

Between spring-fever and "kill-pep" producing weather, and trips out of the city, publication of this news vender has been lacking evidence of speed during the past two weeks.

During the week ending June 8th., I visited Guelph, Kitchener, and Stratford, three Ontario cities in which we have Branch Stores. While in Guelph I had the pleasure of visiting one of the finest country homes that I have ever seen. Our Guelph manager is renting for the summer the country estate of a Mr. Sorby who has made a fortune through the raising and sale of high class live stock. During four months of each summer, Mr. Sorby and wife go to some seaside resort, and rent their "farm" to some reliable party. Mr. Wicks, our Guelph manager, and his wife and two kiddies are the lucky parties this summer. The house is a regular country mansion--fine large rooms, with all the conveniences of the city.

Surrounding the house is a large park of about fifteen acres, beautifully designed and containing hundreds of different species of trees and shrubs. There are also many varieties of flowers and bulbous plants. One can spend hours roaming about this place running into new surprises at almost every turn. It is but four miles from town and Mr. Wicks drives it in his "Dodge" in about twelve minutes without "Burning up" the road.

The part of Ontario which I have been visiting is a very attractive district--possibly as pretty farming country as there is on this continent. And at this time of the year it shows up at its best.

Last week I was in what is known as the Niagara Peninsula--noted as the great eastern fruit belt of Canada. Passed through thousands of acres of orchards and vineyards. Was at Niagara Falls a day and a half, saw the falls several times, and went across to the American side one night to get a touch of "high life". Mr. Conley was with me, and he knows all "the ropes".

This coming week I will visit our London, Ontario branch, and that will complete my rounds for the present. Today, Mr. Kennedy and I had planned to take a run up to Jackson Point, a resort on one of the small inland lakes about sixty miles from Toronto where many of our well-to-do citizens have their summer homes, but the morning was cloudy and threatening, so we concluded to stay home. Its three-thirty now and the sun is just beginning to break through--we're rather sorry we did not take the trip.

Yesterday afternoon we went out to one of the city parks and watched an amateur ball game. We were given a double attraction as there were about one dozen Flying Corps Cadets pulling off stunts in the air above us, nearly all afternoon.

Have received a few letters that you will be interested in.

From George---France---May 17th.

"Well, the old war goes on about the same--kind of see-saw. But at that the heavy end is with us and every time old Germany goes up she goes a little higher. One of these days she will go so high that she will get bumped off. Guess none of us will shed any tears--know blamed well I wont. The sooner the better, I say."

"We are having a real hot spell here at the present time and the sun is scorching some color on yours truly--almost look like a Hindu now, so no telling what the end of the summer will bring. I am outside all the time now, driving a Dodge Sedan for the Sanitary Inspector of this district who is one of our old Lieutenants. Get to see quite a bit of the country around here and it is certainly beautiful."

"Am enclosing a picture in which I am wearing our new cap--not much protection from the sun, eh? Well, lets hope they change it soon, if only to put a peak on. My eyes feel raw every night--all the oil burned out of them, and not midnight oil either."

"Am wondering if Ben got his leave and if so, whether you saw him.

He is lucky to be in the States yet and able to see some of you folks."

"Hope mother enjoyed her visit with Raye. How I would love to drop in on her and give her a big hug. But she would wish her wild boy was elsewhere cause I am sure a husky. Well, all of us must be of good cheer--this blamed thing can't last forever. And when its over there ought to be peace for a small while at least."

"Hear Bob has gone up another step at the mill. It's too bad he has to leave. It surely throws a man back and will take time to get into the groove again."

From Mother--Seattle--May 26th. 18.

"I just can't contain myself today knowing you youngsters are all together at Hazel's. Near half of you 'kiddies' are able to visit with each other. Imagine it will be a long time, if ever, that you can all meet. I expect it was some effort for Ben to get away, and I was quite surprised that he could do so."

"Bob said you had written him a long letter on the subject of enlisting and that if he did you would surely come home even though you did not make as much money here. I am sorry you feel that way and especially on account of we 'old people'. I, for my part, am just so busy that time flies too fast to think of how I am 'abused'--in fact we are not supposed to think much about ourselves in such times as we are having."

