Solon J. Buck Papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Version 3
August 20, 2018

The University of Minnesota

College of Science, Literature, and the Arts

Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Herbert Kellar
Palo Alto
California
c/o General Delivery

Telegram Nov. 1914

Would you consider a temporary appointment - history - U. of Minnesota at 900 for rest of year? ~~Medieval or~~ European and English. ~~Also~~ ~~Chance for permanent place~~
Answer by letter immediately.

S. J. Buck.

AUG 30 1915

August 27 1915.

Dear Solon,

We got here Saturday morning and spent the next two days looking for a place to live. We finally took an apartment on the south side, 430 E. 44th. Street. It is half a block from Grand Boulevard in a good neighborhood and close to the elevator and surface cars. I am working at Mrs. McCormick's house on the north side and it takes just about as long to get over there as it did to go to St. Paul. We looked on the north side for a place but did not find anything we liked and besides all my old friends, whom I want Dorothy to know, are on the south side so we decided to come over here.

Our furniture has just arrived in town but we haven't yet got it at the house so we are still dining off the radiator and putting up with similar discomforts. I was afraid it would be hot down here but I must have brought the cold weather with me.

The library contains very interesting material. It will make about three thousand separate pieces I think. This is exclusive of the correspondence which I have not yet seen. So far, I have been working with the agricultural periodicals of which they have a large collection, running back to 1819. In a number of cases these are European as well as American. The French and German, however, are mostly typewritten extracts which bear on the subject. I am beginning by making a bibliography of all the material so that I can find out what they have and make preparations to get what they lack.

As soon as we can get our things unpacked, I will fix up the report on the archives and send it to you. Don't forget to send those notes on the William Pitt Murray papers as I can work on them in the evenings.

Have you been swimming lately ? There are a number of good beaches here but I have not yet investigated them. Give my regards to Mr. Ford and to Augie when you see them. Remember me to your mother and father. Dorothy says to tell your mother not to be alarmed if she gets a letter from her. I dont go home to lunch and consequently spend my noon hours investigating the ghetto district which is not far from where I work. I am rapidly acquiring a first hand knowledge of all the available eating places in that section of Chicago but with one exception I am afraid they compare very badly with the places we went to in St. Paul. Don't forget that our latch string is out when you come to Chicago.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert.

August 30, 1915

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:

I was very glad indeed to receive your letter this morning. We have all been wondering if the Kellars had forgotten their Minnesota friends, but I realized that you would be very busy and thought that you would write in the course of time. Mother will be very glad indeed to hear from Mrs. Kellar.

We finally succeeded in securing the Miner house and moved last Monday. We are slowly getting settled, and I am sure that we will like it there very much. We have lots of room there, and should you have the opportunity to visit Minneapolis, we would expect you to stay with us.

The Bulletin for August is now in press, and will be out in a week. I wrote a short note on the Murray papers, and selected five or six of them for publication. I spent some time in looking over the collection, and found your notes very useful. I am sending them to you under separate cover, and will be very glad indeed to have you fix them up for me. I want sometime to publish a calendar of the collection, and these notes would save a lot of time. If it makes no difference to you, however, I would like to have you get the copy of the archive report ready

for me before doing anything further on the Murray papers. It happened just the other day that someone wanted to know what there is in the way of census records in the secretary of state's office, and your report would have answered the question very nicely if it had been here.

A day or two after you left I had a letter from Libby, who is secretary of the North Dakota Historical Society, stating that their curator, who has active charge of the work of the society in Bismarck, had resigned, and asking me if I could recommend someone for the place. The salary is $1800.00. I wrote Libby that had the request some a month ago, I would have had no difficulty in recommending a first-class man for the position, but unfortunately he had accepted another place.

We had Krey over to dinner yesterday, and then drove out to Minnetonka and back in the afternoon. Mrs. Krey was not feeling well enough to go out. She does not seem to get much better, and I would not be surprised if she should decide to spend the winter with her father in Texas. He went back about a week ago, having heard that his place was badly damaged by the storm, and a relative who was staying in the house was killed.

The cool weather, combined with the strenuous labors of moving, put the kibosh on swimming for me; but I am hoping that there will some opportunities before the lake freezes up.

Let me hear from you frequently. I am very much interested in your work and want to know how it develops. Be sure to present your letter of introduction to Dr. Schmidt. I mentioned you in a letter to him the other day and stated that you would probably look him up.

Sincerely yours,

September 21, 1915.

Mr. H. A. Keller,

430 E. 44th St.,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:

Enclosed you will find a check and note which came to the office at the University. I received a part of the carbon copy report on the Archives and hope to receive the rest at your convenience.

I had a very busy time last week with the opening of the University and the meeting of the State Library Association at Minnetonka.

Everything seems to be running smoothly now. Let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

SJB-P.

Enc. 2.

October 26, 1915

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar
430 E. 44th St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:-

I have just come across a sketch of Cyrus H. McCormick in a book entitled Leading American Inventors by George Iles, published in Toronto, but copyrighted in 1912 by Henry Holt & Co. The book is one of a series entitled Biographies of Leading Americans. If you have not seen this sketch of McCormick, you will undoubtedly be interested in it.

