With love U.

Your Athenaeum band came but I cant do anything with it here and will bring it back with me U.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

Jan. 11. 1912.

There is nothing to report today concerning our project. I suppose the committee met this afternoon and that the council is now in session but I have no idea what has been done or is now doing.

This is the coldest day yet — 34° below at nine this morning at C.D.'s house — 26° below at noon and 32° below at 6 P.M. There is no wind now and the air seems full of frozen mist so I think it may not go lower tonight and will perhaps be warmer tomorrow. We do not suffer so much from cold as from lack of ventilation. It is impossible to have windows open much so that sometimes it is a relief to go out doors for a few minutes. I saw the Adamses last night. They go to Mexico next Monday and start for California the following Saturday. Broken rails are too common just now to make travelling agreeable and I hope it will be a little warmer by the time I can leave.

U.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G.

Jan. 13. 1912.

Here it is Sat. night and nothing definite yet. I have just about decided that I will prepare carefully a letter setting forth the position of the company in regard to the contract and read the same at the council meeting Monday night. Then I can leave with the feeling that I have done all that I could. If I could speak and say the things I want to say that would be better but I want to reach the public as well as the council and my letter can be printed afterwards. At this time there does not seem much hope of immediate action. Mr. Field does not go to St. Paul until next Sunday and I don't feel like waiting without some assurance that it will pay. It is likely that I shall leave about Tuesday or Wednesday but even that is not quite certain. I might not go if there is any use of staying so it may be necessary to change the plan. Drafts for you and Miss McKean are enclosed. Much love V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G.

Jan. 14, 1912.

The cold wave has swooped down on us again after a let up of only one day. The wind is blowing hard and the thermometer is again dropping toward 20 and will probably go much lower before morning.

I have been writing out my farewell address, so to speak, in which I try to meet criticisms and give our position. If I don't ~~take~~ it up it will be offered to the council tomorrow night so as to get it before them and will be printed afterwards. It is difficult to write such a thing ~~without~~ and not "Look too good and talk too wise" or in other words appear too superior to the F.F. aldermen. Also it is difficult to do it so as to create a desire to accede to instead of to oppose what is wanted. So I may give it up and stand pat. I am planning to go to Wahpeton tomorrow and leave here Tuesday or Wednesday but cannot count on anything. Has Lucy been vaccinated? If not it would be a pity to do it while she has her arm in a sling but there is some of it here and I might carry it along with me. Also there is some in St. Paul and in Michigan. It is very mild in form and is often diagnosed as chicken pox. An unwarrior comes to V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest -

Jan. 15, 1912

It is five o'clock and I am waiting for a 4:25 train, which is reported two hours late, to take me to Wahpeton. Tomorrow morning I shall return to F.F. and still expect to leave for home Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. If the weather should be very cold I prefer to ride in the daytime as it is preferable to be tipped over in your overcoat instead of in pajamas. I want to stop a day in Mpls. and as I have said shall stop in Michigan on my way through.

The letter to the Hon. Mayor and Council is written and handed in. It expresses as nearly as possible our position and although public letters are not a good means of getting at business and engineering questions it seems to be necessary in this case.

It is mighty good to get away and mighty good to have a wife and children as a goal to go to.

Perhaps Chas. and Mary will be going at about the same time. V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest G.

May 8, 1912.

This is the end of the third day here and the odds and ends are nearly disposed of so that I can begin soon to consider Hot Lake problems. Rolla came in today and seems well disposed so far as I can see.

Mr. Kidder was here and reports a satisfactory condition of business. His principal job just now is to keep after the F.T. light commission and try to get them to establish a rate at which people can afford to cook with electricity.

The really surprising news is that Miss Brewster is married to Mr. Christad, lawyer, and her resignation has been accepted and she has quit. Her successor is not yet found. I have not heard much about it but judge that the trustees were willing to part under the circumstances. C.D. is having plenty of intercostal or other rheumatism and is not very well. I don't cough and am nearly all right.
vaw.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G.

May 9, 1912

There is nothing in particular to relate tonight but it has occurred to me that I did not sufficiently emphasize the importance of making arrangements for your cousin Amelia at an early date. I should think that she should decide when she will go at least three weeks before starting and should reserve accommodations on both the Soo and N.P. lines at that time.

There is probably going to be a lot of travel to the coast this summer. The office of the N.P. Reg. is not on the street but up one or two stories in the old South building.

I am wondering if you have seen Mrs. Adams yet. She probably knows how to get steamer quarters if you come ^{by the lakes.} ~~that way~~. I will enquire of E.E.A. and see what he says.

It is 84° today and the storm windows are coming off pretty soon. With love and absent treatment
Yours V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest G. -

May 12, 1912

It seemed quite like your coming to hear that you are already engaging quarters for the journey. Elmer tells me that there are two boats leaving each week and that they are all about alike as to size and desirability.

Nothing in particular is happening here. I may go to Fargo in a few days to examine some land which is to be sold for the benefit of mother's father's heirs. It has been in the hands of administrators for many years but will be converted soon into money.

Day before yesterday I went to Mr. Mason's annual piano recital and yesterday I saw Miss Burbank for the first time in the bank. She wants me to move the things from her house by June first. She is fat and said she had heard from you recently.

