

Letter from William Sellew to "Mother," June 21, 1888

*Great Falls
June 21st 1888*

Dear Mother:

Times are very quiet here at present & have bin all spring. it has bin rainy for 2 months staidy almost & cold. . . . I am teaming but still living on the ranch. will move to town as soon as the weather gets clear tomorow or the next day as my work is mostly thare.

I would send you more of the Falls papers But there is not a word of truth in them in regard to the Falls and country around here. I used to think it would make a good town and county but the climate and soile will not permit. the R R and the town site company are all the same and they own the paper and are trying to boom the town. . . .

There is 160 achers in my place here. The rail road runs for 3 quarters of a mile rite through the center of it and also my crop wich you may say spoiled al of it. They traviled at the rate of

8 mile a day when coming through here. I was out to snd cooley [Sand Coulee] cuting grain for the other people at the time. no one at home. they opened my fence and thare stock at night spoiled what they did not. when I come home the R R was only 50 feet from my house. it shakes the house when they go by. Grain does not so well here when the RR gets to any country. . . . I am hunting for a country wher there is none. . . .

The papers say this is the turminous of 4 R R but it is the turminous of none. the MT Central and the Manitoba are al the same road. the Misourie and Great Falls is only a side track runing to the Smelter. The sand cooley branch is a road runing to their cole mines 5 miles by the wagon road and about 12 by the R R so you see how they miss lead suckers. . . .

Source: *William Roland Sellew Papers, 1872–1909. Small Collection 331.* Montana Historical Society Research Center. Archives. Excerpted in *Not In Precious Metals Alone: A Manuscript History of Montana* (Helena, 1976): 117.