

(1)

Athabasca Landing, July 4th. 07.
1907

My Dear Fellow Workers.-

Yours of the 24th.

ult. Just-to hand last night. Very
glad indeed to hear from you. Yes, I
have been very busy getting a small
building up to answer as dwelling.
To my great delight, Rev. Jos. Coulter, ^{O.A.} who
was last year at Clover Bar, came to spend
a few days with me. He is resting from
circuit. responsibility. This year but threw
himself heartily into the work of erecting
the dwelling. Said it was just the change
he required. We have the shell up and
expect to move in to day. It will be
alright for summer use but will require
v joint inside and outside before winter.
The doors are made of ship lap and will
do until others arrive. Our native spruce
is \$23⁰⁰ to \$25⁰⁰ per thousand feet - but anything
from outside is expensive. Had to pay \$6⁷⁵
for poor second class shingles, but will
have another scheme for roofing the Hall.

The four windows 12x24 Cost-\$15.00
for sash & glass. I made the sashes & frames
myself. The dwelling is planned to serve
as kitchen to a parsonage at a later date. It
is 12x20 feet with a one sided roof.

I am delighted to know you
are going to undertake the building of
the hall. So confident am I that we
ought to undertake this immediately I
am venturing \$100.00 myself as a starter.
Bro. Coulter and I intend to commence on
the foundation to-morrow. He is most-
enthusiastic over the enterprise. We may
hire a few men and I may direct operations
myself. We are not strong enough
financially to have it done by contract.
My thought is to get the shell up at once
so that we can use it for services while
lumber is being prepared and seasoned
for finishing and funds raised for
carrying out our plans. I enclose a
hurried outline of what is on my mind.
You will observe that plans are contemplated
for rooms upstairs. It will ^{be} constructed

that. Should we at anytime deem it wise to sell it - would be an easy matter.

The cost of material for the shell - i.e. fast-frame covered with ship-lap - would be about \$500⁰⁰. This would include roofing but not labor.

I would like to have this much done before making any appeal to the people here. They would then see that we are in earnest in this matter and would then do their very best.

Brother Coult will remain a week or ~~two~~ longer if we commence at once. He wants to have a share in the work.

I would be glad to know what you have on hand for building. We are going ahead anyway.

Should you be sending money we have a branch of the Imperial Bank here, also the Post-Office.

One hundred and twenty six passengers were on board the steamer "Midnight Sun" on her last trip.

Please excuse haste, as usual I am too busy to write. Yours very faithfully, Chas. F. Hopkins.

(2)

Athabasca Landing, July 25, 04.

My Dear Fellow Workers. -

As yours of the 24th-ult^o, was the last letter from you to reach me you may be sure I am getting very anxious to hear from you. We get our mail each Wednesday evening and for the past two weeks there was a good deal of disappointment when no word came from you. Perhaps it was what I deserved as my reply to your very entertaining letter was almost contemptible. For the present you must pardon the haste in which my letters are written. Rush is the word and has been the order since my coming here. Brother Coulter has been with me; is still here and shares in all the work.

The one pressing necessity is the Hall. The success of our work seems to hinge largely on our ability to have it.

ready at once. There was no capital with which to start - but with the need constantly before us brother Coulter and I decided to undertake the construction ourselves. Accordingly as soon as we had our ^{shanty} enclosed with shiplap and shingled we commenced at the Hall. I have paid out what money I had - about \$175⁰⁰ for material and in addition have purchased about \$400 or 450 dollars worth of material. We have the foundation in, and frame up and partly enclosed. We have had difficulty in getting our material. Could not get what we wanted and have hauled nearly all ourselves.

The Church of England people hearing of our plans at once decided to do something in the same line. They let the contract for a Church which is costing them \$3500⁰⁰. Their plan is to turn the old one into a club room. Their contractors had their material on the ground before we had

but I think we are farther advanced now than they are. It is needless for me to state that our movements have completely surprised the citizens.

It was my purpose to take a few snapshots and send to you to develop, but I fear they will not go by this mail. Our building has quite an imposing appearance, is in the busy part of the village, and within one hundred feet of the hotel. We have an ideal site for the work we are attempting. Parties on their way to the Peace River country are continually coming in, being outfitted and passing forward. About forty settlers and effects went out last night by the steamer "Midnight Sun". In all there were about a hundred passengers on board.

Have not yet seen Mr. Hunt - will be glad to explain the situation to him.

Yes, I know Mr. Doyle quite well.

He and I were at College together. He was always one of our best fellows. over

It is now 11 p.m. Bro. Coulter and I worked until late as it is very pleasant working in the cool of the evening. As I write a noisy dance is in progress about three doors down the street. There is plenty of drink of course and the excitement is increasing.

Now I must stop for this time. My kindest regards to every member of ~~the club~~.

Yours ever sincerely,

Chas. F. Hopkins.

P.S. There are hundreds of husky ~~to~~ train dogs here and their howls at night are weird in the extreme G.F.H.