

G. V. Jones

Toronto, Ont.

April 31st., 1918.

Good Morning, Everybody! Have just had Ten o'clock breakfast and will now "hold a little Service" with you. Am getting away to an early start today (for Sunday) and avoid if possible the completing of this endeavor along in the "wee sma' hours" of Monday morning. As a rule I do not get started on the Bulletin until Sunday evening, and by the time I have it completed, envelopes addressed, sealed, and stamped, my "neighbors" are all in Dreamland making noises like that proverbial "saw-mill".

Today is cloudy, rainy, cold, and gloomy, but I'll endeavor not to absorb too much of the atmosphere--figuratively. The past week as a whole has been unpleasant. We had snow the early part of the week, and have had days similar to today all thru the week--only two days of sunshine and they were cold ones.

Have my new assistant now--came on last Monday morning and shows every indication of being "worth while". I may lose him tho', before the summer is over owing to a change made in the Canadian Military Act the past week, wherein the Government is cancelling all exemptions of men who are physically fit.

There is also a rumor that all factories producing "luxuries" are to be closed, or at least turned into war work. If such should come to pass, guess that my people will not need my "hot air" working, and I may have to get out and help raise edibles. Any of you got jobs open? Now, don't all speak at once!

Heard Gluck, and Zimbalist week before last and they were some treat. Hundreds of people were turned away from the Hall for lack of room notwithstanding that there had been 250 chairs placed on the stage to take care of the overflow.

This past week has been a very quiet one for me--was only out one night. Some of our eastern representatives came into the city last Friday and it was up to Mr.inters and I to entertain them. We took them to the musical comedy Friday night, and saw a very fair comedy.

All kinds of show business is doing a capacity business just now. People seem to desire plenty of amusement to help chase the gloom away. These weeks are surely trying ones, but the greatest optimism prevails up here, and all feel sure that the final outcome of the present crisis will be in our favor, but all know the terrible price that has to be paid.

Have received several letters since last Bulletin went forward, and will now try and give you the most interesting excerpts from them.

From Mother, Seattle, April 6th.

"I am wondering if we will ever forget this day. Seattle began to announce the Anniversary of our entering in the war, at dawn this morning by motorcycles sweeping thru the city setting off torpedos. Some noise I tell you. Pess said the babies awakened and were so frightened she couldn't do a thing with them."

"Pha is east of the mountains."

"Have had another expense with my glasses--broke the right lens and just got it today. Have been so blue and "crazy" without them that could not even pass the time gardening as could not see whether I was pulling up weeds or flowers. I have so little time for home work--we meet Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at a Mrs. Williams, and do Red Cross work. There are about thirty of us."

"Bob had more good luck last week--was put up a 'notch' higher in the office. He didn't like to give up the 'angle' work as it was so much more interesting, but they discharged a man and put Bob in his place."

"I went down town today to get my glasses and run right into the parade. I was glad, for it was great. Just mass after mass of those dear boys passed along and they surely were cheered. Then, the Floats

BULLETIN, Sheet 2, April 31st., 1918.

"wonderful. They had 'No Man's Land', and a big float with 'Dog Outs' loaded with soldier boys--they had the French, British, Italians, and I guess every thing but the 'Dutch'. Well, I hope this will be the last anniversary of the day, under such sad circumstances."

"I think George has done fine with his correspondence, but isn't it a shame we can't send him anymore parcels. He said in his last that he had received a package of tobacco that Pha had sent him for Christmas and that it had 'just saved his life' as they had not been able to get anything fit to smoke for more than a week."

"(April 7th) We had a visit from Ben's Top Sergeant today. He is here on an eighteen day furlough. He is a dandy great big good natured fellow, with a chin as big and firm as Wilson's. He says Ben is a fine soldier boy and is making good as a truck driver. He don't think they will be removed from Camp Morrison, yet he said strange things do happen in war arrangements. He has his application in for flying and hopes to get it, and says that Ben may win out also."

From Ben, Morrison, Va. April 10th.

"I have been transferred to a permanent Squadron, so will give you the word and you can pass it along in your next Bulletin."

"I hated to give up going over with my old bunch, but I don't think I will have any trouble getting back into an overseas squadron which I will do, after getting a furlough which I will try for next month. If I can afford it C. V., I will come up and see you. Maybe you will have some business around New York next month--if you should I surely could see you. Well, here's hoping things work out so we can meet."

"We are having nice weather here now and I am really enjoying life. I am driving a truck and am detailed to the Officer Mess, and go into town every day and bring out supplies for it. I eat there too, so am getting the best the market affords."

