

Hotel Vancouver

Vancouver, B.C.

July 25th 1888

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Dear Anna,

I arrived here yesterday afternoon and found William still at work with the railway architect. It was pleasant to see him and we had at once a delightful walk in the "park", a place, by the way which it would be almost worth while crossing the continent to see. The Douglas firs and Cedars of gigantic size, overgrown with moss, the shrubs and ferns all remind one of the tropics. The people here have certainly been wise to reserve the ground as a park. I did my best to see George on my way here, but failed, as he no doubt was a long way off from Kamloops. I wrote to him twice and also telegraphed but very likely he has not yet received either letters or telegrams. If he gets them I may see him on my way back to Banff next Monday. We have had

Charming weather up to today -
beautifully clear and bright.
Now it is showery, but I am
hoping that it be finer in the
afternoon as I am going by steam
over to Victoria. There are
quite a number of people here
that I know or have met
before, including Mr Reifer,
Mr Blackstock a lawyer whom
I met in Toronto, Mr Cassels one
of your old friends, Mr Ellis
&c &c. The town of Vancouver
is simply astonishing and it is
very difficult to realize that
in 1886 there was only one house
here. Now there are numbers
of well-built houses & stores
and a population variously esti-
mated at from 6000 to 8000.
Building is going on in all directions,
warehouses of granite among them,
and the whole place has a busy
flourishing aspect. William seems

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entitled and happy here, but does not know how long he will have to remain. He is in very comfortable quarters as the hotel is a very fine one (belonging to the C.P.R.) and fitted up in the most sumptuous way. He is in a great quandary a prudent as to what he had better do about the position of city engineer here and wants me to advise him; but advice in such a matter is difficult to give. If I had an offer of a position here myself I think I should take it, although I am rather doubtful as to how the winter climate would suit me.

I enjoyed the trip through the mountains exceedingly, the scenery in the Selkites being quite equal to if not finer than anything which I had seen in the Alps. Of course is

is costing a good deal to see
 all these things, but when I
 had got as far as Banff I
 think it would have been
 foolish for me to return to Mon-
 treal without coming on to
 the Pacific. I only regret that
 I am so hurried and have not
 time to spy out the land more.

I have heard nothing from
 you yet owing to my having again
 moved westward; but William
 had a letter from Florence yesterday
 and as she says nothing about
 you or the children I infer
 that you are at least tolerably
 well.

I expect to get back to Banff
 next Monday and will make
 every endeavour to finish up that
 coal business as soon as possible,
 for I am more than anxious to
 get back to my ties and have at
 least a few short weeks with my
 at the sea with my dear ones.

Your loving husband
 B.