

TORONTO NEWS BULLETIN
February 24th., 1918.

Do you know, I feel somewhat guilty tonight--somewhat as tho' I were in the same class as that male portion of the Aurelius-Jaques-Wiley combination--troubled with a "broken arm". Guess it's more than two weeks since any word went forward from this "linebang", but now that the cold winter seems to have its back broken, believe I will be able to generate a little more "pep" and get some news to you offener.

The past week has been a "hum-dinger" with me. Have been to some affair almost every evening and mighty busy during the days. The first three nights of the week Toronto had it's great annual musical event--a series of concerts given by the Mendelssohn Choir, reputed to be one of the best choral organizations on the American continent. Certainly never before have I heard such wonderful and soul stirring massed singing. There were 250 voices in the choir, all magnificiently trained and controlled. They were assisted by the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, which is also reputed to be the finest orchestra on the continent--it was composed of 64 musicians. I took in their three nights of concert, but will not endeavor to tell how much I enjoyed it, or marvelled at their talent.

Three Victrola artists were also here to take the solo parts--Olive Kline, Lambert Murphy, and Wilfred Glenn. They are splendid singers and made a most favorable impression in this city. I had them all three over to the store, and had a picture of them taken beside a Victrola in our Empire Room. They were a great bunch--regular "cut-ups", but notwithstanding, we secured a dandy picture from which I expect to gain some good publicity.

Thursday, the branch managers of the Eastern Division of our Company, visited headquarters, and held a business session in our Executive Board Room. I did not attend this meeting, because it was "none of my business", but had the "boys" up to my office for a session after they were through with their meeting. Mr. Conley told me that they wished to pass a motion of thanks to me for the excellence of my ads and the splendid cooperation which I was giving them, but he would not let the motion go thru for fear of swelling me up too much. Maybe he's right!

Friday night some of the boys in the accounting department insisted that I go to a movie with them, which I did. Saw Wallace Reid in "Rimrock Jones". Scenery was Western and fine, but the story was only fair. Forget to mention before leaving the Thursday item, that on Thursday night, Mr. Mason, five branch managers and myself attended a banquet and convention of the Canadian Bureau for the Advancement of Music. A Mr. Pound, President of the U. S. Bureau was the chief speaker, and he sure gave us a magnificent address. It was a most enjoyable and fruitful evening.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Stanley McCloud--one of my old Vancouver friends--dropped into my office for a few minutes visit. His partner "Jimmy" Potts, is also in the city, and I had the unexpected pleasure of running into him today out in the suburbs on the new Bloor Street viaduct. He has promised to come in and have a good visit with me before he leaves for the west. Both these boys say conditions are getting fine again at Vancouver, and intimated that they thought it about time that I got back to the coast. Well--Lord knows I'm willing.

Today has been one grand one! Sunny, balmy, and cheery, but sloppy underfoot owing to so much snow melting. Many people were taking advantage of the delightful weather and were out in it trying, I guess, to make up for lost time. They at least all look happy and contented. I would have liked to have had some old kind of a "bus" so as to have enjoyed a little "joy-ride".

During the past ten days have received letters from Ben, Bob, Raye, Mother, Hazel, and George.

Ben wrote me from Norfolk, Virginia, Feb. 10th., and parts of his letter are quoted as follows-

"Received your letter containing copy of George's. Was glad to hear from George. Bet the folks were, too. I would not be surprised but what we will possibly work on the same fronts, and in that case I may get to see him. I sure hope I do. I am going to write him and then he can keep on the lookout for me."

"Don't know when we are pulling out and would not be allowed to tell even if I did. It will be soon however as we are fully equipped and only await the necessary sailing orders".

"Was figuring on going to Richmond today, but came here instead. This is a busy little place but too many niggers. Just took a walk, and I must have gotten into the slums as for blocks I never saw anything but blacks. There are plenty of them all thru here for that matter."

"Having fine weather here now. Did not wear my overcoat today and for that am thankful, as I got quite warm as it was on my walk."

"To get here one comes to New Port News, which is six miles from our camp, and then take a ~~fast~~ boat. From there it is just about such a ride as Bremerton is from Seattle, minus the scenery."

"Had a letter and package from home this week. Neither were 'hard to take'--the package contained some butter, cheese, a pair of fine Sox, and my favorite dish, plum butter. Don't you wish you were a soldier? That plum butter is unquestionably the king of preserves and a delicacy fit for the Gods."

