

her calf and she has been hawling for it all the after noon. Dad says he feels like a traitor as John went back this morning with all her calf thinking it was safe up here and when her Hank and Whit surrounded it, it was all alone. It was watching Whit thinking (as Dad says) that he would protect it when he came up from behind & grabbed it. So ^{the Canadian government} says that the war is commencing now in earnest and the Germans now occupy Brussels. They have put a war tax on sugar, coffee, tobacco & cigars. So Dad thinks he will have to quit smoking. He has left to night for Toronto.

Saturday August 20th

Dad plowed all day and got in a good day. Hank and I took a look at the bees first thing and then I went out and finished turning the oats which took me till noon. This afternoon I put in cutting weeds along the fence bottoms & in the old gardens, and tonight feel a great admiration for the pioneers who would swing a scythe all day and Carouse all night. I don't wonder a lot of whiskey was consumed in those days although I got along with out even any water. Frank worked around up at the house all day. Winnie, Lila and Miss High, were here to dinner. This was the day of the Great Boughner Picnic which this

year assembled in Simcoe, it is the first time they went out at Dover. This would not be now only they got every inducement from the Simcoe people to come there while other years Dover has soaked them for all they could get out of them. A lot of cheap sports down town here got up another picnic to day in opposition, and made arrangements with Buck to get the Park free. They got out bills and put them all over the country they say advertising it as being formerly the Boughner picnic but the Boughners threatened to take action against them and they had to around and collect all their posters. I guess they didn't get much of a crowd. The Toronto regiments got a sudden order to go from Long Branch to Walkerton and they all left to day. Aunty told us in her letter that Fred McDonald is with the 48th Highlanders and Elva told Cuck that Byron Johnson belongs to the signal corps of the Chatham regiment. Dick is wishing he was old enough to enlist. I don't know but that I would if I were in his place but I think until conditions develop more and the odds are against Britain, the Canadian farmer is of as much importance as the soldier, as they can't fight on empty stomachs, and Canada is where they are looking for their bread & butter, but I'm good & ready to scrap when they do need me. It has been pretty hot to day, but looks fair.