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REFL: /						
FILE: Messersmith						

Dear Dannie:

Marion and I spent the day in Cuernavaca and she is out for dinner with some friends, so I will write you at least a brief note before turning in.

I have not heard from you as to your return, but I talked with Allan Graydon in Toronto on the telephone last night and I gathered from what he said that you will be returning not later than October 8 and may be coming sooner. Marion and I were terribly distressed to hear from Hettie that the operation of Mrs. Jensen showed so unhappy a condition. Under the circumstances she can probably linger not only for months but even for several years, and I am hoping that she will at least be comfortable, for otherwise an early death would be a happy release for her. I do not have much detail but I gather that the situation is not encouraging. Do give Yvonne our love and tell her how much our thoughts are with her. I am wondering whether she is returning with you or whether she feels that she must remain in Brussels. It creates, I am sure, a very difficult problem for her. So far as I can see, under the circumstances she cannot do very much in Brussels and her sister can give her mother all the aid and comfort in the circumstances. I know, however, that Yvonne must be torn by very complicated feelings, for she will wish to remain in Brussels and at the same time wish to return to New York.

As Dresel may say something to you when you get back I want to make the position entirely clear as to my own health. I have been feeling fine really for months but just before I left for New York on September 7 I was feeling rather rotten. I went to see Dresel, I think on September 8 when I arrived in New York and before going to Toronto, and Dresel said that I seemed to be in fine shape and that my heart seemed to be much better, but just as a matter of course he took a cardiogram. I went to Toronto and when I got back to New York about a week after Dresel had taken the cardiogram I went to see him and he told me that it showed quite a considerable change, certainly not for the better, over the cardiogram which had been taken about six or eight months before. He told me that I should really take several weeks of complete rest. On my return to Mexico City on September 20 I still felt pretty mean and I had a good deal of shortness of breath, and was, I must say, a bit concerned, but I had been following and did follow Dresel's prescription to take things very easy. I had a cardiogram taken by a cardiologist here who is just as good as what we have at home, and he told me that the cardiogram showed that the unfavorable elements which showed up in the cardiogram taken by Dresel several weeks before had already disappeared. He did not change the

medicine

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medicine which I have been taking for a year, so he must think that things are not bad. I am taking it a good deal easier. I am hardly going out any at night and trying to take an hour siesta after lunch and I really feel like a different man already. I am telling you about this because I do not want you to be concerned, for there is really no reason for concern.

Hettie tells me that when June is ready to go home to have the new baby she plans to come down and go up with her. I think that is fine and I hope that you and Hettie and Edna will come down, and Yvonne also if she does not remain in Brussels. I do not know just when June is thinking of going north. I am not forgetting that you told me that you planned to come here soon after your return from Europe, and I do not know how that is going to fit in with Hettie's trip down here. In any event I am looking forward to seeing you, as there is so much to talk about, aside from the pleasure of seeing you.

I do not know whether I mentioned that Marion has bought a house in Cuernavaca. We had been thinking about this for some time, for we have always thought of eventually living there when we retire, keeping only a few rooms in Mexico City. I found the opportunity to buy really a very fine piece of property on the high ground just before going into Cuernavaca. There are about 5,000 square meters of ground and a beautiful, well kept garden, and I am told the most magnificent view to be had from any house in the city. In any event it is magnificent. The house itself is quite new and very attractive and has three bedrooms and baths and a livingroom, but it is really too small for us, especially as we want a very large livingroom. We are therefore planning to build a large livingroom and two more bedrooms, and a garage with servants' rooms and a larger kitchen immediately. We do not really need all this now, but I want to build it now, for as we intend to make that our main home eventually we might as well have it with all possible comforts now. We are, of course, going to keep up our present house in Mexico City as long as I remain actively with the company, but I do hope that from now on we may be able to spend from Friday evening until early Monday morning most every week in Cuernavaca. I think it will be a good thing for Marion and myself and we are looking forward eagerly to having you all visit us in the new house. Marion bought the house in her name as I think that is much better for any number of reasons.

