

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1936

Box 187,  
Nanton,  
Alberta,  
San Diego, Cal: U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Everyone was talking  
of you and your generous offer to  
our late King, now the Duke of  
Windsor. It will not be possible  
to accept it, under the  
circumstances, no doubt.

You have received untold  
publicity, in connection with  
your offer.

Had you any idea of  
leasing your place, and  
turning part of it into a  
dude ranch? The latter  
should pay, on account of the  
publicity.

We live 20 miles from  
the Prince of Wales Ranch, it  
will never be known as  
anything else, I imagine.

I have lived here over 30 years (2)  
on the same place. Raising  
& farming. Born in Ind: have  
had a lifetime of farming  
& ranching. Two boys in the  
family, one a real stock man  
especially horses. He would  
like to know if you have a  
dude ranch? One girl who  
is a rider also.

The drought & grasshoppers  
have been bad, and heard  
from some brother's (Lodge) and  
Nobles (Shriner) that San  
Diego is the most like  
Alberta, in climate, with  
the exception of the drought &  
grasshoppers.

Had you any idea of leasing to:  
I would like a job on your place  
as I believe we could make  
it pay. Thanking you in

anticipation for reading (3)  
This letter, Sam.

Yours Truly

L. L. Arme

January 9, 1937

Mr. L. L. Armev  
Box 137  
Naton, Alberta  
Canada

Dear Sir:

Answering your letter of the 28th, having known the Prince of Wales personally, as well as Mrs. Wallis Simpson, I made the offer in good faith, and have written Mrs. Simpson increasing it to 10,000 acres instead of 500.

There are no buildings on the property, but there's an ideal dude ranch, with beautiful oaks, springs, lovely points and vistas, only twenty miles from San Diego, and just off the paved highway. The property is now used for cattle but will some day become valuable residential suburban property. A large part of it overlooks El Cahon Valley, San Diego, and the Pacific. We control twenty or thirty thousand acres scattered over the country.

My suggestion is that you come down and look it over in February when I am in San Diego. The California Legislature is now in session, so answer me, please, State Capitol, Sacramento. After thirty days recess in February we will convene here again in March and I cannot leave until May or June. Please give me a general idea of what you have in mind.

Sincerely yours,

Ed. Fletcher  
Senator, 40th District

ef:mw

Jan: 20<sup>th</sup> 1937

Senator Ed. Fletcher,  
State Capitol,  
Sacramento, Cal;  
U.S.A.

Box 137,  
Nanton,  
Alberta,  
Canada.

Dear Sir, I am in receipt of yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Many thanks for same.

You are a sportsman, and are exceedingly generous, I think, offering 10,000 acres to Mrs W. Simpson. I am sure she will consider it a signal honor.

Unfortunately I cannot accept your kind invitation to look over some of your property. I am, however, hoping to get down next Christmas or thereabouts.

We have had pretty tough going the last seven years here in Southern Alberta, and I have been hoping to lease a place where the climate is not so severe, and where one can get plenty of feed for stock. Have written a novel which I had hoped would be accepted, and then bought for a movie. Unsuccessful so far but am writing a couple of short-stories which I hope will do something.

Was just looking over an old range song (2) written nearly fifty years ago. "The Passing of The Range". It is one of the best I have ever heard. One of our men gave it to me some time ago. A Southerner, who <sup>had</sup> gone all through the Civil war. After the war he rode line fence, when the Indians were on the prod.

Your property must be an ideal one, but we have lost money here steadily, and I am anxious to find a place where one can get some rainfall. I know most of the land is irrigated.

I wonder if you were at "The Rose Festival" in Portland in 1920? We were with the Shriners. Our temple was Al Azhar, Calgary. We met a Mr Fletcher when having luncheon at the Commercial Club, a very interesting man. Also in the party was Ed Kelly, a Montana ranchman. I heard he had died.

Had you considered raising wheat or even Durum wheat on some of your land? Perhaps combining hogs also. We have been here over 30 years, and have raised everything.

Born in Indiana, raised on a mixed farm. Father dabbled in timber tracts &

real estate besides farming. Was educated (3) at Tri-State, Angola. Got permit to teach, also took business course, and had chance for business, but preferred outdoor life.

Came up here (Go West, young man!) bought land, and started raising Percheron horses. Made good. Went into Whitefaces and Shorthorns, built up quite a little herd. Had always raised oats for feed. Used to average 100 to 110 bushels to acre. Along came war. Had to raise wheat. Fine for awhile good prices, cattle in the hills also horses, then on stubble on the flats, in the Fall. Bought more land, more cattle, horses took a slump. Everybody tractor crazy. Next the cattle went to pieces. Had to unload at any price. Dry years, had to buy feed. Lost money. Raised wheat, oats, barley, brome, clover etc: Found speltz an around feed for cattle, horses, & poultry, especially hogs, even better than barley. This past seven years have been plain hell owing to drouth & grasshoppers. also wind storms.

I would like to get about a section & raise wheat, hogs, few head of stock. Would like to rent one equipped

~~2~~<sup>3</sup> to go to owner, with the option of buying (4) later, or buying on crop payments. Am not afraid of work. Two boys & one girl in family. The eldest, 22 years, likes working with horses. He fed beef for a neighbor all last winter, knows everything about farming, prefers to drive 14 to 16 horses. The youngest boy, 18, likes stock best, but can plow, harrow, mow, rake, bind & shock (called stooking here)

Girl can milk & drive 4 to 6 horses is 16. In high school. Wife is good cook. Was <sup>business girl</sup> Hope I am not boring you with all this, but you might possibly know of something for us.

Am very glad you answered my letter.

I am,

Yours Truly,

D. L. Armley.

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 1 Folder: 12**

**General Correspondence - Armev, L.L.**



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