

Sebastopol, Calif.
Monday, Oct. 5, 1942

Dear Kaz:

You must be thinking that I am neglecting everything I have been entrusted with and all else from the way I keep up my correspondence with you folks. Well, I just can't keep up with everything and the letter writing comes last somehow or other. Here it is time to go to bed and I am only starting to do my bookkeeping and letter writing, but if I don't do it now it may have to wait for a long time because we never know from one minute to the next what has to be done. Joe and I never get to bed before midnight any more and we don't think a thing of it but the mornings come too early for any good. Tonight we had to ~~sort~~ sort a few hundred sacks to send up above with Miller's truck early in the morning and then we took them into town so just got back from there. Joe is at the dryer moving full boxes around to make room for the truckload tomorrow and in the morning I have a platform full of empties to move onto the ground. Our crew is doing fine as far as peeling and spreading is concerned but they are so independent it is pitiful - we don't dare ask them to do anything but what they were hired for and we even skip part of that when we can. I never saw anything like it before - they are surely having their holiday, but this thing won't last forever and everyone says the same - when help is plentiful these fellows will have to take what's left over. I feel that they could be a little more civil about the thing, but that is the way they see it and that's the way it has to be if we want anything done. I have gotten so mad a couple of times that I just told them what I thought about their system, but then, they have us over a barrel and they know it and we have to admit it. So much for our hard luck. Now for some news for you on your business:

LABOR PROBLEM

Mr. Winkler was down a few nights ago and we spent hours trying to get things straightened out. Bookkeeping is something rather new to them this year and they had so much to keep track of that it took time to get it all ironed out, but I think it is O.K. now. I am enclosing a duplicate of the Union statement to show you what prices were paid, etc. As you know, the deal was on a 60-40 basis and we figured it that way all through the dryer stuff and all. Well, from the Union the amount was \$1365.22 and of course, your 40% of the stock will be issued later and redeemable in three years. Then from the stuff that went through the dryer there was \$179.50 - 39004# windfalls and 10857# culls and they paid \$18.00 straight through. I think their payment was well in line considering the fact that they sold everything at 13¢ and 14¢ just before the price raised. The last contract I signed was for 15¢, 16¢ and 16 3/4. On top of that Winkler had about 10 tons of Standard fruit and some of that was due to negligence on their part because Sam told them that the boiler had a hole and that oil soot was all over the fruit. Merrill turned down a number of lots on account of the oil and I saw it myself a couple of times when it was pretty bad. Of course, he admitted it was his fault for not taking time to let me know about it and seeing about having it fixed but he says he just had too much to handle after Ed passed on and he didn't think it was as serious as it proved to be. At any rate, they finally had it patched and he will give me the bill for the material and labor later on when he settles for the late stuff. It won't be so bad because they used that asbestos cement and Jack Tough did a little work besides. The dryer rental amounted to \$321.67 - 85,778# turned out at \$7.50 per ton. He said he would make final settlement as soon as they collected for the backed late stuff and for what they put through the dryer and at that time we would settle for the expense he had on the dryer pipes, etc. I asked him to have the dryer juice turned off and he said he would take care of it. I am not having the juice at the house turned off because it would cost to have it turned on when anyone needed water for anything and if Sam goes back up there when he gets done

done with the dryer he will want water. He will have to take care of his lights for the cabin, however, if he wants them, I am not going to pay for those unless I absolutely have to. Those guys make me sick - when they came here they wanted everything from the house and lights to their fuel for cooking and asked for more things than anyone we ever had around here before. I told them that other people rented and paid for their homes no matter where they had to earn their bread and I felt that they were darned lucky to get ~~every~~ everything, but their eats when they were doing just seasonal work. They just looked at me and laughed, that's how much it bothered them. Just the same, if I don't die too soon I am going to laughright back some day when they will be only too glad to have a job, let alone ~~every~~ little whim they ask for now. We knew it would be bad but we never suspected that the laborers would get as rank as they are this year. The boss can't say a word about how you want the work done or dare ask anyone to help an extra minute for fear that you will be left high and dry and you can imagine how that makes the boss feel when he or she has to keep the nose to the grindstone every minute of the day and on into the night. Well, I'll tell you - I've just got to the point when I say to myself all day long "there'll come a day!" and I really mean it, too. The ones that are really sincere in this effort and are doing all in their ~~best~~ power to put it over are helping in every way without complaining, but these so and so's who are in it for every penny and laughing up their sleeves at the ones who are doing the sweating are going to find themselves out in the cold one of these days or I miss my guess.

Listen Kaz, I didn't send anything to your Grandpa on these figures as I am not sure just how much of this would be allowed him so you use your judgment about it and maybe you can find more time than I have to explain it all to him. You might tell him, too, that I haven't had any more word from Tauzer on the bond refund since he wrote and told me that the court had accepted his papers and ordered his release. These things take time I suppose, and I am sure it will come through in due time if he hasn't already received it.

I am so muddled in my mind about everything around here that I can't think for the life of me when I sent your watch, but anyway, I sent it a few days ago and I hope you got it O.K. The total bill was \$5.15, postage and insurance and all.

From what you and Mrs. Ito told me that must be a wonderful place in which to live, what with all your little wild friends around you! I hope you have some sort of job by now to keep you out of mischief and that you will like it better than the mess hall job.

Lloyd is going into the army on the 17th. He went down to Frisco today to be sworn in and starting tomorrow he is going to do all the work he can on our Ford truck and tractor before he goes. I tried to get him deferred but nothing doing. I don't know what in the world we will do without him this Winter and Spring and next Summer, too. Bob Herring is still around but he can't handle the machinery like Lloyd and then he doesn't understand the mechanical end of it like Lloyd. Lloyd hopes to get into the mechanical division of the army and he thinks he has a good chance after some little test he took the other day. He said the examining officer told him to stick to his mechanical hopes and try for that branch so that is what he is going to do.

What are you people going to do at that place, farm it or do some other kind of work? I've been wondering and so many people have asked if I hear from you and what you are all going to do at that place. By golly, believe it or not, Sammy had intended to visit you people at Merced when he got through with the dryer up there, but he didn't finish until you had moved so he felt pretty badly about it. I told him he should take a good vacation when he finishes here and go to Colorado to see you, but he said ^{nothing to} ~~at that~~ ^{on top of it} well, I see I am out of paper and I'm just about asleep so will say good night and sign off. Write me if you have any questions on any of this settlement and I would like to know if you think it satisfactory or not.

Regards to all,