

Garnett Kan.
April 16th 1922

Dear Ida;

Your good long letter received and it has encouraged me to think that you are getting a real rest, for I know just how you work too hard and too long. The farm has been and will be, your salvation, and though you may think that I never appreciated it, you must know that I have realized what it meant to you. I hope you can keep it going this summer and feel that if you have to help us, it will be a burden too big for you.

Our situation is precarious yet but although our time was up yesterday, we are not dead yet. My eastern friend sent a man out and he was no good, in that he would not report either way until he had returned and we only received refusal of proposition on Friday. Meanwhile I was working with Iola parties and had succeeded in placing the heavy oil property, which has been the hard end of it, with a deal closed practically on the other and subject to one party's return tomorrow for inspection. I wired for a few days grace but was refused.

As a hedge and last resort for time, we had Gates file an attachment for an old unsettled account he has been trying to collect from the Helena, which puts the properties in the Sheriff's hands and stops all negotiations, either between us and the Helena or on sale, and we will have that much time on our option, which now amounts to 4 days.

We were really holding Gates off, but told him the situation and his lawyer advised to file attachments to protect himself under time limit and possible transfer, so that we cannot be blamed, but were just lucky in that Gates time and our own came together.

We have a wire to be ready to turn our interest over to the Helena as of 15th and expect their Tulsa attorney here tomorrow. He is a friend of ours and does not like the Clarks and I believe we can get him to work with us for their plan is to sell this stuff to the Oklahoma company, in which the attorney is interested, at a high figure and I am satisfied it would be a nuisance to it.

We have worked entirely fair with them all the way thru, but they have not been fair, in that they have not considered the time lost by bad weather and the hardship of handling the heavy oil in the same channel as the light, which they have required us to do, turning down one offer for it on the grounds that they might be left with the other on their hands.

They have also refused to consider Scotts' agreement for a carried interest and forced us to agree to turn it in with mine, unfairly as I see it.

We have a fighting chance now and I suppose it means a fight, but am banking on the attorney being fair and advising them to allow the time we claim. If they do I think I can place the deal, as the parties have just made a big turn and are in the market for such a property.

What will become of Scott, if we fail, is a very serious

problem with me and gives me a lot of thinking to do. He is a good operator and hard worker when he has something on hand, but this partly idle life has been an awful strain on him as well as me. I fear that I steered him into the wrong game, at times, and, like me, his consideration of the future has been too little: As you say, failure here may be his making, but I hate to see him cheated out of his chance here when he developed it and is entitled to it. As the Clarks are inclined to be mean apparently (although perhaps I should not say that, as they have cause for wishing settlement), I suppose they will figure us out of any balance and we will be practically flat.

I suppose, in any event, Scott's salary will stop on the 15th unless we can hold things over until the 30th. and the proceeds from my interest in the Poss lease, which he has always received will be hung up or stopped very soon.

There are opportunities here but without capital, they are almost impossible to get hold of.

I am trying to give you the exact situation without cover, and don't want you to worry over it, but feel that you should know it. We are in good health and know the business, and we ought to have some way of making a living and perhaps a fortune. I have always noticed that the man or men, who get knocked out in the oil game, generally come back if they keep their nerve and grab their opportunity.

I look for my man to be in Iola tomorrow and I am going ahead with the deal and close it if I can, for legally they can't stop it and morally I believe they will see that.

I know all you say about me and the family is true and I am standing the strain better than I thought I would, while the girls are doing wonderful, brave work. They had a fine Easter breakfast with your remembrance prominent, eggs, rabbits etc. and the kids half crazy. Ella is getting along nicely but tires out often and has too much to do with the kids, being the only one with any control over them. The baby is a pugilist and an awful burden sometimes for he has learned that by raising his voice he can get what he wants and his voice is developing nicely. It won't be long until he will be interrupting the radio waves from here to Kansas City. Scott has taken Lydia and the three kids to Iola today and I am going to help Ella run the pug this afternoon. Expect to reduce his weight some and at the right place.

I hope your trip is not too hard and that you do see the girls. It seems sometimes as though I would never see them again but I suppose all things work for the best and there is no use letting today take the burden of tomorrow.

I received your Wilson tribute and it is fine. Will hang it in office for I believe Kansas will go democratic with Allen out of the race.

I will let you know how we progress and if we win, as I am believing we will; I may send you a "wave", but if we lose, it will be a wail.

With Love,

Mike