

Salt Spring Island
B. C. 24th March 1915

Mon cher Ami

My hand is better now but not quite well yet. I cannot do any heavy work yet as it is quite painful. I have planted all the ~~new~~ ^{early} potatoes in the orchard and will put the ~~old~~ ^{late} potatoes in the garden near the spring as I am going to sow grass seed in all the other fields. Mr. Akerman will do all the seeding so that you will be sure that it is well done. Russin told me that you said not to forget to have hay you may be sure that I will get all the hay I can in so as to have enough this winter. I have a lot of Kale plants which I will plant in the orchard in the places that you had the peas in last year and the artichokes I have put peas in the continuation of the orchard like last year to cut green. I am going to plant corn in the field near the garden in the peat marsh I don't know how it will come out and if possible I will get the piece of new land that we did not plow last year plowed & put oats in it. It is terrible the amount of deer that come in the field that ^{you} sowed with Timothy last year I wounded one sometime ago but did not kill him and as I had no dog could

not find him and Barker killed it 3 days afterwards about 200 yards from our fence with one leg broken but I will get one before long and Missis will be glad to have some deer meat to eat. I have kept the 2 sows one will have young pigs in a week and the other I have not been able to take her to the boar but as soon as I get a chance again I will do so, the boar is a Berkshire. The one that is going to have young pigs is the white one & the boar is a Tamworth. The cows are doing well for this time of the year Molly is giving 20 to 21 lbs a day and Duddens 16 lbs a day Marquise I am going to stop milking at the end of this month as she will have her calf on the 26th May. I will take Countess to the Bull in another 3 months for then she will be then 14 months old. Wakeman says she will be old enough then. Walter Horton says if you want to sell Molly calf that he will buy it as he wants a calf & I told him that I had to wait till I got your answer before I could do anything. I hope to go & work on the roads next month and I have a young fellow here with me he came on the 20th and I pay him $\$10^00$ a month he used to work for Horel and Horel told me that he did not have a better waker on his place & I think

He will be alright too if the time allows it he will do some blasting of stumps here as he has been blasting before, & if possible will clear the rest of that piece of ground on the other side of the house which we started on last year. The Leghorn hens are laying well I get 12 eggs a day from 16 hens so that I will buy two settings of 4 eggs from Tripp & hatch them, I will also hatch some Favonelles so as to have some young pullets as last year we only had one, and the result is that this year from 24 hens I am only getting 6 or 7 eggs a day as the hens are too old. I suppose you remember the black hen well she is still laying and last year did not become broody at all, I will catch her & put her in the pen with the Leghorns & hatch some of her eggs & see what we will get from them. It is terrible the amount of rats we have here I have caught some with a trap and as I have 2 pure bred fox terrier pups I am training them to kill the rats one is very good but the other one is not so good but I think he will be better afterwards but one is just like Crotte he will catch a rat & kill it they are still a little afraid of them yet as they are only 3 month old but I think in time when they get older they will be better. I am going to put in some vegetables in the garden near the house, cabbage, red cabbage, cauliflower

winter cabbage, onions, beets, carrots, turnips
parsnips, peas & beans (for Missis to put in preserve)
I bought another package of Masterpiece beans as they
were just mawelons last year but too late to get
any seed from them. It is was impossible to
drain the field in the bottom with the ditch
as the stream in the center was higher & the
water would not drain out but in any case it will
be ready to be plowed by the middle of next month
as it is nearly dry now. I have but a small fence
round the cow stables so that the cows will not
go into the orchard when we take them in or out,
because it is too much trouble to catch 3 cows
to take them in & bring them out. Well dont you
worry about the ranch winter I will do all I can
to have everything well done what I dont know
I will ask Akerman to do or see as before plowing
I ask him if the ground is alright to plow, the
price of wheat is very high we have to pay \$2.20 a
sack so you see that the hens have to lay a lot
of eggs to pay for that feed and the eggs now
are 20¢ a doz. Potatoes are still very cheap you can
buy potatoes for \$1.00 so you see there is no money
in potatoes. Pork is 9 1/2¢ a lb for pig or 150 lbs

& 10¢ for under 150 lbs, so that there is not much money there either and 6 week old pigs is only \$2⁵⁰, real is much better now it is 15¢ a lb it was as low as 13¢ a lb but they think real will go up higher to about 18¢ a lb. Well I dont know what other news to give you but all I can say is that I will do my best to have every thing in order & have plenty of feed for the animals for the winter. I hope this will find you in the best of health & that it will not be long before you are back here again and that you will ^{find} every thing well. Jimmie & Pierre are doing fine Pierre can walk quite well & I dont think it will be long before he will start to talk in any case he understands quite a lot of things you tell him to stand up, sit down, and a lot of easy things like that & he will understand them. Well goodnight & I hope to see you before long.

Your very sincere friend
Gus.

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Monsieur le
Capitaine J. P. B. 120
État-Major
1^{er} Corps d'Armée
Secteur Postale 151
France

