

Inkerman. Ont: Canada.

Nov: 23. 22

Dear Friend Otley.

I have just now received your letter, & as I have some spare time at my disposal, having caught up with most of my correspondence, I thought that I would start to write to you anyway, as I have a lot of news to tell you, & it may take one or two sittings before I finish it.

I was very pleased to receive your letter, as I was getting a little anxious with not hearing from you, but I understood the conditions.

Firstly, I am answering your letter in rotation, as I read it.

Like yourself, I am always more pleased to hear from a real lifter than I am from "nuts" & mere "followers". There is always a genuine inspiration & natural co-operative sentiment in their letters. The one thing that attracted me, was your enthusiastic personality with every sincere desire to further a good cause. I admired you for it, Otley, & my friendship for you is as solid as the rock of Gibraltar, & just as genuine. You know the old saying. "Kind calls kind". I guess it is right, for the affinity has always the subconscious magnetic existence.

I would have greatly loved to have had a real talk with Arco, & was very dissatisfied indeed, to be called away & not see either him or you again. I asked Earle to wait a moment so I could say Goodbye to you, but I could not find you, or anyone who had seen you, & so I felt dissatisfied, as I wanted to thank you for your interesting companionship.

The letter you wrote to Redmond was great, & should have a personal appeal to them, & I thank you for it very much. You hit the right keynote, & did well to remember Calvert also, as it makes the letter less personal.

As regards the photos your wife sent, I just got them this week, & I thank you greatly for them. I was delighted to see the "Roland Bros" as I knew them in the old days.

By the way, is that picture Calvert who is swinging the dumb-bell? I have not received the photos from Earle yet, but I got a letter this week saying I would get them next week likely. When I will send you of each. I expected that you would have got more out of the contest than you did. But every bit helps, & as you say the trip was worth while for the boys you met. I certainly thought it was to me, in that fact that I met you, & don't ever you think I am not genuine Ot: as I am a man of fixed ideas as regards friendship. When I meet a man, & he appeals to me I give him a friendship & allegiance that never dies, & if he does not appeal to me, I make it very plain, as I did to Atlas & a few others. I have no room for insincerity.

I sure do wish we lived nearer together, for I would be delighted, & we might make good together. Well we'll wish luck of the future.

I heard from Marineau the French lifter you was asking about, & met him on my return to Montreal. The doctor at first said he had better quit it altogether, but since I have heard he is going to try it again, & then he has had some difference with his manager, which means he may slip out altogether, as you know Otley, these Frenchmen have not too many brains. They never get a quarter of the education that we do, for religious reasons.

I was pleased to read the cutting & see you are in the limelight at home. I hope you make well out of it.

Now I will commence with some business news that I hope will interest you. I am working slowly to get Calverts co-operation, & the one big reason I desired you to send that letter was to keep the fact before thier eyes, of my ability to help the game, & by making them desire to have more of me, which, bringing me more into contact with them, I can more readily press my plans, with a better chance of success. You understand.

I have been in continuous touch with them since coming back, & I made certain proposals to them which I desired them to promote. The main one was to run a "Strength" campaign, holding demonstrations & exhibitions in ever city, & boost physical culture, & getting in touch with all lifters, & other athletes, (but I intended to devote attention to lifters) & have them all exhibit, & thus build up "Strength" & the game. I outlined a campaign for them at thier request, as I have been on three such, but they do not accept them, despite the fact that other publications made good with them. yet they want one, & made a proposition to me, which I would not accept, as I had to do all the work, financially & physically, & have only subscriptions as my basis to make a living, & hire my own help, & they get all the benefit. So refused on those grounds, as I pointed out to them, that in such a case as this, you had not

have to let the people believe it was a financial proposition, but a "Health Crusade" with "Strength" backing it up, then, you enlist the sympathies of the influential people & health societies, & by having an advance publicity man going ahead to interview these people, & having them take the chair, & speak, & also have local athletes give exhibitions as a contribution & then solicit subscriptions, & sell the magazine in single copies, & other health books, & also the photos of famous strong man & physical culturists, & also give other clubs, lifting preferred, to name a special night for themselves, & we would demonstrate the efficacy of scientific lifting.

