

2008.1.1.1.1.358

Marie Steele to Sam Steele
2 sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, May 30th

My own darling,

Yours of the 25th reached me on the 28th & you know without my telling the very great pleasure it afforded me. I know full well how much correspondence you always have to attend to particularly after three weeks absence.

It is too bad the dinner to Major Swinford was not well managed as that in a measure spoils it. It certainly would have been better in the Officer's mess. I read no particulars of it, so know very little about the affair.

I suppose M^{rs}. Mackie's operation is over! I hope it was

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Successful in every way & that when she is well she will be much benefitted by it, poor little woman!. [sic] I know she dreaded it very much & it made him miserable to think of what she had to go through.

You are right about the bank lot - they are very conceited & think themselves very much superior to others, with the exception of the Tucker's - he is manager of the Traders bank - she was a Miss Ord connection of the Jarvis' - a perfect little lady, consequently does not require to give herself airs of any kind.

Yes, now I remember hearing what Snyder said about your throwing your arms around Lord Strathcona, etc. he [sic] looks a man who would be a sneak & stop at nothing. I did not care for her at all.

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she [sic] gushed at M^{rs}. Fred Taylor & had eyes for her only on the trip back & at the hotel in Halifax.

M^r. Vibert says they carried the M^cHugh Bros over for ten years until the sum was \$45,000.00 - that Felix would come to town, go & tell the bank he would settle, then bring bottles of whiskey to the ranch, go to bed & be drunk for days. The bank gave them almost a years notice before they seized the houses. That is their side of the matter. judgement is reserved...

M^{rs}. Nunns & M^{rs}. Clarke are bosom friends & I suppose she desired

to console him during M^{rs}. Nunns absence. It is very easy for me to keep my Scotch up - their coolness does not phiz on me, I assure you, my darling.

I thought you had paid for the screens & doors, but wished to be quite sure. I have not put them up & do not intend taking the double windows down - it costs \$5⁰⁰ or there abouts & I do not feel inconvenience from them in the least. the [sic] screens [&] wire doors will come in handy; I am indeed very busy sewing & find it takes a long time to put in so many stitches.

Your next is dated 27th received on the 29th. You enjoyed your chat with the Mitchell's - good for Miss Mitchell I hope she will succeed in her exams. Yes, it is wonderful how the country is filling up & the large number who attend schools. D^r. MacRae has written a splendid letter which I enclose & which explains itself. Hope you enjoyed M^r. Bull's lecture "Camp fires."

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rather [sic] a good name & would appeal to women, no doubt.

M^r. Vibert came up on Wednesday night looking very shamefaced & saying "M^{rs}. Steele, I do not know how to apologize & do not know what you will think of me!" at the same time taking out of his pocket a letter written to you on the 16th of May & the second one addressed to Medicine Hat. He called with his two boys that afternoon & said he would mail the letters on his way down street, promising faithfully not to forget them. I gave them, with the usual result. I readdressed it at once & sent it on. the [sic] Man. of the Alberta, Med Hat, replied to my letter of inquiry saying there was a letter there for you. I hope he had the good sense

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to forward it, as I requested. There are excursions yearly to the coast & we may be able to take a trip next year.

You had not told me you had gained six lbs & will I know reduce your bill of fare in consequence.

I went to Doll's on Friday a.m & selected a lovely gift for Ruby - it is a frosted silver vase, about one foot or more high, lined in gold & a large bud (rose) & leaves on the centre of it. It's [sic] original price was \$15⁰⁰, but M^r. Doll kindly let me have it for \$6⁰⁰ - a great reduction!. [sic] it [sic] is really lovely & will, I am sure please her. I also wrote her a very nice letter. We shall if invited to Millicent Henderson's wedding have to send her a present also. My letter (the delayed one) spoke of the invitation & the present, but as you see I got it.

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M^r. Acheson is a witty Irishman, but I think with him that they are to be congratulated on having you D.A.C. of no 10. They miss you very much here & I know regret your departure exceedingly. I fear they are not very enthusiastic over camps on account of all the retrenchments in view. D^r. & M^{rs}. Macdonell have just been here for an hour or more. She leaves for the Island about the 15th - if there is no camp, the D^r. will take a fine trip & may meet them on their way back - he also thinks of a week in Winnipeg later on this summer. In that case if we are settled we can try & make it pleasant for him. There is not a great deal of news. I was not invited to any of the social functions this week, so cannot give news of the doing's in the social world. You can send the society items to M^{rs}. Mackie, it may amuse her to see what they are doing.

Received your telegram in reply to my letter on Friday & I will endeavour to leave here some time the last week in June. I did not care to arrive in Winnipeg during your absence, but after all, there is no use beginning a new month, & we must work hard to be ready as soon as possible. I cannot possibly fix the date so far ahead, but July 1st will not see us in this house. I suppose the house down there will be ready for us. The furniture car will be some days en route, but a word from M^r. Whyte or some such C.P.R. official will soon hurry them up once it is ready. God bless you, my own darling - all join in love. Your affec^{ate} devoted, little wifie,
Maye.

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