

July 21, 1930

Mr. William Randolph Hearst,
137 Riverside Drive,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hearst,-

I do not like to take up small troubles at long distance as conditions sometimes change before the problem even can reach you. However, this may not. Mr. Webb began doing queer things shortly after you left - ending in his quarreling with all the men and after a scuffle claiming his "honor" was damaged, went to San Luis Obispo and had a sheriff come up and arrest several of the boys. A couple of days later he went to a hospital in San Luis Obispo claiming serious injury to his neck. Dr. Shields called me up and said both X-rays and a thorough examination showed no sign of injury but that Mr. Webb was in an excessively nervous state, and that the trouble appeared to be mental rather than physical. A few hours later Dr. Lowell, his regular physician, reported the same condition saying he wanted to warn me that Mr. Webb was not in a mental state to handle men. After thinking it over, I asked both doctors if it would be treating Mr. Webb fairly to consider him ill and insist on his taking a vacation until your return. Their answer was yes, there was really nothing else to do.

The trouble takes the form of his believing himself the subject of conspiracies and persecutions - and of attacks on his "honor" and a series of queer schemings such as soaking his green house beds in furnace oil, to make the discharging of all the men seem reasonable, etc.

It may be that a few weeks of lifted responsibility will bring him out all right. In the meantime the garden is being cared for and Mr. McClure will look after checking of pay rolls etc. until you return.

One reason I write is because he is naturally aggrieved at being suspended, and claims that as he is directly responsible to you, no one has a right to interfere, - a fact, of course, under ordinary circumstances. Will this arrangement do until you return?

Yours very truly,

JM-M