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June 4, 1919.

W. F. Brooks

Mr. George Horace Lorimer,
Editor, Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Lorimer:

The opening chapter of your current serial entitled "Free Air" by Mr. Sinclair Lewis is creating a great deal of unfavorable comment in Minnesota, owing to the fact that it is appearing at the opening of our tourist season, picturing the roads in Minnesota as actually impassable. Aside from that, however, the story bids fair to be entertaining.

Minnesota prides itself upon the condition of its highways and is just now in the midst of a campaign for a constitutional amendment which is unique in legislation. In brief, it proposes the adoption of an amendment to the constitution which creates a definitely described system of highways of approximately seven thousand miles in extent, reaching into every part of the state of Minnesota, every mile of which ultimately is to be a paved roadway. There are so many features of this plan which I believe you would find to be well worthy of a special article in the Post.

Minnesota has in this respect taken the lead of all states in the union and is the first one to lay out its main road system in the constitution of the state so it can never be changed nor can the location of the roads become a matter of political barter.

This Association would be very glad to have you detail a staff man to prepare an article on the proposed constitutional road system or, if you do not find that to be practicable, we would be pleased to have an article on the subject prepared and submit it to you. I think you would find such an article very popular with your advertising clientele especially those advertising road materials, motor cars, motor trucks and accessories.

May I not hear from you on this subject?

Yours very truly,

H. G. Davis
Secretary.

HGD.B.

315 South Broad Street,
Mankato, Minnesota.
June 10, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

This damned fool Davis gets my goat. First, he lies about the Minnesota roads. Then, he doesn't appreciate my putting Minnesota on the map -- and I'm the only writer doing it. Third, reading between the lines of his letter to you, he tries to threaten you with loss of advertising -- Gawd only knows what advertising -- if you don't come out and inform the world that however rotten other states may be, this one state is perfect.

But in my letter to him, copy of which enclosed, I try not to show any bad temper, without, at the same time, being too meek.

It happens that one of the directors of the association -- Hohman of Mankato -- is my banker, and I'm going to show him the letter to Davis before sending it off.

Thank you for ~~man~~ sending me Davis's letter, and I do hope I've answered it wisely. Round here, I've been getting more praise about Free Air than about almost anything I've ever written, and far from people being sore about the bad roads, they all chuckle, "Golly, that was just my experience last week -- glad you wrote it -- maybe it will help the good roads ~~man~~ amendment through."

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

P.S. I showed Davis's letter, and my letter to him, to Hohmann -- whose name I have ringed, at the head of Davis's letter. He thot my letter was all right, and commented, "Davis is foolish. Everybody knows that most Minnesota roads are poor. I can't get out to my own place in the country, eleven miles from here. Davis ought to appreciate the notice you're giving Minnesota, and ought to know that if his letter were quoted publicly, it would hurt instead of help the good roads campaign. Davis is coming down here Thursday, and I'll tell him so."

Selah! Gawd what a fuss over nothing a man like Davis can start. He is an ex cement salesman. As an ~~man~~ advertising man -- he's a good authority on cement.

June 11th, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I have asked Irvin
Cobb to take a hack at the eight-hour
day in the kitchen. Sorry you didn't
see a story in it, but let us hope that
Brother Cobb will.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis

L

June 12th, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Your answer to Mr. Davis is neither soft nor scrappy and it covers the ground in exactly the right way, I think. I am very much obliged to you for the trouble that you have gone to in this matter. We try to answer ~~all~~ complaints that come to the Saturday Evening Post, even when the writers of them are unreasonable.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L

454

Mankato, Minn.
June 12.

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

The Davis who wrote to you was in town today to address some bankers; came to see me; was not only placated by my letter but also voluntarily stated that he hadn't meant to suggest, in his letter to you, that I wasn't accurate about Minnesota roads. In fact, he said that he was glad to have them ~~described~~ described, as a help to the good roads campaign. What, apparently, he was after in his letter to you was publicity for the Minnesota good roads scheme, which fixes them in an amendment to the constitution. It really seems to be an interesting scheme, and might be worth looking into for an article by Forrest Crissey or some one like that.

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

June 16th, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Mr. Davis came across
with a handsome I-didn't-mean-it letter
this morning. Quite a little joker!

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L

June 19th, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Won't you send me a nice
unframed photograph of yourself for
my Who's Who gallery of the great and the
near-great at the farm?

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L



June 27th, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you. A fine Greenwich
Village pose..

I am off today for the Coast
and expect to be back about August 1st. Please
help the boys out with some good stories while
I'm away.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L

Mankato, Minn.,
June 25.

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

I am very much flattered
at being admitted to the farm and hasten
to get in while the water 's warm.

This unmounted photograph is the only one
I have, and the Mankato photographers,
while estimable citizens and sound play-
ers of red-dog and casino, are not long
on art. But anyway, it's probably the
best photograph I'll ever have taken --
i.e., it positively makes me good-look-
ing.