I am getting along but my eye gives some trouble and have to be favored. Dr. Tuborn says that general physical undertone is responsible. I am on a committee to find a successor to Miss Master. Can you help me in the job by finding out where to apply for information concerning likely applicants. Also any (over)

direct suggestions would be welcome. Some of your
nurse friends may know desirable candidates or
if not may be able to put you in the way of
finding some. We need to act as promptly as
possible so will you please do what you can for
us. Miss Watson's name of the Boston Nurses Club
office ought to give good practical advice in such matters.

The day is sunny but rather cold. Chas. D. has
heard from Maynard who is pleased with Lowell, Vt. George
is recalled to Washington this week.
Much love to you all - U.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G.

May 14, 1912.

At the hospital meeting yesterday the work of looking up a new superintendent was put onto Mr. Windsor and me. We are to obtain applications and information concerning applicants and report to the full board. You see I am promptly turning over my duty to you.

The salary which we can pay will probably have to begin at \$60.00 as in the two former cases but there should be a chance for higher pay if successful. When Miss Braaten left she was getting \$75.00 which will be about our limit. Miss Braaten has been living in the nurses home since it became necessary to give up her room in the hospital to patients.

Your arrangement with W. Blodgett to rent the house and at the same time work the farm strikes me as admirable. It will save our new field and prevent running down all round.

I did not really mean to call our new cousin Mrs. Wright. That was a mild pleasantry intended to get even with you for baiting me so often. I supposed you were "in" and am delighted to have obtained a rise for just once.

Yours V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Ernest —

July 19, 1913.

Your letter from Y-p-t. announcing that you are not going to Phila. has come and for the first time in about two weeks I feel as if I knew where you are at. Two letters have gone to Phila. or perhaps there. So you have bought land — a noble purchase — and perhaps you will let me dinner it sometime. I am sure I can if I get a chance. You speak of Miss Perkins' letter but say nothing of Miss Hotchkiss. Miss P. seemed to think she is just the person so I should not employ Miss E. Beatrice Till I can see Miss Hotch'. She was to come and see me but if she has called I must have been out which is quite likely. I will try to see her at once and report. As for Harriette I too should be afraid. I cannot easily imagine the relation and it seems very difficult or rather dangerous. I hope that by this time you have heard from the Anchor Line. The person whose address I have already sent you in one of my letters is H. D. Hoerner, Genl. Pass. Agent, Anchor Line, Buffalo, N.Y. I will enclose check for \$150.00 for tickets and \$60.00 for your O.T.P. Co. common stock dividend. Stick to your eye man. He'll fix you up. V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G. -

May 20. 1912

I have sent answers to 8 questions to Miss Starkweather - also sketch plans and post-card picture. You will have to tell her more about the type of girls who take the training and the house they live in as a Nurses' home.

It is the old Cascade St. house which has been cleaned up and has screen piazzas. I think they are comfortable there though I shall suppose it might be sold.

1. Salary \$60.00 with board, room & washing. Probable advance if successful. Miss Brewster had 75.00 at last.
2. No assistant supt. but we have a young woman who keeps books, makes ordinary purchases, attends to collection of accounts etc. - also answers telephone.
3. Average number of patients is nearly 20.
4. Now 10 pupil nurses
5. No operating room nurse. This work done by supt. assisted by older pupil nurses.
6. Work perhaps lighter in summer but not much difference.
7. Hospital employs one man, one cook, one laundress, one assistant laundress and one or two other maids.
8. Wards are not cropped. Floors are waxed. Floors wiped by nurses. Waxing by men when needed.

Applicants must combine knowledge and experience of nursing and good business and executive qualities. That's all we require. I enclose sketches. Yours W.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G.

May 22, 1912

Time is slipping along and nothing in particular is getting accomplished. Mr. Baker has the matter of settling with the farmers in hand but has been prevented from doing anything by wet weather. I keep busy on small routine matters and don't get as much time as I should like for the more important things.

Last night we had lightning trouble and the city was without light from 9 P.M. until 10 this evening. Mr. Strunk has a caustic current comment in the paper this evening which I shall have to answer tomorrow.

Yesterday we had a bank meeting at which Chas. D. tendered his resignation to take effect June 1. and C.E.G. was elected to fill his place. We will increase the board by adding Messrs. McMahon, Beall, Hannah and, if he will accept, Parsons. Chas. D. is apparently thinking of Battle Creek again. It will do him good to go and be humbled up again. Will you want more than the regular \$300.00 in June R^d to clean up and pay fares etc. If so let me know. We have had an applicant for G.B.W.M.H. in person by a No. Dak. person who says she is sure she can manage the hospital so your Eastern candidates must beware — much love V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest G.

May 24. 1912.

Another very nice letter from you today. I don't know whether it is more difficult than formerly to get maids in F.F. but suspect that it is not easier. Perhaps Mrs. Adams knows more about it. So as you think best about Maynard. Your evident financial crisis makes me enclose check for 300.⁰⁰ and before you receive it you will doubtless have answered my inquiry as to whether you will need more. I still have something over 200.⁰⁰ in bank if you require it. Hoot Lake appears to be rising a little but not rapidly. We are not discouraged. Mr. Barron leaves again for California on Monday (27th) to be gone until about July 1. Today is the finest pleasant one for a long time. Yours only V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G.

