

The Cape Argus

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My dearest Mother

It is so good of you to go on remembering me and writing me such nice, long letters year by year (& oftener) in spite of my negligence.

I am glad that you were shocked at the photograph I sent you-- but I fear, all the same, that it is a true likeness. Time works his will, although we who see ourselves every day barely realise it. My dearest friends, however, are still begging me for copies for that fancy picture you took me in ringlets heavens knows how many years ago now-- it must be about fifteen!

Well, now I must tell you my latest venture which has knocked my Canada trip in the head for some time to come, but I hope will make it ultimately possible. I have bought a farm-- quite a big one for these parts, i.e. thirty acres of land & ten acres of water-- under Princess Vlei!

It is a most beautiful spot. I bought it for two friends of mine, the French girl whom I have been taking care of for so long and a young Hollander who went bankrupt & married her. He was done in by his partner, so I have bought the farm. They are both hard at it, and we all live together in a little tiny

wood & iron shanty far out on the sandy flats to which I am
bumped in a farm cart every evening. Bumping in again in the
morning with a couple of cream cans which I deliver to the
cafes. That keeps our forage bill down somewhat, for we have
bought virgin soil and so we have to buy every scrap of food
for our animals and all-- & it cost a small fortune to get the
land dug up. Now we are divided in desire to get on with the
land and with the necessity of making the little house
habitable. We have put up a pump to it: built a verandah (of
old iron sheets and planks from a motor car case), & are trying
to control the sand which drifts round it-- it means work for
several boys for several days & we are very anxious to get the
vlei land dug up as the water recedes in order to get in summer
crops. It is a true case of "Back to the Land" & it has taught
me when countrypeople drift to towns. "Life in town is so much
cheaper!"

Now, dear Mother, it is most interesting to hear that
Violet's new home is going to be next door. I am so glad that
you are still to stick together-- it is so much happier, that
close family life-- than any other. Do write & tell me when she
is going to be married & more about her. I shall try to write
for the date for she will be much in my mind-- the dear child.

With all wishes for the highest blessings for the New
Year from your old & loving friend

Edith Lubbock