I arrived in Minneapolis safely about eleven o'clock Sunday; went for a ride in the afternoon, and then worked until half past one at night to make up for it. However, I am very glad that you persuaded me to remain over until the later train, for I enjoyed the dinner and visit with you and Mrs. Kellar very much. Mother was very much pleased to learn that Mrs. Kellar is expecting to come up during the holidays.

Sincerely yours

November 6, 1915

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar

430 East 44th St.,

Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Kellar:-

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your report on the governor's office. Many thanks.

Very truly yours

DEC 20 1915

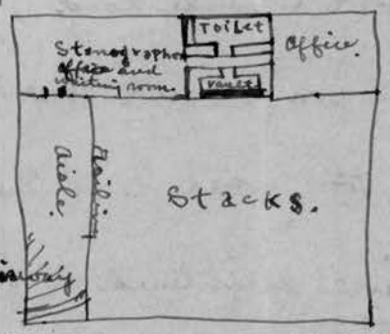
December 17, 1915.

Dear Solon:-

I have been putting in my evenings on my thesis the last month. It sure seems good to be working on it. As I am working it up it falls into four chapters. The last two I think would make interesting papers and I may try to get them published when I get them done. Several maps are necessary also to trace the actual observance of the Interdict and I have accordingly taken an architects outfit into myself lately and am making the maps on the dining room table, which I find does admirably for a work bench.

Dorothy has been taking much exercise lately - and the other day walked out to 63rd street and back, about five miles I thought from the route she took. That was alright - but the next day she repeated the affair - and this time there was an icy wind abroad - and as a result she has accumulated an interesting cold - which threatened to put her in bed, but I remembered my grandmother's sovereign remedy - goose grease and the cold has been put to flight.

They have started the architect on the building where it is proposed to place the records I am working with - and I suppose in a few months it will be ready. I will draw you a plan of it. What do you think of it? The proportions I perceive, now that I look at it, are a trifle off. However I think you can make it out.



The Tribune the other morning said they had seen an open letter in which Sotané intimated that MacLaughlin was a grafter or something equally startling. It was in connection with the mix-up in the American Historical Association. Have you seen the letter. MacLaughlin said the charges were too absurd to discuss.

We have been having cold weather of late and snow as well. I guess that it began in Minneapolis with the Chicago-Minnesota game. Did you freeze - I hear it was rather chilly - all except the score.

There are some war pictures here which the correspondents of the Daily News got in Germany in the last few months which are really worth seeing. If they take them to Minneapolis you do not want to miss them. I stood in line half an hour to get in at the Fine Arts Theatre on Michigan Ave. where they are showing them. They brought the war home to me, as nothing I have read has done. One night about a month ago Dorothy and I felt festive, and went to the Revue of 1915 at the Garrick. It was quite a festive show. Afterwards we went to the Dutch Room of the New Morrison and watched the dancing for awhile. That is about all the entertainment we have had since I saw you. I have not had time, I have been too busy.

The program of the Association meeting in Washington sounds interesting. I was surprised not to find your name on it. You generally appear in it somewhere. How is the seminar you are giving this year, getting along. Have you got any good students.

I heard a good story recently. And old southern planter was camping and sent Jim his negro servant down to a creek to get a bucket of drinking water. Presently Jim returned greatly frightened with the empty bucket dangling along behind. The following conversation then ensued.

The Planter - (surprised -) Jim why didn't you get that water!

Jim - Massa - I couldn't bring no water - there's an alligator down in that air creek - most a mile long. I's too scared.

Planter. Nonsense Jim - that alligator won't hurt you. Go back and get the water.

Jim. No No Massa - I can't. I's too scared of that alligator.

Planter. (laughing) Jim that alligator is lots more frightened of you, than you are of it. Go get the water.

Planter (turning away) (after a moment sees that Jim is still standing in the same spot) (Impatiently) Well, What's the matter now.

Jim - (Earnestly). you sure marse that, that air alligator is lots more frightened of me than I is of it?

Planter - Yes.

Jim - Then I aint going to get no water from that creek.

Planter - Why?

Jim - Cause Masse if that air alligator is more frightened of me than I is of it - That water aint fit to drink!

Yours Sincerely,
Herbert.

430 E. 44th Street.

December 27, 1915

Mr. Herbert A. Kellar

430 E. 44 St.,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Herbert:-

Your letter arrived this morning and I enjoyed it very much.

I was intending to drop you a line this morning to tell you about my plans for the Washington trip. I expect to go down to Chicago Christmas night on the Chicago, Great Western, arriving at the Grand Central Station Sunday morning at 8:55. Will leave the same station on the Baltimore and Ohio at 10:45 A. M., arriving at Washington at 8:45 A. M. Monday morning. I will be delighted if you can arrange to join me in Chicago.

Mother is looking forward to Mrs. Kellar's visit.

The contractor started work on our building a couple of weeks ago, but I very much fear that yours will be done first.

Sincerely yours