May 26, 1912.

It is a warm sunny summery day - also windy and typical of many days such as this region produces in summer. Elizabeth Gray borrowed our kyp yesterday and she and Miss B. are going to take out Mrs. Welch and someone else for Sunday. I judge from Elizabeth's talk that Mrs. Welch needs rest. They were going a week ago but it rained. This afternoon I go to Fargo - also after a week of postponement - and expect to spend Monday and Tuesday in the country looking at land of the estate of David Murray. At last there seems to be a probability that the estate will be settled and closed up and the proceeds distributed to those who have survived the twenty years of administration. Chas. D. does not say where he will go but seems to be intending to go back to Battle Creek. My business is moving slowly - so slowly - but I hope to get to construction work into time to make a good beginning if not to complete ~~the~~ it this year. Did you get my letter about hospital pines? With very much love to all the dear family V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Frank —

May 29. 1912

I got back from N. Dak. this morning after a rather hard trip of railroading and driving — both horse and horseless.

Tonight your Monday postal came saying Cyrus is much better and it was very reassuring to have the information on the same day that I learned of his illness.

I very much hope that your plans will not be interfered with seriously. It would be awful to have to postpone coming until late in July and I don't really think you will have to. You must have received my check by this time or before and I will send more in about June 1st.

Host Lake is still moving slowly but not discouragingly. Much love and regards to thee, dear woman, from your V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

May 30. 1912

F.F. is observing Memorial Day, and everything is quiet so I have been making up Trustees accounts for the half year uninterrupted except by a young man instructor in electricity matters at Wahpeton. The young man wants a job as draftsman and general utility man if we go ahead with Host Lake. He is a nice y.m. and he is to come June 17. if we are then ready to begin.

I do hope very much that you will not be delayed in starting. It was such a good plan that it ought not to fall down. June 14th will be just time for the next child according to your calculations but I am hoping you will be able to detect premonitory signs in time to know whether it will be safe to start.

Chas. D. continues to be troubled with rheumatism and doesn't feel very well. I hope he will go to Bath Creek. With love and hope Your V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest -

June 2, 1912.

I am enclosing a deed which I wish you would sign and have witnessed and acknowledged where you can do so without too much inconvenience. Let it go if it is too much of an undertaking but if you do go to Boston I should like to have the deed fixed.

No word has come from you for several days but I suppose there is something in the way for me by this time and I assume that Cyrus is doing well or you would let me know.

Our diversion of the river plans have run into trouble which may or may not prove very serious.

The farmers appear to have made a combination to hold us up and progress in acquiring the necessary rights has come to a stop. I am going out with Mr. Baker tomorrow morning. He seems rather discouraged over the prospect.

E.E.A. has taken his place in the bank and C.D. is free to do as he pleases. I think Murray is going East for his vacation very soon but C.D. does not say when or whether he will go to Battle Creek. My mind is so occupied with Host L. that I don't seem capable of doing or thinking much of anything but nevertheless

I do think of my dear family and long for the day
when we may be together again at Swan Lake.

The little house is very pleasant and does not seem
to deteriorate much from shutting up - or being shut.

There is a cooking club at Mrs. Bratt's tomorrow
night but I have declined.

Yours own U.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest —

June 5, 1912

It was a pleasure to hear from you again this morning and I will try to arrange for washing, house-cleaning and milk. My automobile is not yet in commission. It takes to long to fit a new battery and other minor fittings but I hope to be able to travel more soon. At present I am very much occupied with the farmers along the river who don't know their own minds but are quite capable of safeguarding themselves by raising prices which they know we cannot pay. We have run into very discouraging conditions — a regular hold-up. Today I felt like giving up as Mr. Baker has already done but tonight I came to an agreement with Martin Rundson (ex saloon keeper) who also is a farmer and now I have new hope. Tonight I go to Uptla. to see one of the river owners but shall be back again tomorrow night. The papers concerning Miss Hanscom have just come. We are now as desirable applications and I hope you will find more for us.

With lots of love V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dear G. —

June 7, 1912

I have been answering a lot of letters in regard to prospective superintendents but we have really very little material to consider seriously.

There is one application from Miss Clara E. Holland which came through Miss Starkweather but without recommendations of any kind which can be submitted to the board.

Will you try to see Miss Holland. Her address is 28. Peterborough St., Boston. Miss Hanscom's papers have been sent to me by the Women's E. & S. but no application from Miss Hanscom. Can you see her also? I wish we might have more applications.

How about the Central Registry for Nurses - 52 E. 34th St. New York - Miss P. Sullivan in charge - It seems to me that I have heard about her before. Do you know whether that is a place to apply for applications?

With love and lots of it

B.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Frank G. -

June 8, 1912

Mrs. Dought will be pleased to supply you with milk for a few days and Mrs. Wilson will go out to clean unless her sister comes at the wrong time to visit her. I am going to the Lake tomorrow (Sunday) and will see Mrs. Wickland if she is there. I saw Miss Birnbach last night. - you know she has some of our goods - and she suggested that she would go out and superintend cleaning but she can not go until after you have arrived in the 20th and that will be too late. She leaves the last of this month for a summer school in a northern town.

