



Mr. Jesse Crosby
Bartle

Orte. Prov. Cuba

Zion City Ill
Dec 13 - 17

Dear Bro:-

Am sending you little note
to enclose clipping from C. Tribune.

If ~~this~~ ^{is} the ~~the~~ situation
right among the coal miners, what
can we expect here? So far we
have not suffered for coal; ~~but~~ ^{as}
there have been very large stocks
in the G. C. yards; but now
they are about gone; and things
are looking quite serious. I have
only enough on hand for a few
days - have not had money to
stock up any as could have done.

Have been having a real blizzard
last night and today; and it
just takes all my time day and
night to look after the little ones
and keep up the fires with soft
coal

2.

Eating material are almost as low and even more expensive than in Cuba up to the last two weeks before I was left there.

The big mail order houses are mostly out of the most common things; and with severe complaints looming up that the army are not being sufficiently provided for; things are looking dark indeed. Today's "Tribuna" says there is a big shakeup coming in army affairs because of improper supplies.

Now I have already gone thru enough I think so that I am not likely to get really scared; but with the intense cold and shortness of supplies, and the heavy responsibilities it is certainly serious enough.

I seldom allow the children more than one slice of bread

at a meal. ^B All but baby have
been without^{out} milk or cocoa, and
have only had the merest sprinkle
of sugar for weeks. Have had
less than \$2.00 worth of meat
since our return; and have had
no coffee for several months.

Corn is worth nearly 5¢ per lb.
Now I am ~~at~~ only letting you
know how things are.

I had hoped so much ~~to~~ to
hear again from you that the
drill was sold, and receive therefor
a check that would cover my
urgent immediate necessities
at least. I am sorry to impose
any extra burden upon you at
this time; but if there ^{is} any way
in your power to hasten some
kind of deal on the drill, or on
Segunda I beg of you to push it
on quick as possible.

Things have changed so rapidly
here in the last six years; and
even more so since last spring
that it is like another country
altogether.

What are the prospects for
more trouble there this winter?

Is the U.S. sending soldiers there
now. Have heard that they had
sent a large number there.

Please let me hear from
you soon as possible.

Sincerely
Clarence C.