

2008.1.1.1.1.110

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Macleod, May 18th 98.

My own darling Sam,

I was terribly disappointed on Saturday when the mail was distributed at receiving no news whatever from you, but Mr. Wroughton was delighted that he was favored on that day. Tuesday's mail also came in but still no news – however about five p.m, a telegram from Mrs. Godson came "Wire me if you are going to Tagish. I will wait & travel up with you". I answered that I could not leave for some time, as you know I must attend to many things ere I go. The Comr. came on Saturday & on Sunday p.m. came in. he was very nice & seemed very much put out at the misunderstandings between Capt. Deane & ourselves. In fact, he seems to have come more on that account than anything else. He gave Alice leave to get a horse whenever she wanted one & was charming in every way. He strongly advised me to go to Tagish &

[reverse]

made arrangements for a cow & three dozen hens to go up when the horses go from here in about a fortnight. He is sending ten saddle horses up to you & Alexander goes with them. told me a stall could be put in the end of the car & the cow put in & how to fix the hens & said they were to be looked after. He would give me transport for the cow as far as Vancouver, but feared you might have to pay from there to Skagway. The Sergt. Major has orders from Mr. Wroughton to look for a good cow in calf as ours would not give milk in the winter. I will sell mine & get what I pay for the new one if possible – have already one purchaser in view. The furniture I will not bring up is to be stored in the [Q.M.S.] the boxes numbered & I will take a list of articles & the numbers so that if I want anything sent up, all I will have to do is send the number of box. he gave me many [hints] & said I would not have luxuries, but might

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be very comfortable. On the other hand so many tell me not to go up on account of the little ones. Regie advises me to go to Montreal as he thinks

you would prefer my being there on account of the privations I may have to put up with & particularly the little ones. You can imagine what a predicament I am in – I dream of nothing else at night & my one thought by day seems the same. The Comr. says the Government will give me transport either East or West. I will have to write Sir Wilfred or through Uncle Henry get permission to go or leave Macleod. he says to write soon, before Mr. Sifton takes over the N.W.M.P. He is going to Ottawa himself this week. Elmes saw Mr. McKenzie & he says there is absolutely no truth in the report concerning the furniture. McFarland has done nothing of the kind. I sincerely hope you have not done anything hasty about it, as I particularly begged you not to mention it or do anything [reverse]

until you heard from me again. I see you wrote the Comr. & he is very much exercised over it all, wonders who wrote you & etc etc. I hope you agree with me in my decision re paying all ere I leave. I made a \$5.00 payment on the saddle but could not pay anything this month. I pd the Savings & Loan & asked Mr. McLean for the papers necessary to withdraw if you cared to, as if I go, it will be very hard to keep track of all these debts or small sums. He said he would send East for them at once. I paid in the beef rations or credit due since you left, so reduced the bill of \$142.00 due [Mannsell] Bros. by eleven (\$11.00) dollars on Saturday last. The Rations are quite a help I assure you, dear. Mr. Casey said he had to send you all the pay bills to have them signed, so you will see from that, that I have not been too extravagant, my darling. Of course the Canteen has to be attended to as well & I will have to purchase some things for myself, you & the little too, going for so long a time away from civilization.

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Eustache spent a few days in Lethbridge & came in last evening – he says Alec is in very good humour that mines are looking up. Mrs. Mac wrote that some parties wanted Alec to state price of “Empire” by wire, but as he was representing you, Howard, [Morris Cowen] & himself he would not let it go, until satisfied with a view of it himself & the price that agreed upon by you both, if not more. Mr. Godsall wrote me asking for a copy of Gibson’s report on “Little Phil” that a number had been printed. I have not found any & have not been able to see Morgan – but will ask Elmes to see him tonight, if possible. “The Black Diamond may pay after all & they may not lose all in that” Mrs. Mac says. The Comr. says hay is dear in Tagish, but you can put some up for the cow yourself. “\$700 a year is dear milk – hay being \$100 a ton a year ago.” I told you Marie wanted o come & she is as determined as

ever. When the horses arrive in Skagway, you will I suppose have some one there to meet cow & hens – am I doing a foolish thing in going up, dear? any way, you can

[reverse]

always dispose of them if you wish – they will have to be careful of the cow, please as she will be worth a lot of money up there. Will I bring diningroom furniture, except sideboard? the Comr. told me I could take my piano, that was pleasant news to me, I assure you. Baby can say Papa, Flora, doll & Mamma, & is looking fairly well now. He looks at your picture every time he says Papa so has not forgotten you, you see. Have had no news from home for some time, but hope they are all well. Regie is doing so well he would not leave Pincher Creek now & hope he has decided finally, as he changes his mind so often. He wrote you last mail, he says. Well, dear, the mail has again come in, but no news at all, not even a paper – we are in despair at every one's silence. [Congden] has German measles & is in hospital. I do hope Baby will not get them, but fear they may spread. my darling Boy, Mr. Wroughton says you write in good spirits so you must be feeling better. Capt. Deane, who went down with the Comr. & Mr. Wroughton on Monday has returned. the Davidson's [sic] are still at the Mess. The wee girlies are out all the time, scarcely wanting their meals – Gertrude is getting so brown & ruddy.

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Elmes is well so is Alice, the latter still enjoying her stay in a quiet way. She may be married in Sept. after all to her Fred, but nothing is settled yet. She looks well & now that she can have a horse to ride, is as happy as ever. Well, darling, God bless you – write soon to your own true, warm-hearted, devoted wifie

Maye.

Be sure & give me all particulars concerning the long trip. I suppose I should get some canned things in Vancouver, especially crystallized eggs the Comr. particularly recommended me to take.

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