"I do not think that if you were here you would think I had a boy in this war. I am as cheerful with Bob about going as need be, for I am quite sure that none of our boys are very anxious to get into the mix-up but I do think that they are quite patriotic enough to do their bit; just as you would do were you in the draft age. I am more than happy that so far I have had no slackers. Someone must help fight this thing to a finish. I certainly would feel ashamed if I had three or four boys and all of them were niggling on some excuse or other to keep out of it because of actual fear, or that they wish to get rich off of this country while others are giving their lives that we may all live and be free. Oh no, thank you!"

"Bess and babes are fine, but lonely. Pha will be away another week and perhaps longer."

From Aunt Emma J. Randell--Seattle--May 30--18.

"Everybody at this house is feeling good over a home coming. George came over a month ago and will be busy around near here for a couple of weeks yet, and Laura's school closed last Friday and she is home again. And we expect Ralph to be sent here next week on official business for three or four days, so we are thinking we are favored exceedingly and are making the most of it while it lasts."

"I presume your folks wrote you that Frank Jackson is in the hospital with bronchitis and under observation for tuberculosis."

"Well come into the yard with me and help yourself to the flowers for noe I have them in plenty. The Syringa is a mass of white and the air is full of its odor, and the roses--I have lots of them too."

"Your uncle keeps pretty well and business is just stirring enough to keep him busy. I am keeping busy all my spare time with Red Cross work and enjoy trying to do something to help this war to a proper finish."

From Pha--Waitsburg, Wash.--June 1st.

"Kind-a-covering some of your old haunts. There are sure some great spots in this part of the state. They say you cant be a farmer around here if you haven't 3000 acres of ground to till."

"Haven't been home since May 12th., so do not know much of news from there--last word though was, '-Everybody fine'. Leaving here now for Walla Walla. Expect to be home about one week from tomorrow. Business is fine."



From Mother -Seattle--June 4th.

"Had letters from both Ben and Hazel written on the 28th. of May, the day before Ben left. Said they were going out on a long drive with Mr. Wiegler. I think they must have very nice friends, and if the climatic conditions were only different they would enjoy it so much more."

"Had two letters from George last week. He seems to be fine and very busy. Am afraid he is not getting very much mail as so many boats have gone down of late."

"Bob enlisted yesterday and was passed into the Radio Corps--will be called near the 30th. Will remain at the mill until that time. I had hoped he would get a couple of weeks or more off and relax a little and see if we could not 'get acquainted' but guess he is not to have any vacation. He is looking fine and is ready for anything."

"Raye and Audrey came in ~~the~~ the evening before Laboration Day, which was quite a surprise to us. They are looking well. Billy will ship his car from Victoria Thursday, and Friday they will drive to Tacoma to the United Commercial Travellers Convention. I think they will drive home some day next week. Audrey is having a great time with a pile of sand in the yard under the cherry tree, and watching the birds frisk about the yard and take their bath. The yard is just great now."

"Eazel surely had a houseful while you were there. What a surprise it was to have Judd, Rose, and Mag drop in."

"Dad has gone up to the Minute Men's meeting tonight. He was pretty tired but considered that he should go. They hold their meetings in the Grace M. E. Church."

From Raye--Seattle--June 5th-18

"You surely had 'some gang' at Hazel's. It must have been great tho' to see the bunch from Noble County. Too bad a few of us could not have dropped in, too. It seems a shame that your visits always have to be so brief."

"I'll let you know what kind of a time we had at the U. S. T. Convention."

Have had no word from Ben since he returned to his camp, but hope that he will limber up soon and let me know what kind of a trip he had on his return, and how he likes getting "back into the harness". He had to give up his trip into New York state owing to not being able to get his furlough extended. I'll bet there are some girls up there pretty badly disappointed.

The Aurelius family have been pretty quiet since our visit. Guess we must have about worn them out. Have received a letter from Hazel but have misplaced it. She mentioned that they were still having the extremely warm weather such as was experienced while I was there.

Next Saturday everyone living in Canada will have to register, giving full particulars as to nationality, age, and occupation. Guess it is the Government's intention to conscript labor in the near future. I may find myself driving a car or working on a farm. Guess that is about the only two callings I could drop into.

We are very much enheartened in the way the Allies west line is holding. If they can do as well for the rest of the summer, the big fight should take a big turn in our favor. Bulletins today state that the Austrian offensive on the Italian front has started but without success.

Hope to receive a generous line of letters during the next two weeks. Must have news from "all over" you know, to keep this sheet going.

With best wishes to all, I am

Sincerely,