I have received from Allan Graydon the resolutions passed by the Board in Toronto on September 13 and I know that he has sent copies to Donald for comment and I feel sure he must have sent copies to you <sup>no</sup> or in any event wishes you to see them on your return. The arrangements made so far as I am concerned are completely in line with your wishes and are entirely satisfactory to me. He raises the question as to

whether

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whether I should not have another agreement with Sidro such as the one which Donald prepared when I joined the Board and I am inclined to think that although it may not be necessary, it may be a good thing to do, and I am going to write to Donald and to Allan Graydon suggesting that a similar agreement be prepared for your consideration.

I cannot tell you how deeply I appreciate the action of the Board which has been so generous and understanding and thoughtful and I know that this is all due to you. I am not going to try to express my thoughts or my appreciation in this letter because I would not find the words, and so far as you are concerned you know how I feel. I need not tell you that it has made Marion very happy and of course she says that she knows that "Dannie must have done it". There are so many things that I would like to be writing you about that I will not even try to begin this evening. Guest arrived here from Toronto on Saturday, as there are some rather complicated inter-company arrangements between Mexlight and Mexelectric and Mexlight and Pachuca which have to be made under the reorganization plan so as to meet certain requirements of Mexican law. These are rather complicated and it seemed best to have Guest come down, but I am sure we will be able to work them out in the next week. LePaige I think is coming on Tuesday of this week and it will be very useful. The orders for the water wheels and generators for Patla have been placed with Allis-Chalmers. We have been in constant touch with Le Paige since he arrived in New York and the decision was one with which LePaige, Maryssael and I and our engineers were in complete accord. There was really just one thing that we could do and that was to place the order with Allis-Chalmers although the differences in price and delivery were not important. We are moving heaven and earth to get all of our orders on the books, for the only insurance we can carry for delivery, in view of increasing controls on production and export, is to get every order possible on the books of the manufacturers. We have really done a good job in this respect. We have not yet been able to place the order for the penstocks for Patla but we hope to get that done while LePaige is here. If necessary I may have to use a few friends to get delivery of the penstocks.

The rains this year have been disappointing and our cloud seeding operations do not seem to have brought much result although we used the best available techniques. We had yesterday 68,000,000 at Necaxa, 180,000,000 at Lerma, and around 170,000,000 at Tzapantongo. This is a good deal better than last year but it is not enough to carry us through until the next rainy season without some restrictions. We still have a chance during October and even some chance for rains in the first half of November, but I am not at all optimistic. We may increase the storage somewhat in the three basins, in fact almost certainly will, but I do not believe that we will get sufficient storage during the remainder of the season to enable us to carry through without some restrictions. We are already talking with the appropriate government

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officials and we hope this year to have what restrictions may be necessary put in effect by the end of October, for this will enable us to decrease the impact of whatever restrictions may be necessary during the remaining months until the next season. I somehow felt that this year would be a good one. We certainly have had enough bad luck so far as rains are concerned to have some good years ahead of us. In any event we will have 33,000 k.w. in the steam plant at Lecheria in December 1951 and another 33,000 k.w. in January or February 1952. Even with increasing demand that will help us, I believe, to avoid any further restrictions in future years even with inadequate rains. It is curious that we should have had these poor rains in the three watersheds. There has been more than the usual amount of rain in the Valley of Mexico City but this does not help us so far as power is concerned.

This is getting to be too long a letter and I simply must not keep on this evening, but I will be writing you later in the week. I told you over the phone that Hettie was looking better than I had seen her for years and she is certainly not only in good health but in good spirits and was eagerly looking forward to your return. Jimmy and June are well, June, of course, is beginning to suffer some of the inconveniences of the stage of pregnancy she is in, but she was at the house for dinner recently and seems very well. I understand the baby is fine. Jimmy is constantly making himself more useful and is doing a good job and is very much interested in his work.

Marion joins in love and good wishes.

Cordially and faithfully yours,



Hi GY today! Wish us both were 40,  
and knew as much as we know today!  
I often think what you & I could do.