The idea would be to make the tour pay for itself, & thus give the mag: world wide notoriety, & build it up.

I suggested Calver go with me, & him lecture, & I would demonstrate P.C. as he expounded, & then I would lift, balance, & wrestle with the local champion, & thus make most of the program. They said Calvert could not go, & if they had accepted the plans, & made a go of it, I was going to suggest you to go along with me, with the publicity man going ahead. The only plan I gave them otherwise was, that if two other parties besides

myself could be interested, I would consider it, but I would want something more than subscriptions to work on, & we would manage it according to how we thought the best.

Health & Strength of England, & Physical Culture of America made thier reputations on such campaigns, & Helth & Life wish to do the same & asked me to go with them, but unless they handle things better I would not dream of going.

I just answered thier last letter with the enclosed suggestions this week, & I pointed out to them the significance of ~~we~~ boosting lifting, as I said it had a future here, & since the Olympic Games committee had included it in thier list it was up to we enthusiasts to see if America was going to be represented in them, as I had received letters from abroad & at home, as to what we were going to do, & our attitude.

I suggested that Calvert & I write booklets to be issued by "Strength" he to write one chapter on muscular development of certain muscles, & how they operated in certain lifts, & I to write on the lift.

Each booklet offered at a very nominal fee, would place in the hands of both the lifting enthusiast & the one who desired special development the right methods, & more explicite than what one complete book of lifting would do, & the fee is generally a little too high to suit every enthusiast, whereas 50 cents would break no one, & he could buy just what he wanted.

I told them that I would also submit a method that would be of great benefit to lifters & encourage them for the Games, & give them inspiration, providing they went ahead with the booklet proposition. I was to hear from Calvert about this idea, but have not yet.

My idea is this, which I tell only you, & confidential, & I know you will agree is good & will bring "Strength" into the game, & help us.

I will suggest that they issue diplomas for merit in strength feats, providing that they are performed according to official standards. With the fee of 50 cents to accompany each application for record. This will give our members more pep, & we will recognise thier diploma, as it will be governed according to our standards, & thus get hold of all the Mibb pupils, & I will canvas them to join as we will be the association responsible to make them eligible to send them to the Games. I will get in touch with these bodies to get thier approval for such, which I know will be given.

We will then gradually draw Calvert in, & make him a president of the asso: That is my outline & fundamental ideas of soliciting Strength into my programme, & by sending that letter you are helping the cause greatly. Now to pass on to Health & Life. I got after Bernard strongly & I got a letter back asking me to draught out a certificate, which I did by return & he is going to rush them out & send them out, so we can get busy.

That is the most important item I have had with H & L. & the only interesting material I can give you.

Now as regards your definition of the lifts I asked of you.

I did not allow my ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ judgement to be conclusive, as I always like to have every man who is an expert, give his views. So when I returned to Montreal, I laid your letter before the French authority, & he thought as I did, that your definition & method of apparatus, was conclusive, & clean & just to satisfy everyone. Your definition is accepted by us all in the game. The rotation of lifts as appeared in H & Life, is the one we will go by, with the exception of that mistake, which should have read, harness lift, which I believe was my mistake.

The list I sent you was just an idea of the lifts, & I drafted the official one from it.

It will interest you to know that I wrote to Gay, & told him the results of all he had done, in reply, he was full of apologies.

He says he don't care for none of them. Givert, MacFallen, or any of the ones in the game, but he will find out that he cannot shoot his mouth off that way, for when it comes to receive recognition, he will have none.

He says he is going into the mail business, & that is why he has been quizzing me for all the information on everything appertaining to muscular training, & lifting. I got suspicious some time ago, when he asked me to draft out a mail order scheme, which I did not do.

Oh, Lord, Otley, if we could only get going.

Anyway I am going to lay out a scheme, & will put it before you, & maybe we can do something. What we want now is publicity, & we must boost each other. Always be before the public eye.

