

1705 13th Ave West

Vancouver, B.C.

Oct 25th 1910.

Dear Mother,

I am sure you are all anxiously watching out for a letter from me to say that I have got to ~~my~~ destination. Well here I am at last. I got into Vancouver on Sunday morning at 8:00. I was very glad to get to my journey's end although I had a very pleasant trip across from Montreal. I intend writing Willie an account of my trip in his letter & you an account of the Noble family & how I found them so you can exchange letters and that will save me from writing the same thing to both of you.

When I got in on Sunday morning I was fairly tired & pretty hungry so the first thing I did was to get a good breakfast at the nearest cafe. I left my bag & trunk at the Station. After breakfast I felt in better form so I had a look round the city & located Mr. Chapman's place where I am to work; after that I began to make enquiries for 13th Ave West. It was pouring rain at the time and there were very few people abroad at that hour on a Sunday morning.

I was told the direction it was in so I started off to walk it as I did not know what trams to take. Well I walked on for about half an hour until I got out of the city.

Then I began to make enquiries for 13th Ave West. I found it was away on the very outskirts of the city about 3 miles from the station where I landed all that district is quite new. It is built right away out in the forest which as yet is only about half cleared round about of course there are houses built here and there all round but none of the avenues or rows are complete but there are hundreds of houses in the course of erection all around and in a few years it will be a very beautiful part of the city. I can hardly describe to you the state of West Vancouver just at present only last year the ground where all these houses are being built was a dense forest and now the trees are being cut down all around the stumps are being dug out or blasted out and houses are being erected. Well it is out in the outskirts of that district that Nobles house is and there is no made road within about a mile of the house just tracks between the stumps that have been made by the lumber men. You can imagine the state I found these tracks in in all the rain on Sunday morning I was up over the shoe mouth in mud every step I took. Had I known the proper way as I do now I could have got there without any mud but when I came in sight of the place a man pointed it out to me away in the stumps so I made straight for it.

When I got there Alice or Allie as they call her ~~was~~ was doing some work in the kitchen. I went to the kitchen

door as I came on the back part of the house and I did not see there was another door at the other side. Alice was delighted to see me and of course they had been expecting me for a day or two before that but they did not know what time I might drop in.

The old man was away out at some mission house down in the city where I believe he spends most of his Sundays from 9:00 in the morning until 1:00 & sometimes he brings lunch with him and stays away until six. On Sunday he came back at 1:00. I sat there and talked to Alice & the old lady. She was up stairs when I came in but the poor came down. After we talked for some little time Alice & I started off for the station & I brought up my bag that I had left in the cloakroom. When I came back I found the old man back waiting to see me. He was greatly excited he put his arms round my neck and kissed me & shouted "Dear me" "Dear me" & shook my hand for about five minutes. He got down in the chair beside me and asked me all sorts of questions about you, and about the Rawe & about Aunt Mary and all the questions just the same as he wrote you in his letters. I answered him as best I could. I had to shout at the top of my voice as he is very deaf. He shouts very loud himself and you could hear us about a half a mile off. In the afternoon his son E.E. Noble came in with his wife and three children. I would know him from his photo on the group. His wife is a fine big Scotch woman

very jolly. His oldest son is 14 yrs and the two girls are
 younger. Well he as they call him was very glad to see me
 but the old man would hardly let us talk at all he
 had so many questions to ask about the turf bog, the
 townships at the Row, the plum trees & the carhouse etc
 etc. Alice has a piano so we had some hymns during
 the evening and a very nice dinner at 60c. Everyone here
 nearly has the dinner about 6 or 70c and only a light
 lunch in the middle of the day. Well I was very tired
 and went to bed early that night and did not get up
 until 10:30 next morning. When I came down I found Mr
 Noble anxiously waiting for me to ask me more questions &
 to show me round. He is a wonderful old man of his years
 and so is his wife. He usually gets up about 5 or 60c &
 he had been watching the stairs for me all that time.
 He had his midday meal while I was having my breakfast
 or as soon as we had finished we started out. It was
 pouring rain but I had my overcoat & he had an
 umbrella so we started off in single file along the
 planks. There are temporary planks laid along huge logs
 of wood to each of the houses until the place is cleared
 then they will have proper roads made, but until all
 the stumps are blocked out the place is in a state of
 chaos. The first place he brought me was to see the "Irish
 Preacher" Mr Lyons. He told me he knew you very well &
 Uncle Henry and all the connection. He ~~was~~ Mr Lyons

