

[From Anders Lian]

Eau Claire 3/10 -90

I received your letter a couple days ago, written in September, and am glad to see that you are in good health and for that matter everything is well. Though it is not long ago since I wrote you I am writing again. I remember of course how many admonitions I received about writing and I doubt that I will be hearing complaints about having forgotten, until now anyway?

I am also living, and content as of this date. This summer has gone terribly fast for me. It doesn't seem like many weeks since I came here, and yet, even if it isn't very long, it is, I suppose, a while. I am beginning to be fed up with the mill. Moreover, it is quite monotonous to be a millworker also. The same work day after day and week after week to stand in the same spot; huf! how bored I am! At a little after 5:00 each morning it is to get up and dress, eat and at 6:00 be ready at the mill, at 9:00, ten minutes rest, then work again until 12:00. Now one hour's rest which allows us to go home and eat and then work from 1:00 until 5:00 with ten minutes rest at half past three. Yet I don't think I would like any other work any better.

We have it good here you must believe. A man avoids being troubled too much with graut (cream porridge), sild, (herring), suppe (soup), and such. No, nourishing food it must be. Meat is used for every meal. Flatbread is not made use of, but on the other hand coffee is used instead of soup and milk. No less than two cups coffee for every single meal. For board and room (without laundry) the usual cost here in the city is thirteen dollars per month. At other places they pay much more, fifteen to sixteen dollars.

You say that I must find some other work and not go to the woods, something I would just as soon do if I was willing to work just for my food. If I go to the woods I can at least have one day free (per week?) and perhaps a little more also. It is my intention to hire myself out for the woods for the same boss for whom I worked at the mill as I have a good reputation with him and therefore will get a little better pay in the woods with him than with any other. Besides, I am acquainted with many now so I don't worry about going. However, you will get better information later.

When you write you must report to me all the news you know.

With this comes many greetings from Elling and his family and finally from me

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