

Albany, N.Y. December first, 1913.

Mr. Carlos C. Alden,
27 Ashland Ave.,
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear friend;

I have your note and copy of letter sent to Mr. Wicks. On receipt of the letter from Cass Pease last Wednesday, I went to the Lake that evening, and spent Thanksgiving Day with Ben Hunter. I was at the dam in the morning and found that the timbers in front of the bridge supporting the dam had been cut out with an axe. It looks as if the work had been done at different intervals, i.e. several days must have elapsed while the work was going on, as I do not know how the lower timbers could have been cut out until the water had subsided considerable. There is still quite a current running through the dam. I believe that the level in the immediate vicinity of the dam has been lowered in the neighborhood of two feet below its lowest level of last summer, but in the Lake proper, at your boat house and mine, it is a foot lower than it was last summer. As the water was very low last summer this additional foot is quite noticeable, exposing a great deal of the old wood and decayed vegetable matter along the shores and in shallow places. Thanksgiving Day was quite cold, and even in this weather there was quite a bad smell from the decayed vegetation.

Thanksgiving evening I met Mr. Wicks and Mr. A. Weed at the Burley House in Ticonderoga. I think that Mr. Weed stated before Mr. Wicks arrived that Mr. Wicks was attorney for Mr. Newton, the man who owns the dam and who it is said had the timbers cut. Mr. Wicks said that he had not seen Mr. Newton since learning of the cutting out of the dam and consequently did not know the reason, but that he would see him on Saturday and would report conditions. He thought that it would be advisable, after learning the conditions, for the property holders to get together and raise money for the building of a new dam, provided the conditions warranted it. At present everything is supposition, therefore we can do nothing until we "know where we are at".

I was at the Capitol on Wednesday last and saw Mr. McKimm, the Inspector of Docks and Dams, who went with us last summer to inspect the dam. In Mr. McKimm's office I glanced over some correspondence which he had with Mr. Newton, the owner of the dam, and I was under the impression that Mr. Newton was ignoring Mr. McKimm's correspondence for

270
some reason or other, therefore it is possible that Mr. Newton has been annoyed by something that has been said or written to him regarding his repairing the dam, and for that reason cut it out. It was rumored that he was about to place a saw mill at the dam for the purpose of sawing a few logs in the spring. If this were so it would be the most detrimental thing that could happen, because the lowering and raising of the Lake would be a very serious objection both from the point of our boat houses and for the bad smell which comes from the exposed decayed vegetation. Let us hope there is to be no saw mill and that the dam was simply cut out for spite, and that we may get together and have it replaced in a substantial manner. The fixing of a permanent level is the most important thing, in my mind to be achieved. Mr. McKimm said that it was his opinion that a man owning a dam had the right to cut it out or not to maintain same, but that he had no right, without permission from the State to raise the level.

Tell Ruth that one of her kittens was having its Thanksgiving dinner at Houghtaling's when we were there Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Houghtaling said some one found the kitten over at our house and brought it over to him.

I suppose you have heard that Dr. Case has resigned from his Church in Chicago, the resignation to take place January first. I have been anxious to hear from you or yours regarding Mrs. Alden's health. How did the operation turn out? I hope that she is all right by this time.

I have not heard much news regarding politics in the immediate vicinity of Buffalo. I suppose when I see you there will be lots to talk about. The Knickerbocker Press supported me until about a week before election, at which time Judge Arnold, the manager of the paper had a change of mind, and stated it editorially in his paper. This change of mind probably worked more injury to the Knickerbocker Press than it did to myself, but it may have cost me one thousand votes. Before election I had fears that I might be elected, but results showed it to be an impossibility, although I had some consolation by the result of the vote, running about eight hundred to one thousand ahead of the ticket. In the City of Albany, Roosevelt polled 26,000 votes, Strauss 2900 and I polled 5,080.

Let me hear from you, particularly as to how Mrs. Alden is getting along.

Very truly,

WSL:WAK.