

February 2-1920

Mr. C. W. Means,  
c/o The Manor,  
Asheville, N.C.

Dear Charlie:

Have just a few minutes to dictate a few lines, in enclosing check for our Dividend No. 31, Means & Russell Iron Company, 35%. Am also enclosing a letter from Dr. Blumer, in regard to the check we sent him for the nurses.

We have had considerable trouble this winter; The gas has been off and on at least a dozen times or more, curtailing the production of the Open Hearth and leaving them, generally, in pretty bad shape. The electric current has also been interfered with by gas shortage and other troubles that the Power Company has been having. To cap the climax, a slip in our furnaces a week ago last Sunday, the 25th, caused an explosion of gas, which burned the inside woodwork out of our Engine House. We are now taking down one of the walls. It will be the middle of the week before we get No. 2 in blast, we got No. 1 in operation the following Wednesday.

To add to our other difficulties, "Billy Gol Dern" 'busted' all of his water supply pumps, and the City, as well as our Sheet Mill, which was depending on city water, have been without water, which put the Sheet Mill out of commission. The City is still out of water and has been since Thursday night. However, we are rigging an electric pump at the Sheet Mill to supply their own water, and will probably get the Sheet Mill going this afternoon. So, you can imagine that I have not had many spare moments to think of anything except our difficulties, but the weather is beautiful and has been for the past week.

I suppose you have learned by this time of the death of Velonia Putnam Rayfield. She died in Chicago last Wednesday night and was buried yesterday afternoon. It is particularly sad, as you can imagine, leaving a little baby which seems to be getting along all right, so far.

Hope you are getting along all right and have overcome your attack of hives that you were afflicted with while here.

Yours very truly,

WBS-EK