My work has not progressed this week but I am still hoping to round up more of the farmers next week. If I can't, things will be in a desperate state. This will reach you only a little before you leave and yet it is nearly two weeks before you will be here. Will you try to see Miss Hanscom and Miss Holland if you can. Yours V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G. -

June 10. 1912.

Today I had your letter telling that L. and J. were both on the sick list and later another letter which informed me that they did not have measles.

It was a great relief to know that you probably could leave on the arranged date. I have been to Swan Lake again today with the plumber and he will have to go again tomorrow to fix a split pipe which had not before been located. He put in a new hot water front and repaired one leak today. As soon as the second leak is stopped I will try to get Mrs. Wikman to go out. She said she could go unless her sister arrived inopportunistly and Mrs. Wicklund and her biggest girl who is now very tall will help any day Mrs. Wikman comes. I will try the Upblad. There will be time for two inspections before you arrive and I will direct applicants to you at C.D.'s house. Mr. Adams is not going East as you doubtless know so I hope Mrs. Adams will come with you. This is probably the last letter you will receive from your man before you leave. - V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest —

June 12, 1912

Your telegram received today was a great disappointment except that I infer from it that Thomas and Lucy are both doing as well as could be expected since you think it possible that they may be able to start after a week's delay. I shall be glad to see Cyrus anyway and think there should be no danger in sending him along with Majorie. He will be pretty good under such circumstances I am sure.

There was quite a job to fix the Swan Lake plumbing which had several split pipes. The advertisement will now have three issues of the Upland to appear in and if there is virtue in Norway we ought to get results.

My affairs look more hopeful but we are still in the woods with obstacles to overcome in the persons of several honest farmers. One of them is reported to prefer settling his disputes in court instead of out of court. Murray is just back from ten days vacation in Chicago and is looking well.

Thank you so much for looking up nurses for me at a time when your hands and head are so full of other things and accept the love and encouragement of your own
V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest Grassy -

June 14. 1912.

It is raining and there is nothing in particular to tell you. I have put off house cleaning until next week when I hope to have it done by Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Wicklund or, if Mrs. Wilson cannot go, by Mrs. Wicklund and Selma.

Mrs. Adams arrived yesterday. I have not yet seen her. Chas. S. and I went to see some Norwegian, Swedish and Danish motion pictures last night but as the men spoke one or more of the said languages it difficult to tell what country we were in at times. The pictures were good however.

On wet days I stay in my office and work on plans and on dry days I go out and visit with farmers along the river and try to induce them to let us divert the waters to Short Lake. It is slow business but a little more hopeful than it was a week ago. I am imagining that Cyrus has started with Mayorie on his first journey without one of his own people. Good luck to him - and love to you. V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest —

June 18, 1912.

These are waiting days. It seems as though my principal business were waiting. I am now waiting for Cyrus and the results of the opening day of the convention at Chicago. After that I shall be waiting for you and the family. Incidentally I am waiting for various and sundry persons to wake up their minds about Short Lake damages. Today I saw the last of the farmers and talked to him for an hour trying to show him that \$350.⁰⁰ was about right for his damages. At the end of that time he finally announced that \$3000. would be sufficient for him.

As I knew he had told someone that he wanted \$2000. it looked as if the total result of my persuasions was to make him raise his price \$1000. which was not flattering.

But when I got back to town another one came in and settled at my price although he had held out for two weeks so I felt a little better. Mrs. Adams has asked me to supper tomorrow night to meet Cyrus who is to stay with her I believe. It is warmer today so I hope the voyage will not be unpleasant. It will be good to see you all again and I hope nothing will prevent your getting started on the 21st. Bon voyage and love
B.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

June 16, 1912.

It has rained for two days and now it is cold and cloudy with wind from the Northwest. I hope there will be a change before the ship gets to the Lake Superior or they will find it too cold for comfort. Elizabeth Gray has just been in to borrow the key to Swan Lake for today. They are courageous — she and Miss B. I have not yet seen Mrs. Adams but shall probably call this afternoon or evening. Charles D. is nursing his rheumatism and building a fire to keep him warm.

I am putting him an electric pad to take the place of the hot water bottle which he finds helpful. I saw the CFW's last Sunday. Myra looked as well as usual but I think she is not well. G. has been poorly this spring but now seems better and goes about his business. Mother informs me that she will leave Michigan about June 22 for Chicago — then to St. Paul & Mpls. before coming to Fergus Falls so she will probably be here in July. I hope you will be able to report about nurses before you leave as it is becoming urgent to select a successor to Miss Braaten. We have one applicant who would be acceptable unless you can highly recommend someone else. Please let me know by wire if you are not coming on the 2nd unless you have already written. I have not yet heard how the children are getting on with their marks. S.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Sacred ls.

June 19, 1912

I have just received your letter telling that you cannot come until June 25. which is a disappointment. Tomorrow Cyrus should be here which will help to alleviate.