I might tell you also that I am arranging a match here with Travis & Giroux, & Giroux has accepted, & demands that Travis deposits \$200.00 of good faith that he will be there, & finish the match, to safeguard the promoters, & he does likewise.

Each takes three lifts, & lift two nights. One night Travis lifts, & next night Giroux's.

Travis lifts, are. T.H.C.& Jerk. T.D.B.C.& Jerk. Backlift.

Giroux's. T.H.Con. Jerk, One hand dumb-bell to shoulder. T.D.B.Con & press.

Total poundage counts, & each man to use his own weights, ^{weighing} ~~lifting~~ on the one scale. I am waiting to hear from Travis, so I can sign the articles on his behalf.

It will be absolutely on the level I can assure you.

Matysek is looking for a match, & I am trying to fix him up.

Also that finger lifter of Travis's he had at the Garden.

Gay says he wrote Snyder & said he would back Weber against him anyway he liked, & Snyder refused. Between you & I, I cannot believe this, & will write to Snyder & find out.

Matysek has not received his belt & is very sore.

Calvert wrote me that Smith was going to see him that week, & was going to pose him. I think Smith must have told him about how Matysek lifted, for Matysek wrote me that Calvert had wrote him, & told him he had found out the truth of that lifting contest. Those were his words, & they appear very suggestive to me, that Calvert was sore, & did not approve of the fakery.

I just received word from France about a wonderful amateur they have, & with extracts from ~~de~~ L'Echo des Sports. His name is J. Alzin of Luxemburg. Weight 326 1/2 T.H. Snatch 256 1/2 T.D.B.C & Press 245 1/2 O.H.M.P. 117.

The lifts are good, but not for his weight to my knowledge.

A man of his size should be doing 300 in two D.B. & 275 in the snatch.

a O.H.M.P. of 125 should be easy for him. He is only 24 tho, & will come along. O. Marineau did 3.504 lbs at the Theater last week in Montreal, which did not hurt his arm. Some lift for 140 lb man. It was genuine, for our representative was there.

Now old man I guess you have all the news, & tell your little girl that the only injury I am liable to do her dad, is to give his hand a good hearty squeeze at the joy of seeing him again, which I hope will not be very far away.

I am glad I gained you as a real pal, as I always heard you was sincere to the game, & I appreciate it, & can assure you that I am pleased to give you the uttermost of mine, & will be glad to do anything at any time I can for you.

So hear is wishing us the best old man, may our future be brighter in the world of weights, & let us hope that its heart will not be so "iron clad" as to forget two of its faithful servants.

With the best of wishes & kindest regards.

Your sincere friend.

George A. Calvert.

P.S.

In my last letter to Bernard I suggested that a change be made by electing you as the Ass: Treas., for two reasons.

Firstly. Every sub: that comes thru to me I have to cash & pay ten cent for a new order, & also pay for rate of exchange on money, & as I have stood all the conversing postage & answering inquiries out of my own pocket. I thought no other expense should be incurred upon me than necessary.

Secondly. If anything ever went wrong that N. L. went under we would be able to return fees back to members.

I suggested that you just turn the order over to the bank in your city, agreed upon by Bernards bankers, taking \$2.00 out which goes for N. L. sub: & you keep the \$1.00 for association fund. You can pay out what we owe them for cards etc., & hold the balance. He has not answered me yet, but he must accept.

When the Ass: was first started N. L. was \$1.50 a year which gave us \$1.50. Altho Bernard has said nothing to me, yet the fact is evident that he will require \$2.00 since he has put the mag: sub: up to that.

If he neglects to answer accepting I shall write pretty blunt our reasons.

By living in America & where his bankers can arrange things as he said, you will not be called to be out one cent, & thus keep things safe for us.

Gay with all his talk of a big school of life he has, has never sent a sub: in, but yet wants publicity.

Remember the suggestion worked here, so if things are thus arranged, you can make the same suggestion to him.

I shall continue as Sec: & technical adviser, but you would be required to give me the names of new members for filing, & Bernard you & I keep account to correspond

Geo