

will interrupt the work in a similar manner but it cannot be helped. The War Office gives free transportation for all soldiers going on leave at this time of year.

We had quite a heavy frost last week and on Christmas day the weather was fairly cold. Except for this break, however we have had the usual overflow of rain and as I write it is coming down in torrents to the accompaniment of a very strong wind.

I got a load of sheep hurdles the other day and put them flat on the ground and covered them with straw. This is now serving the purpose of keeping the horses out of the mud to some extent and I think is an excellent plan.

On Christmas Day the only parades we had were those for stables. The men had a very good dinner at

W. D. N.

27.12.14.

Dearest Mother

I intended writing you on Christmas day but found there were so many letters to be answered that I had better tackle them. I wrote ten all told and have pretty well cleared the desks of the more urgent ones.

I think I wrote you last on Tuesday or Wednesday and since then there has not been a great deal going on. We allowed about thirty men to go on Christmas leave of five days on Wednesday. This left us too short handed for work so have had to be content with exercise rides and lectures. We let another thirty men go this week for over the New Year which

two p.m. and we had a barrel
of beer for them and an
improvised concert with several
toasts and songs.

We had our dinner at
6 p.m., seven being present and
it went off very well. Besides
we have Leardrett, McSaggart
Wagman and myself all of
the old London Battery and
Ball of the 10th. It went off
very well, we had an
excellent dinner (thanks to my
servant Shirley) and an
enjoyable time. It may be
interesting to note that
all present except Leardrett
are R. M. C. graduates and
we drank a toast to
the College.

I received your cable which
gave me much pleasure and
would have answered it

except for the difficulty
in sending telegrams of any
sort and the unsatisfactory
service. Very often those sent
do not even reach their
destination.

I let McSaggart go on
leave yesterday and when
he comes back will let
another officer go and so on
until each has had a couple
of days in town. I hope to
go myself just after the
New Year as am told that
all leave is to be
forbidden after the first
week in January.

I am still short quite
a few men in the Battery
and about forty horses
and consequently cannot
do very satisfactory work.
However am trying to secure
a number of men formerly
of the Winnipeg Battery and
hope to get some more
horses as soon as the

I think, pretty well looked
after by the officers but
it would not have hurt
them to have done a little
something.

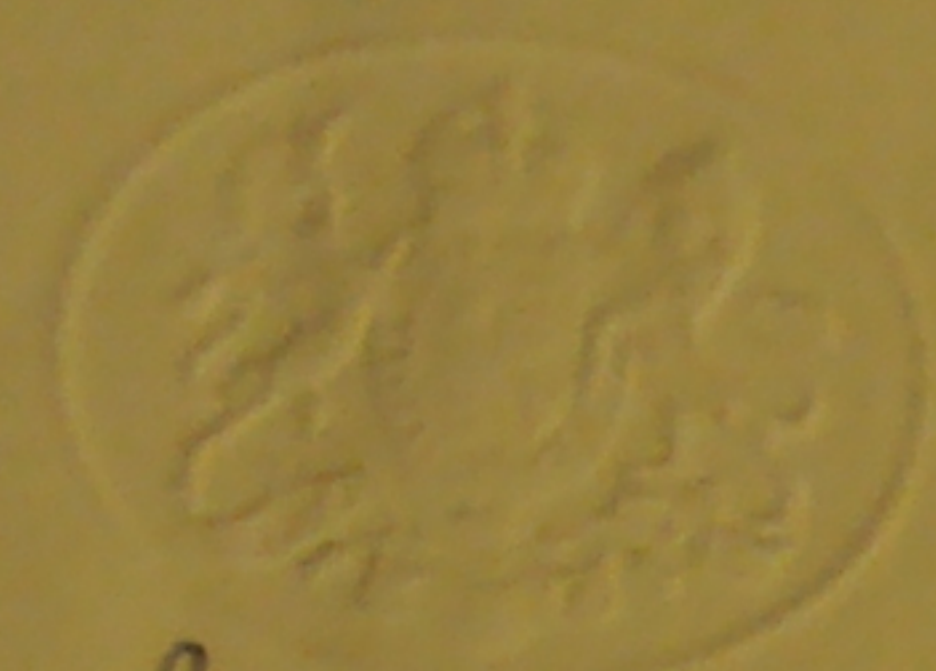
Please thank further for
his letter of the tenth
giving me a business receipt
for November. I was very
glad to have it and note
with pleasure that collections
are still apparently satisfactory.
The balance to our credit
at the Bank seems to be
decidedly improved despite
the fact that the total
of accounts payable has been
cut down and that sales
have fallen off. If it is not
too much trouble I would
like to have a statement
next time showing bills
payable and receivable so
that I can get a somewhat
better idea of the liquid
assets.

I am not surprised

Remount depot gets any in.

I had a card from
Miss Millie Harris and
have acknowledged same. Rita
Hunter also wrote me and
several others. Clara sent me
a cholera band and Aunt
Lou a pair of socks she had
knitted herself and some
tobacco. I really do not know
what can be done with all
the belongings and furniture
that I have accumulated
and shall have to arrange
for storage of whatever is
really worth keeping.

Apparently no attempt
was made by either the
British or Canadian authorities
to make provision for a
special dinner for the men
on Christmas. Everyone was,



that the lumber business in the Maritime provinces is improving as Britains supply from northern Europe was entirely cut off with the closing of the north sea. Certain other lines are undoubtedly gaining through the war and perhaps it will all help to show an improvement in business conditions.

I am enclosing a few clippings and other papers which please put away with other items for scrap books. The photograph is of my man Shirley who continues to give me excellent and faithful service. At present he is at home with the others on five days leave. I am glad that I bh and

Sally were with you for Christmas and hope you had a good day. I think of you all many times and am with you in spirit if not in the flesh.

There is so little to write about just at present that I am forced to close for lack of topics to discuss. Best love to all

Your devoted son

Wood