In looking up nurses I wish you would impress upon them the necessity of making a formal application addressed to Mr. W. B. Windsor, Lay. if they wish to take the position. Mr. Windsor has one application from a Miss Perkins who was considered at the time Miss Braaten was chosen. He thinks her references good and would be willing to take her. This is the principal reason for urgency. I think it would be well to have all the people whom you see send applications if they will. It will put you in a less responsible position if they will do this and at the same time send their references. With love Vans.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

June 24. 1912.

This is to cheer you in your way so be cheered. Cyrus seems very well and he eats much better than he used to. He has gone to the Snyghts' to play this morning taking the express wagon with him. The Ex. wagon has been a great resource. Yesterday we went to the lake in the afternoon and he wanted to bring back books but I thought he had better not read at present. He wears his cap in hot weather because he says it protects his eyes from the sun so there is perhaps some weakness there still.

Unless something occurs to prevent I will meet you in Duluth to cheer you some more. Good luck to you and lots of love
V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest G. —

Nov. 9. 1912.

The journey was uneventful. I stopped at Chicago but did not find my man. Another man did just as well and gave me the answer which I expected — that they were not interested in halves of anything but must have all or nothing.

Mr. Adams and Mr. Jewett met me in St. Paul and we spent all the morning going over plans of bank fixtures with a contractor. We prefer all marble for our counters and partitions but don't yet know whether we can afford it. Chas. Ames took me home for the night. Catharine's baby is two days old and she looks thin. She had a hemorrhage and was in a dangerous condition for a day or two but I believe the trouble is not likely to be of a permanent kind. The little Sam is very fat and healthy. He talks wordless talks continuously and is very pleasant.

The new house is nearly completed though work was suspended for over a week on Catharine's account. There are 24 rooms and many of them are large. The effect is grand and spacious and the exterior is improved as well as huge and many gabled. I came up with Mr. Barrows who was also in St. Paul after going to see Mr. Gilbert. The weather is good and nothing

exciting has happened. Our cases will come up in about two weeks or less and in the mean time I shall probably dickie with some of the contestants with the object of settling if possible before trial. Some of them will have to be tried anyway.

Your letter came up on the train with me from St Paul and was delivered soon after arrival. It was good to hear from you and know that all was well. I enclose letter from Miss Hagstrom with money order for \$10.00. You will have to enclose it and return to me and I will get the money and do whatever you direct with it. Probably you had better enclose just as written on the face of order. (Mrs. v.w.)

The Edison Co. and Telephone Co. bills are also enclosed as well as the By-Laws of the Athenaeum which were in the envelope with your certificate.

Geo. Mike is still staying at Chas. D's and I wonder if he will ever be able to leave. Chas. D. is trying a new doctor manipulator recommended by C. J. who is said to be much improved by the treatment. What it is like I could not make out.

With love to all the little people
and their
baw.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Nov. 12. 1912.

My dearest -

You are quite neglected but I will try to do better. Sunday afternoon Chas. D. went out with John Samitza and family. It was a beautiful day and I took Geo. Miles to Dayton Hoelaw and then for a ride E. of town. In the evening I was invited to tea with the Adamsons and delivered your box of tags and received thanks on your acct. Monday evening I spent with cousin Leonard Erickson discussing a settlement with one of the farmers. Tomorrow evening we have another session and I hope to settle the case without trial but am not over confident. Today I have been out surveying on the enemy's land getting evidence as to damages and tomorrow I expect to continue. I also have to see neighbor farmers and find out whether they will be available as witnesses as to damages. From what I hear they are not well disposed toward the enemy and would be glad to swat him but I have not interviewed them yet. Our first trial is expected to occur next Monday and I shall be busy getting ready for it. Did you take all Swan Lake keys home with you. I haven't found any yet and would run out and take a look some Sunday if the weather holds good. Let me know how Cyrus comes on with his eye troubles.

With love V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

Nov. 15, 1912.

The plot is thickening. We are collecting evidence for our first suit on next Monday. Rame Brown arrives tonight to take charge of the trial of the case. Tomorrow he will want to see the witnesses and find out what sort of testimony they can give. I have been out this afternoon with the County Surveyor to verify some work which I had taken. He was all that I had been told. It took some time to explain that $3/10$ was not the same as $3/100$ of a foot and when this important fact had been grasped he didn't know whether to add or subtract. But he got through all right and may turn out to be a star witness. He is one of the plain people all right. Altogether it is an exciting business but I could endure ~~the~~ total abstinence from it.

Murray came home yesterday without warning — just as he went. He doesn't confide in me where he has been or what he was after except that he paid Geo. & M. a visit in Washington. I have not seen Miss Perkins yet which is disgraceful but I shall try to soon. Mr. Kidder has ordered the range and I hope it will be there as soon as the wiring can be done. Love to the boys
Thy V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest -

Nov. 17. 1912.

Today I have been chauffeur for Mr. Rame
Brown and Jas. A. Brown who are to sit
together in our case tomorrow. They wanted to
go over the ground so as to know what they
will talk about. Incidentally I have made
a map to show our general plan.

The day has been beautiful and not too
cold for driving. The change may come at
any time now as we have passed the middle
of November. This is the first time I have
been connected with an important law suit and
so you must excuse me if I don't seem to
have a mind for anything else. It doesn't
make me nervous more than other more
common affairs. I have seen Miss Perkins
in the street and had a little chat. Her assistant
is here but not Mrs. Stockman. She thinks that is
Miss P. thinks, the assistant will do well.

