

Appila

4th June 1903

God be with you.

Dear Brother and Sister,

I must write to you. You must think I have forgotten you. I wanted to write, but I did not feel well enough. I wanted to get to it for ages but I was so 'weak in the head' that I really couldn't do it.. For a long time I was unable to write and read because it affected me so much that I could not sleep that night. But since the weather got cooler I can sleep better and I feel much better. Thank God. I looked after myself. Otherwise everything is going well here. We finished sowing Monday a fortnight ago. The last of the wheat is coming up now, and the first lot is quite high. We had good rains this year. I hope we will have a good harvest this year, better than last year. There is still a shortage of feed as it is too cold. There is not enough old grass to protect the young growth. We do not have to feed the cows and calves, but we still feed the horses. I still have plenty of hay and chaff. Pollard and Bran is too dear. Alfred gets some feed from here, because he has not enough hay. I gave quite a lot away to people who are in need of it.. I do not like to see animals starving. Horses, cattle and sheep are very dear up here, because too many died last year. Wheat sells very well too. I sold the last a fortnight ago for 5/6 per bushel [5 shillings and sixpence - K.Z].

I hope you are getting on alright. Dear Paul, I heard you did not get on well with the super. What kind did you have? You got to see to it that you don't get any poor quality and it doesn't get damp, and not too much. I used 7 tons. I cleaned the drill thoroughly before I started to sow and it is alright since. I had 2 tons of Wallaroo Super and 5 tons Lion-brand from Fowlers mineral super, and it was all good. Fowlers was the best weight. It weighed 2240 lb. per tone without bags. I heard from Lydia and Bertha and was pleased! I was once in Laura and Mr. Stockdale [solicitor] was not there! But then I heard that you had already received it [the cash transfer] so I didn't concern myself about it any more.

How are you all? How are the parents? I hope you are all well! How did Bertha get on with her Rheumatism? I am quite well except a little weak in my head. I must not write or read too much. I heard from Lydia the sex of Bertha's baby, which made me very happy. Edel might have told you all the news.

I will close and hope you are all well! God bless you. Thanks to God we are all healthy otherwise..

Greetings to you and all the relatives.

Your brother Richard.

P.S. Please write soon. I like to hear from you.

R. B.

English Translation

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