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Carman Manitoba

Sunday Sept. 12- 1897

Dear Maybel

I suppose you feel quite citified and stuck up and all that, now that you are going to school in town, but - but - you had better wait until you get your country manners rubbed off!

How do you like your school any way? I hope you will find enough to do in school to keep you busy and from being lonesome and will be so thorough in your studies that you will enjoy them.

I really think that liking or disliking a persons studies or work depends on whether they do the best they can at it. Are you in the high school department or in the grammar rooms. and do you see Guy ever at school.

I may be able to see Owen before I come home. I am going pretty near there or at least I expect to now, but I can't tell whether I will have a chance to go and see him or not. You can look on your map and find Fosston Minn. south east of Thief River Falls.

When I am away from home I want to earn as much as I can and spend as little so I would hate to leave my work - when I could work, and be spending much money - for I have to spend more money than I want to all the time when I am away from home. Everything is about $\frac{1}{3}$ dearer up here and I have had to buy some tools and other things. The kind of lead pencils that I get there for 10 cents a dozen are 25 cents here, or 2 for 5 cents.

All goods that are shipped from the U.S. into Canada have 30 cents on a dollar added to their value by the Canadian tariff law. That is there is a tariff of 30 % on all American goods brought here from America.

Now I must write a little to Ralph so good bye
Your loving father

H. S. Parker

Carman Man. Sunday Sept 12th 1897
Dear Ralph

I expect you are pretty busy now, going to school, doing chores and tending to everything around. You must have caught quite a lot of rats since I came away, who pays you for them when I am gone?

When I came up here you know I had to cross the line between the United States and Canada. Well I didn't think much of that, but just as soon as we got to the last railroad station in the United States the revenue officers from Canada came on board of the cars and while we were going to the next station, which is in Canada they searched every passenger's baggage to see if any one had any new good or any thing that ^{they} ought, by their law, to pay duty on. I had to open my grip sack and let them look over all my things.

They tell me that in going back into the United States, the revenue officers from the United States come aboard the cars and search the stuff the same way and if they find any goods subject to tariff they make them pay a certain percent of its value. I had to pay \$2.00 on ~~my~~ my tool chest coming up here but didn't have to pay on any thing else, although I had a new pair of pants and some new shirts and under clothes and stockings.

I was afraid I would forget the day of the week and day of the month and so I bought me a little diary book just the size of these marks I'll lay it on the paper and mark around it, the little one below shows the thickness, and I have written inside the cover like you can see in the drawing.

H. S. Parker

Winnipeg Manitoba

Aug. 26, 1897

Carman Manitoba
Sunday Sept 11th 1897

Dear Sadie and Children

I think I mentioned in my last letter I received yours of the 4th of Sept, but would wait until Sunday to answer it.

I have moved my boarding place so that now I am only about 2 blocks from the mill and have a much quieter place and better room at \$3.50 a week but I will only be here this week - maybe only until Thursday.

I will probably go from here to Fosston Minn. where the company have another job on hand.

Fosston is not very far from where Owen is. I go from here to Crookston and then change cars and run out east to the end of a little spur track to Fosston.

Fosston is about half way between lake Itasca and Thief River Falls. I understand that the company have a mill and elevator to build at Fosston, but I don't know who will have charge of the work and suppose I will be going among strangers again. you had better not send any more mail to me here nor any place else until you hear from me again.

I don't have any papers to read only what you send and when I get settled again I might like to have the tribune sent to me but I can tell better when I get there.

I expect it seems kind of lonesome at home now with so many away from home and the children going to school too, but I hope you don't have quite so much work to do and can take a little more time to recreation.

We have been having very warm weather up here but is a little cooler now - we have had one or two light frosts, and two light rains since I have been here, in fact I can't perceive much difference in the climate here and at home. You ask what I have to eat at breakfast Din. and Supr. - you ought not to ask me such questions for you know I can't remember

from one meal to the next what I eat, but we usually have Oat porridge, Steak & potatoes and tea set. for breakfast. Steak, potatoes, Toast, Tea, cake, pie for dinner. cake, crackers Sauce or preserves for supper. I forgot to mention that we always have milk and butter salt, pepper and so forth, and my appetite is about as it was when I was at home. we have no plums but have some cornatoes cooked, I don't know whether they are this year or not.

The people here have queer ways of expressing themselves - when we would say is breakfast ready they would say - is breakfast on - is dinner on, or maybe they would say is the table rigged. If they see a man with his overcoat on they say, why that man has his top coat on.

Tell Lizzie that papa thinks about her a good deal and would like to see her. I expect she is more lonesome than the other children for they can go to school, and be with their children so much.

After noon - I have just got home from church, I attended the Presbyterian services and it was communion. It seems, they had issued tickets, first to the communicants, for when it was time to commune they passed around the plates and gathered the tickets and then the minister said if there were any strangers in good and regular standing - who had not the token - they were invited to commune with them. When they passed the bread, the slices were whole on the plate, the person at the end of the seat took a whole slice, broke a piece of for him self and passed the slice on to the next person who did likewise untill it had passed the length of the seat and then the remnant of the slice was passed back and put on the plate. They kept 2 or 3 slices going, in different sects, at once.

The minister poured one glass of wine and after he had passed it to ~~the~~ an elder, another got up and poured another glass for himself to serve.

I will try to write a little tomorrow or next day before I send this
Your loving husband H. S. Parker