Ys.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

Nov. 23. 1912

It is Saturday night. We have been in court all the week on one case. Tonight we got our verdict from the jury. The objectors had appealed from awards of \$500. and \$600. demanding \$3000. and \$5000. The jury gives them \$600. and \$425. — raising the first one \$100. and cutting the second one \$175. or a total reduction of \$75. On the whole it is a complete victory and our counsel are jubilant. In his closing argument Mr. Gunderson appealed directly to all the prejudices he could think of. The jury were all farmers and he appealed to their prejudice against grasping corporations and attacked all our witnesses as city men who sit in offices while the farmer works. He spoke particularly, but without naming me, of the difference between working for your daily bread and sitting in an office estimating the cubic feet of water that run over a dam for profit of the promoters. In fact he waved the flag and called upon all their national patriotism to do justice to his poor clients — and they dare it. Rouse Brown said he was not going to insult the jury by telling them

how to interpret the testimony offered. He sized them up as a pretty good lot and decided to leave the facts for them to decide upon and the outcome proved that he guessed pretty well.

We have settled all other cases that were to come to trial so that at present the ground is cleared. We do not know yet whether an appeal to the Supreme Court will be taken by the parties to the trial case. They have said that they will appeal but they may be sobered by this experience. We do not know yet.

The appeal to the Supreme Court, if taken, will not be for larger damages but to stop us entirely from diverting the river. So if they appeal we shall still have to

buy them off unless they demand too much rather than try out the case. A whole week in court is trying

and I am glad it is over. Your nice letter came tonight and I will use the envelope so thoughtfully provided. My love to those dearest - B.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G. -

Sunday, Nov. 24, 1912

You asked me about Russian olive. I think I should prefer a mixed hedge to anything else but it would be nice to have some Russian olive in it.

It seems to me that a hedge of any one thing would require more formal treatment and care than a mixed hedge. If one shrub dies another of the same kind and size should be found for it if the hedge is all of one kind.

Iowa Scotia and two Hampshire sound to me more likely to fit than professional Irish and I hope you will find them fitted or fitable.

Mr. Bannan is going to Cal. on Dec. 5 and so I must hustle to get things arranged before that time as far as possible. There is a lot of loose ends to be tied up. We can decide what to do in no time but corporation affairs must be kept in decent and orderly condition and it all takes time. Business is satisfactory and you will probably get your 6% on O.T.P. Co. common stock - you have \$1000.

The weather continues good and the ground is barely frozen. The changes may come at any time but we are thankful for the days of grace - also those to come with G.
Yours V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Darkest -

Thursday
~~Sunday~~, Nov. 28, 1912

A day or two since I received a letter from Miss Krause, that is, you received one which I opened by mistake. It is enclosed with this and you will see that she sends you \$10.⁰⁰. You had better endorse the draft payable to me and I will get the money or perhaps it would be better to endorse it payable to Miss Perkins and I will hand it to her. You should send the money order also. Mrs. Adams invited the three Wrights to Thanksgiving dinner with Miss Perkins today. I walked back with Miss P. She is just sending out the little Catharine child today ~~to~~ with a family of Americans who live 35 miles S.W. of Wahpeton and are much pleased to get the little child. Business is light over the holiday. She is letting three nurses go - I think for the good of the service - and will have nine left which should be enough. She says the new homemaker is useful. Her authority is resented by the nurses to some extent but Miss Perkins thinks they will get used to it. I told her today that she must send me my hospital bills. She looks well as far as I could judge. These are very busy days. I have worked out a scheme to which Mr. Barrows agrees by which Mr. Kidder will probably take an interest in the C.T.P.C. without having to put up any cash and which will make terms of payment as easy as possible and give him an opportunity to make a profit in the stock if the company makes good. It will be his business to see that it does make good. I shall feel more easy about

the whole deal if he has a proprietary interest in the success of the business instead of merely his salary and I think he ought to share in the results of his own work instead of working entirely for our benefit. I remember something you said last summer which indicated that Mrs. Kidder did not wholly like the idea of his working entirely for a salary with the lack of independence which such a situation naturally imposes. He is coming over in the morning and I hope we can arrange it. Mrs. Adams tells me that Marjorie did not go to Lincoln for Thanksgiving day. She sends her love to you. And so do I. My dear Sir. V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest -

Sunday, Dec. 1, 1912.

The long waited dividend on O. F. P. Co. common stock has arrived and your share - 6% on \$1000. - is enclosed. This is for 1910. Dividends for 1911 and 1912 are still on the waiting list but it is pleasant to rub off one year from the back numbers. We have arranged with Mr. Kidder to take \$15000. of the new stock now being issued on terms of payment which will permit the dividends to help pay for the stock if there are any dividends. It will be his business to try to make dividends by getting the business so I feel that the move is in the right direction.

Mr. Barron goes next Thursday but we have got our new business arrangements pretty well cleaned up. We are increasing the capital stock or rather authorizing an increase to \$1,000,000. and are providing for a \$1,000,000. bond issue - all of which sounds grand but is really only providing for possible future growth - if we grow - but creates no new obligations at this time. ~~except~~ The new bonds and stock will be issued only as we need funds for new developments and can find a market for our securities.

