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Pennington to Dr. Coffen April 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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El TeePee, Woods, R.F.D. Cloverdale, Oregon, April 23, 1946.

Dr. T. Homer Coifen, 707 Stevens Building, Portland 5, Oregon.

Dear Friend: -- '

Your letter of the 19th reached me out here yesterday, and I thank you for telling me about myself.

I suppose it will be a long time before I am completely recovered from that illness from which I was still suffering a year ago now, though I got out of bed on the first of April and did not spend days in bed after that, though for a good while I hobbled about on crutches after that. But that left foot and ankle are gradually approaching normalcy, though it seems that the progress is slow. But there is less swelling and discoloration than there was six months or even three months ago. That's what was the matter with that left foot and leg. The neuralgia in the right side of my head is much better. I did not know that I had said anything about constipation, from which I have been almost completely free since Dr. Laird, to whom you sent me, did his work for me.

Don't think that D hold your advice in low esteem. If I did not think you the best man available to advise me, I'd have gone to some other man in whom I'd have had more confidence. I took off thirty pounds of weight once on a time -- you probably do not remember. I allowed some of it to come back while my brother was here in the fall of 1944 -- he is two inches shorter than I and outweighs me by fifty pounds. He's really fat. During my illness over a year ago my weight went down to 194 -- it may have gone lower than that, but that's the lowest it was when I was weighed. Unfortunately during our long trip I got back too much weight, visiting some of the best cooks in the United States, all of whom wanted me to eat more than I should have done. But I had already taken off some pounds before I saw you, and intend to lose some more, though it is not easy with the combination of a good appetite and a wife who is the best cook anywhere. One doctor, the one who was our family physician in Richmond, said I ought to hold my weight at about 210. Is he right?

I don't think I could like beer, though I never tasted it; and I don't believe I'd better start on highballs at my time of life -- nor any other. So it's aqua hydrantis for mire -- Rebecca, will you please hand me another glass of water?

Again assuring you of my appreciation and my good intentions to follow your advice, I am

Sincerely your friend,