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Sept. 24, 1924.

Dear Margaret:

If you saw the rivers of tears I am shedding you would sit right down and write me a letter with a sponge or blotter enclosed. Another day and no letter. The office staff thinks my wife is a fiction and the Secretary has offered to write me <sup>a letter</sup> ~~one~~ if I do not get one soon. Even Peggy seems to have forgotten her old man's joys.

Yesterday I played with hookworm statistics, and the day before Dr. Smillie + I drove out in the country to investigate typhoid and ~~hookworm~~ tuberculosis cases. Rural Queenslanders live in palaces compared to  
(over)

the rough cabins of the white farmers here. You can hardly imagine the depths of ignorance and physical degradation of many of the people.

At one house we went to see a case of tuberculosis in <sup>the mother of the family.</sup> We found that her husband had died of tuberculosis, her 18 year old daughter had advanced tuberculosis, her 16 year old daughter was in bed with the survivor of ~~two~~ a pair of <sup>illegitimate</sup> twins born four days before. An assortment of younger children and grand children were floating about the place and viewing what the future had for them. And this was only a sample. Most of the farmers seem to be tenants and to move most every year, adding failure to failure. When they are talked to about health measures about one idea out of ten seems to penetrate the drawn and impassive face with mouth hanging <sup>slightly</sup> open and that idea is not adhered to.

2.

The last two days have been comfortable, but before that, it was very hot here. Real tropical heat. People were wearing thin clothes, — palm beach or just plain cotton. Most people went about without coats.

Have you heard anything from Freda Page? I hope you will have room enough so that she can visit you without-overcrowding. I suppose I will be back before then.

What do you think of two for a combination of business? There is a shop here that makes coffins and sanitary privies. I suppose one business falls as the other rises, and the firm cannot lose.

Love to all of you,

Milner.