

MAIL ORDERS TAKEN FOR
DRESSED POULTRY, FRESH
EGGS AND OTHER FARM
PRODUCTS

Intermountain Farm

W. T. PUTNAM & SONS

"THE MAIL ORDER FARM"

INTERMOUNT FARM BUTTER,
CREAM, CHEESE, SAUSAGE
AND FRESH PORK

Lake Cushman, Wash.

Jan. 2, 1921.

My dear Mr. Deane:-

recd Jan 10

You are a good, patient and long-suffering friend, and it is too bad that you have been so neglected. First, May all the good things of life be yours and may you live to see your work completed. I know nothing which gives one greater satisfaction. And now for ourselves. We are all alone, the boys having left us yesterday and they are now steaming over the Cascades behind two big locomotives on the N. P. R.

You ask about the Tacoma project. I had a phone yesterday telling me that the Courts had just rendered a decision in our case giving the city the right to condemn. This is the first step. On the other hand the city is bankrupt and cannot sell her bonds, and under the circumstances I do not see what good it will do her. It is now up to them. As it stands Tacoma is paying 8% on a property valuation higher in the case of unimproved residence property, than what the property will bring. I will let you know from time to time how the matter comes along.

I can hardly tell you how I appreciate the kindly interest in us and our affairs. and the best I can do will be to tell you what I can about ourselves and the progress we have made.

The boys are all in College, the State College at Pullman on the border of Idaho, in what is known as the "Palouse Country" The two older ones are Juniors and the youngest a second year "Prep" This Prep course is a High school course for those who have no high schools, common enough in the backwoods. The oldest boy is

majoring in Poultry and doing well. He took an average of 95 or better in all his work for the last term. The next is a dairyman and he too is a good student. A Junior, and not eligible to the team, he was invited to accompany the stock-judging team to the Chicago Fair last fall, but did not feel he could afford the expense. Later he did make the Junior team in the same line for the Portland International and came home with a much coveted cup for the team of which he was a member and a gold and a silver medal for his individual work. The one given by the Nat. Holstein Breeders' Association and the other by the College. The third boy is still too young to be settled, but his leanings are to science and mechanics. I may have told you that some years ago we had three botanists from the U. of Mich. here. They were sent to me by the U. of Wash. and as Phil was out of school that fall we turned them over to him. He was then 11 and he gave nearly his whole time to them for nearly two months. They were making a study of the fungi and Phil took them through the woods for miles around. When they went home they mentioned him to the Curator of the U. Museum, Dr. Ruthven, who by the way is now on his way to the Amazon with an expedition for the American Museum, and work was given him collecting material for the Museum, mostly reptiles, etc. He promptly discovered a new salamander and rediscovered a small frog of which there were only one or two specimens in existence. Then last summer we had Dr. and Mrs. Gaige of the Michigan Museum here for the summer with us and Phil assisted them in their work. Mrs. G. is a national authority on amphibians. In addition to his work for them he has done quite a little for the American Museum in New York. I think likely he will follow this kind of work, though he is still too young to be certain about his future and his habits are still very unformed. We are very proud of our boys. They have grown up on the frontier. Can you realize that west of us it is nearly 50 miles

of almost untrod den wilderness to the next house. that I am sitting as I write this in a log house beneath a good electric light generated in our barn and that by turning a crank I can talk with Seattle, Portland, perhaps in a pinch even with 29 Brewster St? What changes we have seen in the past 30 years. I spent the blizzard of March 10, 1888 in Boston and Cambridge and went out to the latter by horsecar. We have had a hard struggle to give the boys their education, but there is but one year more for the two older ones and they are all helping. One has a class to teach in Dairy Laboratory and the other washes dishes and it is a curious commentary on our civilization that the latter gets more for less time than the former. However, Bill thinks that next year he will have a real class which will do better by him.

For ourselves, we are getting older but enjoy good health, though at present I am suffering from an attack of what seems to be muscular rheumatism which has left me nearly helpless for several days. I am in hopes it may soon pass off.

The entire lake shore has been logged and it is not a pretty thing to look at. However, the brush is coming up and covering the burnt logs and it will not look so bad for long. Thank you very much for your kind remembrance of us.

Very sincerely yours,

M. Putnam



Putnam, William T. 1921. "Putnam, William T. Jan. 2, 1921." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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