

North Bend

7 Sept 1890.

Dear Father

Many thanks for your welcome letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Aug. and Mother's messages. I quite appreciate all you say, and I am doing my best to give myself all the chance I can in the way of health. I certainly get plenty of sleep, and fresh air too as the office is open at the end to the air of heaven. Indeed it is too "fresh" these last mornings and I am now giving up the work before breakfast as it is positively cold. So we begin this next week with hours from 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 6. The work is fast reaching the clerical stage. I have had to part with the last of the College

is that it is really attempting two things at once. To superintend five parties in the field is quite enough to look after at once, without trying to work up results at the same time. The work we have attempted this summer is really a year's work, requiring a season in the field and a winters office work to complete it. It is all very well to say that work can be done if sufficient men are put on it; but the supervision is the same, & has to be less satisfactory; & accordingly makes much trouble later in trying to harmonise the work of the different men. If men were angels & did their work with absolute perfection, and I could have the convenient faculty of omnipresence in directing half a dozen parties at different points, it might be all very well; but not so with ordinary mortals.

men this last week to let them  
get a few days trip to the coast  
before returning East, & latterly  
they were working overtime to finish  
their work. I have had on the parties  
& in the office Ellacott, Rexford,  
Bulman, Ramsay and McEggon;  
the first two graduates. I have only  
5 men now in the office, & will  
get 2 addl. clerks tomorrow by  
train from Vancouver. The results  
of the work will be on tabulated  
statements a size larger than double  
foolscap, & will take 16 to 20 sheets.  
The only way I can get it done is  
on the old Roman plan of dictating  
to 3 clerks, as I must have three  
copies at once; and as soon as  
we can complete the checking and  
revision of the work I will begin  
this, giving my best asst. the task  
of dictating. There is an immense  
amount of comparison & checking

required to make sure of the results  
being consistent & correct. This has  
occupied the whole staff for last  
week, & in about 2 days more will  
be complete. Cambie has been here  
"balancing quantities" to see how much  
of the earth-work required for filling  
the structures will have to be priced &  
paid for; & also checking the work  
done by his own staff last summer.  
I have spent (in all) \$6,200 in cash  
on this survey, ~~besides~~ in addition to  
which are supplies & outfit from store,  
instruments, stationery, & hotel bills here,  
which go in as certified accounts; &  
also salaries of two of the Engineers &  
Cambie's & my own which are all charge-  
able to the work, & will bring it up  
to about 12,000. With last years work,  
the whole thing will cost about 18,000;  
or just about \$1000 a sheet for the  
results of the work!

The trouble in such work as this

This is no doubt an age of rush and hurry; but I begin seriously to doubt whether it is right to attempt so much on a short allowance of time. As it is I am getting nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  as much again as was first arranged for. If I were a single man it might be all very well to adopt the maxim "~~of getting~~ work done or perish in the attempt." But on the other hand if I refuse to do work for the Co unless I can take my own time, it may practically mean breaking with them altogether. However, I must see what turns up next & decide then. In the mean time I am trying to cultivate the habit of leisure & repose whenever I am not actually at work.

I saw Mr. & Mrs. J. H. R. Tolson & Miss Hill while they were here for dinner the other evening. They were very pleasant,

and made all kind inquiries. Mr. McDonald I hear passed thro here the other day going west, but I do not always see the morning passengers as ~~we~~ have breakfast after they leave.

I do not yet know what Florence has decided about sailing she intended to sail either the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 19<sup>th</sup>. I will hear in 2 or 3 days now I hope, in reply to my cable. 16 days is the shortest time her letters have taken. I will send her a letter two days from today addressed to your care in case she leaves on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

I will be much obliged if Bernard or yourself would be kind enough to meet her on the 15<sup>th</sup> if she takes that str, as she will have much to pass at the Customs. A great deal she

things will not I think fairly be  
detracted; that is, all that is  
for herself personally & the children.  
What she has purchased for me  
in Engd. of course will have to  
pay duty. So please do not  
"give me away" in the matter,  
as the view I express is I think  
the fair one.

I hope you have enjoyed, <sup>some</sup> ~~the~~  
rest & quiet at Attetis, and feel  
all the better able for your work.  
I hope to leave here about the  
20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

With love to Mother, ever  
your affect<sup>d</sup> son

William.

William  
Sept/98

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