

Wood End Dept

Oct 12. 73 -

Dear Papa

I have had many chances
of sending letters East but always
turning up unexpectedly & when I had
no letter to send. This time I am
writing in advance & hope to get a
chance soon.

I have got out here into quite
an interesting geological region. This
season I will only be able to make
a slight examination but next
year hope to do more.

A great series of lignite bearing
rocks extend from a few miles E
of this westward as far as I have been

or that is to say to at least
the 390 mile point from Red R.
As far as I can judge they are
not Cretaceous but more
resemble Miocene than anything
else. Many of the lignites are of
good quality & they are generally
associated with thin ironstone beds.
The thickest good lignite about here
is 7 feet & is well exposed in a bank
of the stream. The associated beds
here & elsewhere being more or less
compact sands & clays.
The lignite I have seen is no less
than 18 feet in thickness & of this
at least 9 feet are (for lignite)
of first rate quality.

I have found plant beds in association in several places full of dichotomous leaves & joint twigs. often beautiful when unexcavated but in friable clays & very faint impressions at best almost impossible to preserve.

One bed I found contained several varieties of ferns. I have packed up a number of specimens with great care but fear that at best they will be horribly washed.

There are equisetaceous stems in some beds & sometimes erect.

Of animal remains I have only found a few poorly preserved shells, but perhaps enough of them left for identification.

I will probably reach Safford during or soon after the first week

of next month. This of course depends a good deal on the weather.

I think I will be able to get away for the winter, bringing what I have collected down to Montreal to work up a little. I will try if possible to get down about the middle of December.

In any case I must be back at Dufferin ^{camp} in April to get preparations for next summer made.

Unless these plans change I will not require any of my new clothes up here, I called on Tent for Morris when at Garry in July but he was out of town. I will probably not be back there this season. Next Spring a great part of the supplies will be forwarded by a train from Garry to a point within two or three hundred

miles of the Rocky Mountains,
as early as possible. I want if
possible to arrange to go this at-
It will give me the opportunity of
working out a new line.

We have seen no Indians
whatever on this part of the line.
Indeed I do not think Indians
would come here as there have
been no buffalo through this
region for several years & there is
little or nothing in the shape of
game but the prong-horned antelope
& these are very hard to kill.

Besides there is only wood to burn
here & there in the river valleys
& gullies. Going along the line
W. from here you have to carry
wood to serve for four days,
& this through the country in places

is quite kilg.

Oct 13 -

The lost cattle have been found
or brought in this morning.

Leut Rowe & party going
toward Jaffrum take this
letter.

Your affectionate son

George.

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