were very glad to see me and invited me back this ~~day~~
 to meet his sons when they would get home from business.
 Mr Lyons and his family came out to Canada only a ~~couple~~^{year}
 year ago. He wanted to get his children all settled out here.
 He started farming first but the boys did not like it as they
 had never been accustomed to farming so they came on out
 to Vancouver and the older boys have all got good
 positions in the city and the younger ones go to school.
 He has also two nephews staying with them they came out
 about six months ago I think. Well Mr & Mrs Lyons do all the
 house work themselves. the wash, cook, and look after
 11 of a family. When we went in they were both busy washing.
 They live just a little way over from Nobles. Mrs Lyons
 started talking about that man Emerson who was over
 on a holiday. She knows him very well. He lives quite
 near too. Well I can't tell you anything more about the
 Lyons only that they are very well and the family are all
 doing well and they are all glad they came out to Vancouver.
 We left Lyons and went over to Archie Nobles place or
 A.B.'s as they call it. We tumbled in through the back door
 and found Mrs Noble & the two girls washing in the kitchen
~~she was~~. They were all very glad to see me and Mrs Noble
 brought me into the drawing room & we talked a very long
 time. They have a beautiful house and the furniture
 and everything is the very best. Their oldest son is about 28
 he is in partnership with his uncle C.E. They have a

hardware store in Hastings St. (Herbert I think is his name) he is not married and lives at home. He has his own Motor car though, and is very independent. They have another younger son Bob, I have not seen him as yet. he works in a hardware store some where too. The girls are all living at home except one that is married. She lives at Brandon. After we talked to Mrs Noble & family, we went off to see A.B. where he was working at some of his horse - she told us to be sure and come back with A.B. for dinner at 5:00. Well we did come back and she had a beautiful dinner for us when we came back.

We found A.B. with his coat off & blue overalls on putting in a cement floor in the basement of one of his houses. He is putting up 5 large houses on some ground he has bought & just works along with the men himself. You could hardly imagine a man living in such a beautiful house and working away just the same as the men he employs, but that is the way out here. The employer & the employee are all alike everybody works and everybody works hard too and the man who works hard is well off and is as independent as his employer.

This morning I went down to see Mr. Chapman & he was very glad to see me & wanted me to start work as soon as possible so I have arranged to start in on Thursday morning.

He has a very nice little store on Granville St. which is one of the principal Sts. After I saw Mr. Chapman I went down to the Station & got the Railway people to send my trunk up - then I went back for old Noble & he & I toddled off

to C. E. Stone in Hastings St, where we met another man a son of James Noble's he was doing some carpenter work for C. E. Afterwards we went to see C. E.'s house. They have a very nice place too but not as fine a house as A. B. S.

After that we went to see a Mrs Martin she is a daughter of Robert Nobles. I suppose you know that Robert Noble + James Noble are the old man's brothers. They are both dead, but they had big families and they are scattered all over Canada. I have to go to see another woman yet a Mrs Kerr she is a sister of Mrs Martins. There seems to be no end to the Noble family. I had no idea there were so many Nobles out here.

Wed 26th

I was interrupted at this letter yesterday evening by a young fellow coming in to see me. The old man brought him in he is a great friend of his. His name is Mr Waldie. He is Scotch + has been out here some time. He told me he came out here like myself a couple of years ago + worked in Hardware Store but he left that + started out to work as a carpenter although he knew nothing of the trade. He started the trade at 2½ dollars per day he now gets 3½ + in another month or so he is promised 4 dollars per day by the man he works for. Fellows work at everything out here.

The private houses out here are all built of wood. They have a cellar underneath + a basement where everything is stored + where they keep a fire burning that

heats the whole house as there are no fireplaces in any of the rooms. This house is small but very cosy. You walk up about 7 or 8 steps to the door. Then there is a little verandah across the front. The dining room & drawing room are divided by 4 doors that run into the walls or rollers. They have a vacant room and have insisted on my staying with them at least for a time. Allie works in a Stationery Shop in Hastings St & is away from 8.00 until 6.30. The old man spends his time sawing wood for the fire. He has only to go outside & gather as many of the logs as he can as the cut down the trees the burn them. You would think it a pity to see such fine trees being burned up. About 200 yds from the house there has been a huge pile burning since I came. I am told it is 70 ft high & 300 yards round it, just big trees & stumps as they are cut down. I have never seen such big trees in my life as are growing round here.

From what I have seen of Vancouver I like it very much. I will tell you more about it when I know it better.

I got your letter & Mennie's last night. Allie brought it home when she was coming. The post is not delivered out the length as yet. I was very glad to get my first letter from home. I suppose you have got mine by this time. I was glad to hear Tom had a nice time in Dublin & that Mennie was going to have her holiday too.

I hope the tea meeting went off all right.
I think I must draw to a close this time as

I am to meet a friend down town a (Mr Warburton)
we met coming over on the boat & were great friends. He
just got the length yesterday so we are going to look round
the city.

I am in ~~very~~ ~~good~~ ~~health~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~of~~ ~~health~~
and like my new surroundings very much, so now
dear Mother I hope you wont worry about me
I will close by sending heaps of love Father, Tom,
Minnie Ted & your own dear self

Ever Your loving son
Ernest