This must sound materialistic to you on the Ox-Bow Road but it is what I have been applying myself to here in F.F. Last night I suppose the lights were turned on in the city of Fergus.

The last I knew the current had been thrown on the line, and I suppose the lights were connected later.

The thing we are principally interested in now is to make settlement if possible with the objecting farmers and ~~stop~~ ^{stop} them from appealing their case to the Supreme Court. There will be considerable expense if we have to carry the case up and more important still is the danger of being completely checked in our whole project. The farmers are wrathful and their attorney Mr. Family is also wrathful so it is difficult to even get into touch with them.

Get the front hall papered and painted by all means. It looks pretty shabby for the main entrance to the house. It would be fine to make the additions this winter while I am home but it may be impracticable to do it. The weather is the obstacle but if the winter should be mild perhaps it might be done. We are still having mild weather here. Yesterday the ground thawed again and the river is not wholly frozen yet. Lake Alice is badly frozen and Markham Lavy went through and had a narrow escape, I think. He was riding a ~~tricycle~~ ^{bicycle} on the ice and the Rene boy was with him.

I also enclose December check for \$350.⁰⁰ to provide for the high cost of living and am your very loving U.

I think I shall go up to the CGW clan this afternoon.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest G. -

Dec. 2. 1912.

Let me try to answer the questions in order -

- 1 - If copper for the little rooflet is high I think I should try galvanized iron which can be had in a single sheet and will at least avoid the danger of leakage through joints. Leave it for me if you want to and can get along a little while without a new rooflet.
- 2 - I will try to secure casters for the washing machine. There are none here but I will see what I can do.
- 3 - I haven't any recollection of the woman named who demonstrated the Hughes apparatus in F.F. and
- 4 - I don't know about the portable electric light.
- 5 - Send me the Miss Hagstrom P.O. money order and I will see what is to be done with it. Even if I have to send it back again to you it will take only a few days and we can work it out some way.

About my coming home I am now trying to get done so as to be with you Christmas and I think I can do it. I wish I could come much sooner but it doesn't look probable. There are a lot of contracts with farmers to be settled before Jan. 1. and while I think I can hasten matters somewhat it will not be possible to do it all within a few days.

Thou may well believe I am concerned to hear
that thou is tired after Thanksgiving and I hope that
the stress of that day will pass and that thou will
be in better condition when this arrives with my love
to cheer thee. — also to cheer thee I will enclose
a bit of humor perpetrated by the Battle Lake Review
and copied into the F.F. Journal a day or two ago. I had
not thought to let you see it for fear you will make
a little humor yourself about ^{it and use} same day when opportunity
may offer. When I get back we must carry out
the not too far away, just far enough away vacation
trip which we talked of and it would be well for
you to make many plans from which to choose.
Above all don't forget for a bit of a minute that thy
man is very fond of thee and with all his faults just
love him some because he wants you to. Y.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest -

Dec. 3. 1912.

Today I have been preparing deeds so as to be ready for the settlements we have to make soon. This afternoon there was a bank meeting at which the proposed alterations of the bank bldg. were discussed. The plan is to move the stairway from the front to the side of the building and then take in the store on the front so as to make the banking room occupy the whole width of the front. The cost is estimated at between \$15,000. and \$20,000. So are objected except Chas. D. and he made a vigorous attack on the project. He thinks it unnecessary extravagance and not demanded by the business of the bank. He doesn't think that fine rooms make successful banks any more than fine clothes make people. In the end a motion was adopted authorizing the improvements. He is cheerful over it but not convinced. The other bank is finishing up a fine new bldg. and now the Seaside is considering ~~the~~ a new bldg. and it seemed to everyone except C. D. that we must do something to keep our standing or run the risk of dropping back into second place. Perhaps we shall anyway but we all want to make a try for

holding the lead. I think the new interior will be quite sumptuous with marble, tiles, grilles etc. and a real safety deposit vault.

There is cooking club at Miss Angus' tonight and I had a chance to go but declined. Chas. & I went after taking supper at home as a wise precaution.

Now I am going to write a word to Thomas in reply to his letter about the weather. much love from your U.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dear Mr. -

Dec. 4. 1912.

We are having astonishing weather here too. Today it is warm as spring and Chas. D. actually had a window open in his living room. The change at the bank will deprive him of desk room which he has had and I have offered him the front office (formerly Dr. Whittaker's) in my bldg. If the weather holds fair tomorrow I will try to go to Swan Lake to get your books and have a last look at the house. Barrows goes tomorrow morning which makes me feel that my time will be coming soon too - J. S. I should like very much to make a settlement with these objecting farmers before I go. Founley is probably the chief difficulty. He doesn't want to settle and will advise them not to. They are probably tied up with him in such a way that they can't settle without his permission. Thy last letter was a great relief to me. It was so cheery and if represents your sentiments then I am glad - glad. Love to her and to them

V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Draust

Dec. 5. 1912.

It has come at last, the winter, During the night it began to blow and snow and ^{now} it is clearing and turning cold and the sun looks like a real winter sun.

I may not be able to go to Swam Lake at all but will do so if possible.

