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for both <sup>B</sup>the family and  
business to let you go but  
the present war is a serious  
matter and it is the  
undoubted duty of all those  
who possibly can, to come  
forward.

I am not surprised at  
Col. Hodgins attitude. He is  
a spineless creature and as  
Col. Wight is a very powerful  
conservative, Hodgins would  
be afraid to even make a  
suggestion. Old Shannon  
always does what he can  
but perhaps in this case  
you are better off with  
the Montreal crowd and  
they are sure to be more  
congenial anyway.

I have no doubt that  
there will be no trouble  
in filling up the new

Be sure to keep for me

West Down N  
Lalobury Plain  
21. Nov. 14

Dear Bob

Yours of the fifth from  
Buffalo reached me yesterday  
and I was glad as usual to  
get it. Since you wrote I  
had a letter from mother  
stating that they had  
heard from me. Why my  
letters took so long I  
cannot say and am very  
sorry that mother should  
have any occasion for worry.

I am very glad to hear  
that you have accepted  
the majority in the  
Montreal regiment. It is, of  
course quite a sacrifice



①  
regiments and cannot impress  
on you too strongly the  
necessity for the strictest  
kind of discipline. That is  
what the present overseas  
contingent lacks in a great  
measure and as discipline  
is what is making the  
British troops show up so  
well in Flanders, it is the  
main thing to be  
developed.

Of course the system  
of appointing officers is  
rotten (political or other  
pull) and the bad name  
the Canadians have been  
given over here this  
time can be ascribed  
largely, if not entirely

to Sam Hughes and his  
methods of selection. It makes  
my blood boil when I see  
some of the creatures that  
are over here and filling  
the place of good and  
efficient men who were  
left behind. I only hope  
that all these matters  
are taken up strongly in  
the next session but  
suppose it will all end  
in a wobble as usual.

You need not worry  
about not being in the  
cavalry. Practically all  
those at the front at  
present are being used  
as infantry (in the trenches)  
and this is likely to  
continue. In fact the  
present war is practically  
a series of negotiations



at perfect liberty to use  
any funds I may have in  
any way you see fit. At  
all events be sure to  
transfer to your account  
(from mine) before you  
have the amount of  
the note and destroy the  
latter as I would much  
prefer to have it closed  
up.

F.E.L. please note

It would be just as  
well for Innes and Schaf  
to wait a bit before they  
definitely offer themselves as  
they have mines to think  
about. However that is  
their own special business  
and not mine.

With the way business  
is going it should not  
be difficult to have it  
properly handled. Do not,

§



as both sides dig themselves  
completely in (even to head  
cover) and the progress is  
slow and will be slow for  
a long time to come.

You did the right  
thing, of course, in offering  
to give Sally up and she  
did likewise in refusing  
to break it off. It is  
perhaps just as well to  
have the thing announced  
although in this particular  
case there was little or  
nothing for any one to  
use as a basis for  
speculation as to whether  
you were engaged or not.  
As regards the money,  
as said before, you are



G

however, count on either of us returning in the immediate future as the war is only starting and no one knows where or how it will end.

It is a question whether it would not be advisable to sell Glenby for what he will bring. I would not advise keeping more than one horse and as looking after the stable will devolve on mother and Abiel such a sale will give them less to do.

Later, if necessary, the place could be closed and Farlane given a few hours work at day


at the works so as to keep things down as we used to do with George.

I am glad you are having a meet at Calawood and hope it will go off well. Tomorrow I hope to go to a meet of the R. A. Harries at Netheravon, about 7 miles from here. Will ride Peggy and will try and hunt with them for a couple of miles or so. Several others are going from here and it will be worth seeing the meet if nothing more.

You will have read my letter to mother stating that I am now adjutant of the 3rd Brigade C.F.A. The change was made a



one pair of khaki slouches for  
boat and when off parade.  
Puttees and 2 pairs of ankle  
boots also such riding boots  
as your Colonel decides upon.  
Khaki stiff cap, woollen  
sleeping cap, <sup>bird</sup> and  
woollen gloves, <sup>socks</sup> heavy undies,  
sweater coat for wear under  
jacket (get the latter large  
enough) also (perhaps) chamois  
waistcoat, great coat and  
a British warm (latter not  
taken to front) oil-skin  
coat reaching well down, rubber  
boots and souwester. Would  
advise you to buy your  
stuff in a cheap ~~store~~. Get  
a Wolsely, valise and a  
warm quilt. You will probably  
be issued with saddle, and  
.45 automatic and you have  
field glasses. A map case  
is handy and a prismatic  
compass is necessary. Nearly

J   
week ago and so far things  
have run very smoothly.  
However it may not be  
permanent as all the  
Batteries are to be reduced  
to a 4 gun basis and  
a new Brigade is to be  
formed in which I may  
get a Battery. Nothing  
definite yet and it is  
only a waste of time to  
speculate.

As regards equipment  
you will require, I give  
hereunder a rough list  
concerning most of the  
things I consider essential.  
Two service jackets (hedges on  
sleeves, not on shoulders) two  
pairs of card breeches and



R

(all the items mentioned in the field service Pocket Book should be brought but do not restrict yourself to these like I did. You will likely have several months in England at least and if you have weather like we have experienced, it is well to be as comfortable as possible. An electric searchlight is handy with a couple of extra batteries. You can get the oil stove over here also the uniform (provided you have enough to carry on with) but don't forget that all pieces of officers clothes and equipment are now up considerably. The

government will probably allow you to draw \$150<sup>00</sup> for your uniform as they did in our case. I do not think they take awards abroad but they are worn here for ceremonial so you had better bring yours.

Should you have occasion to cable me use the word BRIGTHE which means Third Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. This code has just been published today.

I had a letter from Aunt Lou the other day and will write at first opportunity. She is really so good about letter writing. I wrote Sally some weeks ago and will do so again before very long.



It is the best of all on the horses was they stand up in mud most of the time and the wonder is that there are not more cracked heels. The general said today we would all probably be in huts by the end of the month which will help a bit but I hope they provide some sort of shelter for the horses at the same time.

Col. Williams is still over here and has the title of camp commandant but the duties must be nil as S. O. C. commands the division and each of the four camps has its own commandant.

I have little or nothing more to add and

M



There is absolutely no chance of our going forward (unless something unforeseen happens) before the middle of the winter and if you sail as stated we shall undoubtedly see one another.

I have been very well ever since we started this camping out (about middle of August) but am still bothered a little with swollen fingers. This, I attribute to the damp and perhaps it will gradually wear off as one becomes accustomed to the climate. Tonight it is freezing very hard but last night it was raining and so it goes.



O



For this letter is not very clear at best. However it may be some use. My advice is do not stint yourself as regards equipment clothing or small luxuries as they can always be left behind in England and they help a whole lot. There is nothing to gain by denying oneself such things when it is not necessary. Best love to all.

yours  
Wood