

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Frederick W. Baldwin, November 4, 1919, with transcript

and children too, I also want notice inserted in the News that ownerless dog caught her, in future will be held 24 hours, & then shot, on first notice offense , on second, shot at sight. This way all sound bloodthirsty & not meet your approval, you have only to say you are acting by my request as owner of the sheep My patience at last is exhausted. I think we have been very long-suffering and it is time to stand up for our rights especially they wrong intended help people they are at perfect likely undervalue the help Nov. 4 1919.

Dear Casey

Mr Bell has spent twenty-five of the best years of his life developing on his own property, and with his own money a new breed of sheep which he believes will be of benefit to mankind, He therefore has the right to your energetic help and the protection of the law when his work is endangered by the presence on his own property of strange dogs.

I request therefore that emphatic means be taken to prevent a recurrence of the experience of last year and this morning.

Last year it could not be proved that his sheep was killed by any particular dog, but this morning a big black and white dog which I und understand has been around here the last day or two came her knocked down my little granddaughter Nancy, bounded away and jumped the fence where the rams are, thus showing the possibility of danger from his presence here, He seems to have hurt himself in this jump, and the men are trying to catch him, but he is snapping at them. I am told that they want to get him and kindly return him to his owner.

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I think he should be shot without further ado, but if you dont at least he should not be returned to the owner, but notice sent to him that the dog is held, and that if he wants him he must call for him immediately or otherwise he will be shot as a danger to the sheepand

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mr. F. W. Baldwin. Nov. 4, 1919. Dear Casey:

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I think he should be shot without further ado, but if you don't at least he should not be returned to the owner, but notice sent to him that the dog is held, and that if he wants him he must call for him immediately or otherwise he will be shot as a danger to the sheep and children too. I also want notice inserted in the Victoria News that ownerless dogs caught here, in future will be held 24 hours, and then shot, on first offense, and on second, shot at sight.

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This may all sound bloodthirsty and not meet with your approval, you have only to say you are acting by my request as owner of the sheep. My patience at last is exhausted. I think we have been very long-suffering 2 and it is time to stand up for our rights, especially when they not only hurt nobody — but are intended to help people. They are at perfect liberty to refuse and undervalue the help, but not to interfere with Mr. Bell's and my doing as we like with our own, so long as it is entirely our own affair and within the law.

Yours sincerely, Mabel G. Bell.