Whitlock's weekly had the enclosed clipping this morning. I suppose it is what Miss B. wants.

Both Whitlock's and the Daily Journal have been ordered sent to So. Lincoln so you can keep thoroughly posted in regard to life in our midst.

Mr. Parsons saw Col. Fournier this morning but he doesn't want to talk settlement. He puts it into his clients who, he says, are urging him to continue.

We are going ahead as cheerfully as may be under the circumstances. Barrows got away this morning just as the winter is beginning and I have hopes also.

With love for all of you and some for Hattie H. also V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G. —

Dec. 6, 1912.

Nothing in particular has happened today. It is cold. Winter is really here but the wind is already in the South again and it is not likely to be very cold just yet.

Next week I intend to begin settling up with the farmers who have given us options. We have begun a sale of preferred stock to raise money but I shall not wait for that. The bank has money to loan and it costs no more to pay interest to a bank than to stockholders so I shall borrow and then pay back as fast as we can sell the new stock.

Your new Deere & Co. dividend has been sent here instead of to Co. Lincoln and I will have the address changed. Don't you want to keep the check in account of the pictures. They ought to add to the legend under the picture the words "for a consideration." It won't be long now so cheer up. Yours V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Frank G. —

Sunday Dec. 5. 1912

Yesterday morning the weather suddenly warmed up again but didn't feel as though it was going to stay warm so I seized the opportunity to run out to Swan Lake. ^{In the afternoon it grew as suddenly cold and was below zero this morning.} The roads were all right except for some drifted snow just beyond the top of the big hill. There I had to put on all power at low gear and chug through snow up to the hubs. The front screen door of the South piazza had been left unhooked and the door from the guest room to the front piazza was also unhooked on the inside so that anyone might have walked in but there was no sign that anyone had done so. Everything appeared to be in good order and I do not think anyone had been there. I found the red book by Mrs. Parker but couldn't find the blue one by Brock Stepfed nor the Star finder. I will enquire of Miss Perkins regarding both. The red book and the surveyor shall come along with me in the happy not distant future. Chas. D. had Miss Angus, Miss McLean and Mrs. Angus at dinner today. They enquired about you. Mrs. Jas. A. Mann has a new Victrola and is giving parties to exploit its wonders. I have not been bid. Geo. B. and Margaret leave Washington next Saturday. Chas. D. says Margaret had written him that they are both "terribly excited" over coming home. Chas. D. wonders how Geo. B. would look "terribly excited." Much love, dearie, V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

Dec. 10. 1912.

Every thing is progressing satisfactorily but there doesn't seem to be much to write about.

I am closing up settlements with the farmerlog and if nothing happens to prevent should be able to get away about the middle of next week. I shall probably not go directly but shall stop at one or two little towns to investigate possibilities of future business for O. T. P. Co. and also in Wpls. and Chicago. But I hope to be home a few days before Christmas anyway. Miss Perkins says that as you paid for all the McLean furnishings you ought to keep the money that is coming in from the nurse. I shall see her again as it was difficult to get much talk yesterday at Truster meeting. I am going to send Thomas a check as there is nothing else I can do here. It is a question whether 5 or 2.⁵⁰ but I incline to the smaller amount as more appropriate. My love to thee V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest G. -

Dec. 13. 1912

Thomas boy is by this time in bed and I hope he has had a happy birthday. I am putting with odds and ends of things getting to leave. Tomorrow I am to go over the specifications of the bank changes with the contractor and I think it likely that a contract will then be entered into for doing the work. It will be quite grand. The F.F. bank is crowding us and we have to do something to keep up with the procession.

Miss Perkins says she will write to you about the McLean room finances. She seems to think she has too much money for it. Possibly there are other uses. I have just paid hospital bills for you and my mother. Miss Perkins was very loath to give me bills. She hasn't the Brooke Herford book nor the star finder. They may be at Swan Lake but knowing my weakness I hunted everywhere I could think of - That reminds me that I didn't look in bureau drawers.

I will enclose check for the unusual items - Miss Wells, Mrs. Snelling and Mr. Ryding - \$213.⁰⁰ and hope you will be relieved as to ordinary bills thereby.

Geo. B. and Margaret will arrive just after I leave. Murray is still here but I think he doesn't intend to stay long. With love, V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Draught -

Dec. 16. 1912.

Business is pretty well cleaned up and I am hoping to get away tomorrow (Tuesday) though it may be necessary to stay until Wednesday. I shall go over to Wahpeton in the afternoon and get a train from there down the road a few miles toward St. Paul where I have to get off and view a small town or two. It may be necessary to put in two or three days at this. Then I go to Mpls. and St. Paul and shall stop there about one day - possibly two. Then to Chicago where I have to stop part of a day and then home. It is difficult to say just when I can arrive but I will telegraph you from Mpls. or St. Paul and by that time can make a close guess. The weather is being very good to me. Only a few days of cold and not very cold there. Now it is nearly raining. I hope that the real winter change won't come till I get away.

Mr. & Mrs. Adams are considering a winter trip from New York or New Orleans to Panama and want our society. They don't want to do the long trip but think about two weeks or a little more via Fruit Steamers would be about right. With love, V.