From Ben, Morrison, Va. April 11th.

"Letters kind of come in bunches from me, don't they?"

"I am feeling fair enough and sloughing through a lot of mud, as it has rained steadily here and hard, since I wrote you. As a consequence the road to town is in fearful shape. Yesterday I could not get through at all and today I had to go thru one hole, both going and coming, on the end of four mules and a chain."

"The roads around here are poor at their best and a little rain turns them into a slough."

"A boat load of Australian troops atopped in at Newport the other day and they 'stretched their legs' for a couple of days. I talked with many of them and they are alright. A Yank hasn't anything on them when it comes to peddling 'hot air'."

From Raye, Vancouver, April 13th.

"Have not had a Bulletin for some time so hope there is nothing wrong with your arm. It seems to be a disease that is making the rounds."

"Don't imagine my letter will be very cheerful as I have been feeling pretty 'blue' for the past week. We had Audrey to the Hospital last Sunday as she seemed to be suffering so much more and her temperature was very high. Dr. Boucher was afraid he might have to operate for Mastoid. So far everything has gone along beautifully and we rather expect to have her home on Tuesday. There is no pain now and no temperature and I believe the ear is discharging normally. But in June or July we expect to have her adnoids and tonsils removed so we still have that to look forward to."

"I really feel that we are very fortunate with her as she seems to escape the worst end of the bargain each time. It certainly seems lonely without her running around home."

From Mother, Seattle, April 15th.

"It's colder than the North Pole this morning and all indications are for snow. Such a cold April as this has been and the price of coal up to \$11.00 per ton and not good old briquets as we used to get. Yesterday was fine."

"Pha returned Saturday night from Yakima--said the weather was fine over there. Guess we will all run over there. The babes are well once more, and Iv'e never seen Pha look so well. Poor little

"Bess seems to be the most used up of the bunch--she needs to get away from it for awhile, and I just wish I was strong, I would take the babes and let her take a trip with Pha."

"The four bungalows on 31st and Charles are progressing fine. They have taken out all that sawdust pile and plenty of dirt besides. Do not think you will know the place when you come home."

From Lillian Yeo, Portland, Oregon, April 9th.

"We received your Bulletin a few days ago and I'm taking it up on myself to answer and thank you for it. We surely enjoyed it and would like to receive many more."

"We are glad to hear George landed safely and is so well. The soldier boys are certainly a healthy looking lot. I think the training is a wonderful thing for them."

"Mr. Guise, an old Chicago friend of your family is stationed at Vancouver, Wash.. He is in the Engineer Corps. He spends his Sundays with us. We enjoy having him. It does your heart good to see them eat a home cooked meal."

"I had a card from Ben written on March 25th. Said he was feeling fine. I have an idea that they were about ready to leave then, but of course he wouldn't say so on a postal. Hate to see him go, but yet proud to think he is able to do his part. I only hope they will not have to be gone long. I have great faith in our American boys and think they will give 'Wilhelm' a run for his life pretty soon."

"A Mr. Peavy, a friend whom Ben knew in camp at San Antonio and later at Waco, came over to call Sunday. Ben told me he was at Vancouver with the Spruce Division, so I wrote and invited him over. He took dinner with us Sunday. A very nice fellow--he is from Mississippi. He surely thinks a lot of Ben. Said he hated to see Ben leave. Spoke of what a fine soldier Ben was. Said he was always cheerful and never had a word of complaint to make. They had it pretty hard while in San Antonio. Mr. Peavy said he could think of nothing good to say about Texas. He is very much in love with the Coast and would like to live here."

"We had a big parade here Saturday to open the drive for the Liberty Bonds. Two thousand boys from Vancouver marched. They made a fine showing. People are giving liberally to this loan. Most people are very enthusiastic and are trying to do their bit."

If Ben can get his furlough about this time next month, I shall hope to have him arrange to meet me at Hazel's. I'm sure we would all enjoy being together there. I would much prefer to visit there and at Chicago, than to go to New York. New York is all right for those who like it, but I've seen several places that 'lock better' to me. But, if Ben cannot get any further north and west than New York, I shall endeavor to meet him there.

My health is fine and am finding my work still very interesting and agreeable. If the weather man will only hurry up a steady spell of balmy spring weather every thing will be 'lovely'.

Strikes me that I have now fully "cleared the decks" so will prepare this for transit.

With love (where I dare), affection (where it's "proper"), and best wishes to all, I am

Sincerely,

