

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 21, 1889, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1336 Nineteenth St., April 21, 1889. My dear Alec:

I have been reading Hand book of Tree Planting and copy "Estimated Profits of a Plantation of European Larches of Ten Acres to last fifty years".

Dr.

Ten acres of land @ \$20.00 200.00

Wire fence 1000.00

Plants 27,250 @ \$5. per 1000 136.25

Labor of planting 500.00

\$1836.25

Int. on investment 50 yrs. @ 6 percent. 5499.00

Taxes 50 yrs. @ 1.5 perct. 150.00

Int. on Taxes equal 25 yrs. @ 6 perct. 225.00

\$7710.25

Cr.

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Product 1st. cutting at end of 20 yrs. 13,000 trees less 20 perct. for casualties — 10,400 trees or 20,800 fence posts at 20 cents. \$4160.00

Product 2nd. cutting end of 30 yrs. 10,200 trees less 10 perct. for casualties — 9180 trees or 18300 sleepers @ 50 cents \$9180.00 and 9180 fence posts @ 25 cts. — \$2295.00
\$11475.00

Product 3rd. cutting end of 50 yrs. 14000 trees less 5 perct. for casualties — 3800 piles worth \$5.00 each \$19000.00 and 7600 sleepers worth 50cts. — \$3800.00 \$22800.00

Land at cost 200.00

\$38635.00

2

Brought forward \$38635.00

30 yrs. int. on \$4600 @ 6 perct. \$7488.00

20 yrs. “ “ \$11475 @ “ “ \$ 13770.00

\$ 21258.00

\$59993.00

Profit \$52,282.75

The author of the book says this estimate was made by Professor Sargent and that the profits made out West are much larger than this.

Do order trees planted immediately — particularly on that bare hill top just above the gorge where the road was to go. There used to be great forests of pines around Baddeck now they are bare — please order a lot of white pine (pinus strobus) white ash, sugar maple,

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locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*). All the stony pasture at the top of the hill over Mathewson's cottage ought to be planted and planted right away. I think all the above trees grow wild all over the hill. Please have McInnis transplant them immediately only taking care that the roots are kept covered and moist from the moment of leaving the ground to the moment of burying in their new place. Please do attend to this matter it takes trees so long to grow that I cannot bear to lose a year. I am very much in earnest about this. The profit of tree planting is a new idea to me, my great love for and desire to have forests of good trees near me is no new thing as you know. Can you not authorize McInnis to engage more men to plant and to clear out the dense forests on the other side. We must have wood for our big fireplace and the three operations of transplanting, clearing out and making firewood might go on simultaneously.

This Easter day is a most glorious one, bright and fresh and 3 moist after several days of rain. All the earth is full of Easter the buds have come out of their death-like coverings and put on their Easter garb of white. I fear you would call it hot but never the less I wish you were here. I am so happy today just from the influence of all this fresh new life this Resurrection of the earth. Surely by Analogy the Christian idea of Resurrection of the soul after death cannot be so far fetched. This is the same soul the same life that to all appearance died last fall it has only put on a new body and new dress.

The children and I drove to Rock Creek this morning and put on flowers on the little grave.

My desire to go to New York increases as the time draws near, my arms are hungry. Are you taking care of yourself, I want very much to have you see Dr. Kennicutt again.

I am afraid you will not read my letter if I make it any longer so I will close — no — not yet, I must tell you about last night. Mr. McCurdy and I went out to your father's, it was very wet and few people were there but Mr. Fay and Mr. Nordhoff gave very good papers especially the last as I happen to know for Mr. Fay offered me his sheets as he finished and I asked Mr. Nordhoff for his. Mr. Nordhoff's was old Days in California and truly they seemed most

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pastorial and pre — Adamite — no, that isn't the word I want. I mean like Eden before the temptation. Every-thing seems to have been peaceful and harmony reigned supreme between Spaniard and Indian, between eldest son respectfully holding his father's stirrup and the various brothers and sisters-in-law living together under the same roof. One pretty story he told of his camp life with Mr. Nordhoff and his baby Elsie. Some one rode into camp to ascertain the cause of the fire he saw on his land and turned out to be an old friend Whilo?, stockbroker of Wall Street. He was friendly but shocked to hear that the baby had no milk. In spite of their protests he insisted on getting some and rode into camp again next morning with the milk for baby's breakfast. He confessed afterwards that he had ridden five miles to a pasture got the vaquero to go out and lasso the first milch cow, throw her down and then while one man sat on her head and another held her legs they milked her somehow!

Goodbye Your loving Mabel. Another story represents the old Spaniard sighing over the reckless daring of the younger generation that would risk their necks in a carriage ! “Come let us follow them in the old safe way”, (On horseback).