March 1st/98

Angel Hotel
Victoria
B. C.

Dear Jim

I shall be leaving Victoria either to night or early in the morning by the S. "Boscowitz." I have got everything ready now, and will have quite a big load to take along; about 400 lbs of the mosquito salve, 10 coal oil cans full, in 5 cases; then I'll have about 700 lbs of provisions, etc, and 500 lb of horse feed (compressed) for I am taking a horse now instead of dogs. The dealers ask such big prices for their dogs and I thought it would be cheaper to take a horse. I gave 60 dollars for it, and it cost me 35 dollars more for its passage, then there was

the harness and sled to buy and feed besides my own outfit; the mosquito salve has cost $214.00, so you see it is quite an expensive job; but if I get the stuff up there before summer I'll get good returns for it. I was speaking to a man, just out from Klondike, yesterday, and he says that if the stuff is good I'll make a fortune out of it. He says they would give 20 dollars an ounce for it if it will save them from the mosquitoes.
I'm not afraid of having any rivals in the business, for I have made enquiries and cannot hear of anyone taking any large stock of such stuff. Some of the chemists are selling various kinds of preparations for the same purpose, but they dont have much of a sale for it. Of two of the oils that is in my mixture I bought all there was in Victoria.

Vancouver, and Seattle, then had to send to San Francisco.
Victoria is very busy, boats leaving every day and coming in too, full of Klondikers, and to see the warehouses full of provisions stacked up as they are you would wonder how they were going to get rid of it. All the blacksmiths and carpenters are making sleighs, as fast as they can, there must be many thousands of sleighs piled up, all over the town, same with stoves, blankets, clothing, etc.
Yesterday the "Australia" put in to allow her passengers to get miners licences, she had a large contingent of United States infantry, who were strutting ~~abo~~ round the town all morning; they are supposed to be splendid troops, specially selected for the service in Alaska; but I never saw such a scrubby lot, any of our volunteer corps would make a better show, no two

of them were dressed alike, and they were of all sizes and shapes, young and old and recruited from all nations. ~~they all~~ Uncle Sam will have as much as he can manage if he tackles Spain. John Bull has nothing to fear from such like.

Mr Rogers, our member, has been very good to me and helped me out of a little difficulty. I brought one of Laurds cheques for $50 down and could not get money for it and being short of money I was in a bad fix; I went to Mr Rogers and told him how I was situated and he cashed it for me taking all the risks. Now that was very good of him, and if I was staying in Cariboo I would work for him all I could in the coming election. ~~He was [illegible] a good [illegible]~~ I think he is as good as any other candidate anyway. I wish you would do what you can. Of course, please yourself you know. Now I'll bid you goodbye.

Remember to all. Your dear brother. Lorne