George's letter was of course written from France and dated January 23rd. He wrote as follows-

"As I have received my first batch of mail, I kind of feel in a mood for writing. It sure seemed good to get the mail even if it was kind of old news--any news is new to us."

"We are having regular spring weather here and it sure is great stuff. The snow has been off the ground for over a week and the surrounding country looks beautiful. I am sure if you were here with your camera it would keep you busy, as there are so many pretty spots and views, also historic places to take pictures of. This is quite an old town--the walls were put up by the Romans and are in the best of condition yet."

"We are still working hard to get this hospital cleaned up and guess it won't be long now 'til we have a regular one in working order. It is a dandy building and will be a comfortable place to work in. We all feel that we are in luck to have been placed here, as it is totally different from what we had expected."

"We were treated to a little excitement last night. The Cathedral rang an air raid alarm and the lights went out. We expected to see bombs drop, etc, at most any minute but they failed to reach this town. Here's hopes they always will (fail)."

"Am waiting your letter which will tell about your visit to Hazels'. Bet you had a "bear" of a time. Will always feel that I kind of missed a grand time by not being there."

George's address is 163rd Field Hospital
116th Sanitary Train,
A. E. F. via New York.

Hazel's latter was dated Feb, 13th. Some things she said were-

"It seems so good to hear such good news from George. I think he's been very good about writing, as I had a letter from him too. They were surely lucky never to have even seen a sub. George had so much bad luck over here, maybe he'll be one of the lucky ones from now on."

"I hate to think of Ben having to cross the ocean, but hope he will be on a lucky ship. I imagine that for a time at least, they will be more watchful and so will probably escape the subs".

"Harry is miserable. He has gone to bed and is sound asleep, and its only a few minutes past eight o'clock. He had but very little sleep last night and night before because of coughing. It's discouraging. Ive had a bad cold myself for more than a week, and while

I feel much better, don't feel as well as I'd like. How are you standing the "swell" Eastern climate?"

"I'll enclose the snaps of George and Ben in their uniforms, and offer my humble apologies for not sending them before. Received a swell photo of Bob last week".

"Harry says not to give up hope,--'He'll write sometime' soon. Maybe if he does, Billy will follow suit."

Bob's letter was dated Feb 7th., Following, some of his tidings--

"Have received a new job from the same people and now am what they call the 'Angle Distributer'--that is estimating the weights of angles and applying them against the orders of the different ship building concerns that we supply."

"I am studying wireless now and expect to enlist in Radio Section of the Naval Militia in June, if things go the way I hope."

"Everything around here is about the same, except that we had snow on the ground a couple of days last week, but it is all gone now. Today has been just like a warm spring day--you could walk around in your shirt sleeves."

"Mother is up to Bess' to night as Pha is up North on a sales trip."

"We are all feeling pretty fine these days and have no complaints except colds and so forth. I have not lost a day of work since last May on account of sickness, so feel pretty thankful."

Mother has given me three letters I think since I last wrote a Bulletin. Will give you a "piece" of each of them, viz--

Feb 6th.--"Have had Bess and babies with me for a week. They surely are a lively pair, and this very minute am hustling them off home and will go up and stay with them at night until Pha returns which I think will not be later than Friday. He has been in Bellingham, Vancouver, and Victoria since last Thursday."

"Got our first letter from George last Monday, and my dear, I can't tell you how I did feel. I had waited so long, that when it did come I was afraid to open it."

Feb. 17th.--"Bess and I have had a wakeful night with the babe. She doesn't like the street cars, I guess, anyway, she will not sleep down here, and Bess thought she would like to come down over Sunday, but neither of the children gave us any rest. Pha is away on his lengthy trip through Aberdeen and that section."

"Am getting in coal again in the morning--\$9.75 per ton";

Last letter I seem to be able to turn up from Raye is dated Jan 31st., and in it she enclosed some small snap shots of the various western babies one including Bess and mother, also one of Ben in civilian clothes. She writes--

"Have not heard from you for a couple of weeks so surmise you are frozen up and unable to write. I have not written for sometime but guess my excuse is pure laziness."

"We are having our share of freezing weather, but still I guess we can crow over you as we still lack the blizzards. It seems a shame that they have to have such a severe winter the first one that you spend back there. I believe last year it was quite mild and that we had the beastly weather."

"Billy is on the Island but is travelling without the car this time as the weather is cold and unsettled."

Well--ladies and gentlemen, it is midnight and I'm getting sleepy. How about yourselves?

Best wishes to all. Might add that I am feeling fine, and believe that I can lick anybody of my weight and age. That's just about how I feel.