68 King St. East.
Toronto 2, Sept 9th 1931

Dear Mr Soldier:-

Your Ranch letter of Aug 25th is food for much thought and it looks as though we had got hold of the hot end of a poker without being able to let go. Apparently we are going to be burnt but the question is how badly. We have all got to realize that fundamentally things have changed and it may be that not again in our time will we see a scale of living and prosperity such as we have witnessed. I think those who realize this quickest are going to be the best off later on.

Things back here seem to be going from bad to worse and we are undoubtedly facing the worst winter of our time. What may happen during the course of it I don't think anyone can tell. My own things are about as bad as they could be but fortunately I have my health.

Our elder son Donald has fallen on unfortunate days. He was plant manager for the Guarantee Silk Dyeing Co of St Catharines and for three years worked very hard without cessation from 7 a.m. to sometimes 10 or 12 at night and also Sunday in an atmosphere polluted by a boiling solution of tin which they use for weighting the silk. He kept running down in health until he was at the point of dropping on his

feet and then had an examination by your brother Bill which disclosed T.B. of the spine. He had not had much chance to get ahead and they had two children so I have had to step in. He is at our house on what they call a Bradford frame and has been since last April; your brother says if he can work again in eighteen months we will all be lucky. We have to have a trained nurse all the time and he lies on his back perpetually; nursing alone will cost about $2500 this year and we have had the stone wall of our house ~~and a~~ broken down to convert a ground floor window into a French door to enable his bed to be wheeled out into the sunshine every day. He lies there with a loin cloth his only covering and is as brown as an Indian all over. In October he will be taken back to the hospital, a piece of bone taken from the shin, and spliced into the vertebrae and after that has properly set in a plaster cast, he goes back to the Bradford frame for the winter.

Their home in St Catharines is broken up and his wife with the two kids (boy of 3 and girl of 1½) has taken an apartment in Toronto so that ~~she~~ he can see them occasionally.

The Guarantee Silk Dyeing Co have just chucked him aside like an old worn out shoe and have done nothing.

Cleland, his wife and young Patty have gone abroad to be back about mid October. We had the Kilgours & Isabel Cleland to see us Sunday evening & they are all right.

I hope all is well with your family

Best wishes

Yours faithfully

J Ellis