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Alton Foundry Company, Limited

ALTON
ONTARIO

May 15 – 1917

Mrs C. A. Semlin
Ashcroft – B.C

Dear Mrs Semlin

I have been wondering so much how you are this spring I sincerely hope that you are enjoying the very best of health The spring usually is such a nice part of the year but with us this year it is very backward and cold we are all burning nearly as much coal as in the winter months. You will wonder at this paper so I will explain I am superintending the girls in a munition plant at Alton My husbands cousin and nephew own the plant and they asked me to look after the girls The plant has been running since the begining of the war but they did not employ girls until the middle of April I like it very well I look after them when at work see that they do not get over tired

we have a nice rest room and any girl
that I see looking tired I take her from her
machine for a short rest and give her a
cup of tea as every I also engage the girls for
work & dismiss them if not satisfactory. I have
had more of that to do yet. The girls are good
workers and the chief Supt says that they take
up the work more readily and are quicker
than the men. We have a nice class of girls
and they all like the work and are glad to
make shells to help the boys at the front
most of them have brothers or sweathearts
at the front and I am glad to help in
my way too. I expect that Geo is in France
now I had a letter last night written the
25th of april they had been warned to be
ready for France in 2 hours notice It is
now that the real worry is and I am
glad to be busy and not have too much
time to think so many here have lost
their boys and one of my neighbors has
lost 2 such fine young men I was in his
2nd year in dentistry How gladly we would
give up this work here if the war would
only end and our boys return safely to

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home and peace I had a letter from
Lottie short time ago she says she cannot
give up her boys to help in the war but
from what I read U.S.A is going to have
conscription and I am afraid she will have
to let them go poor girl it will be hard on
her as she is not very well. Every one is
in a way here the crop outlook is not good
but it may turn out much better than they
think just now every little corner of ground
is being cultivated I have a good sized
hot bed and every thing in it is good and
we have onions lettuce & radishes ready for
use I go home every Sat night & spend Sunday
with Elsie Alton is only 5 miles from B-ville
& we motor up in few minutes. The cost of
boring is terrible. Elsie is teaching in
the same school she is going to help here through
the holidays we have applications from
several teachers for the summer months.
Please write and let me know how you
are. yours sincerely

E. Dodds

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Please address
Mrs Clara Dodds
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