Sincerely yours,

Sielan Lewis

June 28, 1919

Dear Mr. Lewis :

Enclosed find herewith reassignment of
rights in your serial - Free Air. Will you
kindly acknowledge its receipt?

Yours very truly,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis

N-L
Enclosure

315 South Broad Street,
Mankato, Minnesota.
July 1, 1919.

Dear Miss Neall:

The reassignment of rights in
Free Air is safely received, and permit me
to thank you.

You may not believe it -- oh, I know what
you think of Mankato, from your proud
stone Quaker house -- but Arch Patterson
has bought a Marmon, and Bill Schmaltz
is thinking of changing his flivver for
an Overland.

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

July 7, 1919

Dear Mr. Lewis :

Where did you get that stuff about my
proud stone Gusker house? Next time you come
you'd better stay a little longer and then you
will appreciate the humility of the entire outfit.
we are using up stories at a tremendous rate these
days.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis
A-H

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY

7/20/20 191

M

Sat Eve Post
Post Col'l

Dear Sir:

The tolls upon your telegram of 19th
to Sinclair Lewis
1814 - 16th St N.W.
Washn D.C.

were not paid at destination, the reason given being that

party out of town
say don't know if he
is coming back

Please pay the amount, \$ 91 cts to the
bearer, and oblige

Yours truly,

Postal 630 Chestnut St.

RULE 12.—An answer to a prepaid telegram, or a telegram for which payment for transmission, or for special delivery, is guaranteed by a responsible party, may be accepted "collect".

When a deposit has been made to guarantee payment for transmission, or for special delivery the deposit will be returned after three days, if no notice of failure to collect the charges has been received. But if a notice of failure to collect be received, the amount due to the company will be deducted from the deposit, and the remainder will be returned.

RULE 57.—If the addressee of a collect telegram refuses to pay for the same, the telegram will, nevertheless, be tendered to him, and notice of the failure to collect will be at once given to the sending office by service telegram and by mail, in order that tolls may be obtained from the sender of the telegram.

x

Mankato, Minnesota,
July 29.

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

 Welcome back! I am very sorry that I have not been able to do any short stories this summer, but I have been more than busy with the long novel of which I spoke to you, and with the addition of some matter to Free Air for book-form.

And now I feel about all in, and wife and I are starting a motor trip back East tomorrow. We'll live someplace in the East -- just where, we don't know yet -- this fall and winter; and I hope that I shall see your benign countenance, and have a hell of a lot of -- good -- short stories to send in.

The Mankato address will do till I get another -- but I do NOT expect an answer to this report on the state of the Union.

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

File

July 31, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Your welcome home got here a week before the boss is expected. He is still in the West and starts for Philadelphia Saturday.

If you are really planning to live in the East this winter, why do you not give us the opportunity to show Mrs. Lewis some samples of Philadelphia's suburbs. We have some pretty fine ones.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis,
N:L

August 9th, 1919.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

As Miss Jones pertinently inquires as I begin this letter, why has Mr. Lewis three stories in succession in the American Magazine?

I am just back from my vacation, having worked from fourteen to sixteen hours a day at the boiler-makers' trade.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L-j

August 29h, 1919.

My dear Lewis:

Please consider this your official appointment as a book agent to solicit subscriptions for the Van Loan books. A circular containing full information about them is enclosed herewith. All orders or checks that you can secure, either with guile or an axe, should be forwarded to the publisher, Mr. Doran. Five of us have started off the sale by subscribing to fifty sets apiece.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L-J

September 1st, 1919.

My dear Lewis:

As I wired you on Saturday, the by-product is fine. There is a full set of organs, barring only some lungs, to start things going. There should be a preliminary chapter to start off the reader who was ass enough to skip Free Air and to refresh the memories of the wise ones. Of course, the sequel should carry a new title.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L-j

The Evening

Dear Mr. Larimer:

Here's a rough
1st = draft copy of
Danger — Run Slow
for illustration. The
only one I have.
It's marked but legible.

In haste

Lewis

September 3rd, 1919.

My dear Lewis:

Thanks for the manuscript
which came safely to hand this morning
and has already been forwarded to the
artist.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L-J

File

411 North Church Street,
West Chester, Pa.
September 6.

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

Here's my twenty-five dollars for VanLoan's books. Hergesheimer is going to take a set, and I'll send his check in a couple days. ~~I'm getting for Mrs. Lorimer the Vanity Fair with your picture which I promised to get, but they're darn slow in sending it.~~ Going to try to get some more VanLoan subscriptions, but it's a little doubtful, as I know so few people here, and it's hard to do much by ~~such~~ mail. Please have your secretary send me a couple of VanLoan circulars, but don't trouble to acknowledge this.

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

September 8th, 1919.

My dear Lewis:

Thanks for the evidence of sincerity which you enclosed with your note of September 6th. I have written Doran to send the books to 411 North Church Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania. This will probably be in about thirty days.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L-j