

Appila  
April 20<sup>th</sup> 1904

Dear Sister,

Now it is just about time that I write to you.

Thanks to God I made it home alright. I still felt very sick during the trip. I left for Orroroo on Thursday and came back on Wednesday. It looked very good up there. The stock were all very fat and there was a lot of feed.

Aunty and Uncle and everybody were all well and in good spirits. Aunt has beautiful flowers in her garden. I liked it very much up there but unfortunately I had caught a cold on the trip. Aunty said I should go to Dr Strengman about my throat so I went to him and he said all of a sudden wasn't it ..... the whole throat was inflamed and I should have come much earlier. He told me I should go as soon as possible to a doctor who could see me more often, so then I went to Dr Cook in Laura. He said the same, that I had already let it go on too long. On Easter Monday I went for the third time and the throat was markedly better, but now it is much worse again. I had some ..... to gargle with the medicine I received and must have caught another cold. Hopefully it will soon be better.

Richard also does not feel at all well. His back hurts a lot. The doctor gave him plasters. They have made him quite raw. He can't work much. He began seeding today.

Alfred has one paddock and a half, and Wegners have another, so Richard only has to plant [sow] 350 acres by himself.

It has been very dry but on Monday and Tuesday we did have a little rain. It could have been more, just so long as it doesn't rain at the end of next week because I want to celebrate my birthday. Hopefully it will all go well. Some are saying it isn't a birthday party at all but something quite different. As far as I am concerned they are welcome to believe that. If everyone I've invited comes there will be more than 20. Only young people. If it had suited you, you would also have been welcome. Hopefully we'll see you up here again before the year is over (but tell Paul he must bring his £5 with him because he lost the bet – and you your one shilling as well.

Last week Mr Lang from Caltowie hung himself. It was very sad.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April we were at Willy Winneke's farewell party. He went to Western Australia. I had a good time. There were about 30 people.

I have heard that Henry and Anne have sold both of their farms. They want to leave here completely. The new farm brought £5 per acre, and they got £4.15.00 for the other one. Don't tell them I have written this to you.

So I'll close for this time in the hope that these few lines find you in good health.

With many heartfelt greetings from us to you all.

I remain your loving sister

Edel Becker.

Please write again soon.  
Please excuse my bad handwriting.

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English Translation  
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