

March 29, 1944.

Dear Kazuo:

I owe you an apology for not finishing my long winded letter that I started weeks ago, but things have happened thick and fast around here and right now I am going to take enough time to tell you that I got your letter this morning, called Thomas right away and he came over and got your letter to take to the office. He said that was all that he wanted to know and that he would relay it to the proper authorities and make the notation on his books to the effect that one of the owners is in the Armed Forces. Mind you, I still do not think that you kids should be drafted, in view of the way you are being treated, nevertheless, this is one time when it made me happy that it was that way. I was really beside myself as to what to do - I couldn't fight it with nothing to base my fight on, and when I wrote you the other day I felt there was only one thing left to do and that was to sell it outright. As it now stands, the whole thing is clear and without a doubt, a closed argument, and I am happy about it! As far as the rest of the equipment is concerned, I believe I made it perfectly clear to them that it was necessary in the operation of the place. Geary and I had talked that over before and he told me that as long as I operated the place for you folks I stood a much better chance of hanging on to that equipment. At any rate, now that Teruo is in the army there should be no question about that, excepting for the fact that it is still in the name of your Grandad, whereas, the rest of the equipment that was nailed or bolted down (such as the washer and grader) ~~XXXX~~ was taken by the court as belonging to the estate and treated as property of the estate. However, when Thomas asked about the cultivating equipment and I told him that I was needing every bit of it in the operation of the farm he said that was good enough. We'll rest in peace on that until trouble comes along, anyway.

I haven't had any inquiries on the old wiper and grader excepting that Thomas asked about it (where he got his information, I don't know). I told him that I had a letter from you stating what you would like to get for that and when I quoted the amounts you mentioned he said they were way out of line with the ceiling on used equipment of that type. I wanted to open up and show them what it was like, but they said they weren't interested in it at all. Thomas seemed tickled to death about the outcome of this Cutler washer deal - I was really surprised, because he has always acted so darned stinking about other things.

Well, I intend to finish my other letter one of these days - it was started on March 16th - I was giving you all the low-down on my appearance in court and the outcome of that and then intended to tell you how the work was getting along on the place. I have some interesting news on the cost of raking and burning the brush as compared with what Sam and his henchmen wanted. Guess he has no use for me at all now, but I am glad I stuck by my guns, I saved a lot of expense by doing so. He is still crying around about the loss he claims he took on the pruning contract, and I'd bet my last dime that he averaged 1.50 per hour for every hour he put in on that job. I am in a hurry and cannot go into detail, but I will finish that letter one of these fine days and tell you everything.

Tommy has had a bad throat infection (is still laid up, but better) and he has kept me busy. I have been putting in a lot of time at Johnny's place trying to get in shape to rent again and Joe has been so busy making his duster he hasn't been able to help me at all, so with all this on hand, I haven't much time to write. He got his duster all put together and connected it to the ~~XXXX~~ tractor tonight to try it out - it is working swell, but he is going to make some improvements tomorrow. Believe we will do the first dusting starting tomorrow night. Again expressing my satisfaction at the outcome of the deal, and hoping this finds you all in good health, I remain