

Waterloo, Ont.,
Dec. 25, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

Your short letter with its generous enclosure was received yesterday morning. In view of the hard times we certainly did not expect anything of the kind and I feel that you did more than you should have done. But we thank you very heartily just the same. Bonnie and I went over to Fitchener yesterday afternoon and did some shopping. We got quite a few things and I can hardly tell you for what your money went. We bought some nice new sweaters for the three oldest boys. I bought a pair of gloves and a pair of shoes for Bonnie and she bought me a pair of gloves. Aside from nuts, oranges and candies etc we did not buy anything else much spending. However, largely with the money father DeLong sent we bought a toboggan for Canalis, a set of chairs and table for Marion, a construction outfit for Herman, a rocking horse for Arthur and a toy for Robert. But as Minnie and Mada sent each of the children a nice Christmas gift they were well supplied and all spending to day a very enjoyable and happy Christmas. Pastor Behrens and his family with the exception of Mrs. Behrens were out this

morning and the children had a great time especially with the toboggan. There is a grand place to use it in the back yard where it runs down the terrace into and across our sunken garden. We had mild weather nearly all last week and the snow is nearly all gone, but there is enough in the roof of the house for good sliding. Today is bright and very cold again. Pastor Behrens held his Christmas service at 6 o'clock this morning. I had to get up at half past four to get shaved and get ready for the car which left here at twenty to six. He had a large congregation out, estimated at 200. And he preached a long sermon of nearly an hour. From Saturday till yesterday morning we had the pleasure of Pastor Mowrer's company. He came over for the ordination of student Zwick. He is looking quite spruce since he married his new wife and seems to be as happy as a lark. In Mrs. Monchouse he has a very fine wife - quite superior I think in every way to his first one. I had the honor of preaching Mr. Zwick's ordination sermon on Sunday night and also in assisting in the ordination. There was a large congregation present and I think I gave them one of my best sermons. I preached from 1 Cor. 4:1-2. I think our action in ordaining Mr. Zwick will save him to the Church and secure his exemption from military service. It

would be a shame to take a man of his edu-
cation and capabilities and put him to stopping
bullets in a trench - a thing which the most ig-
norant and unlettered could do as well, and
especially when he is so much needed in our work.
Since the election has resulted as it has, it will
be very difficult for young men who are drafted
to secure exemption. I did not lose my vote. The
man I voted for was elected in this riding by
a majority of nearly 2500 and carried every
polling precinct in the riding. However, the party
lost out in the Dominion as I feared it would. Every-
thing was against them. The election law disfranchising
the naturalized German citizens and enfranchising
the women relatives of soldiers made
the result almost a foregone conclusion. Had when
the Government toward the end of the campaign
promised exemption to laborers on the farm, whether
drafted or not, it made a practical certainty still
more certain. But the people have voted it and
as I said before, they deserve all that is coming to
them in the conscription line. Had no doubt they
will get it. Already I hear it is proposed within a
few months to put the country on rations and
bread tickets and I think our hardest times are
yet to come. The women enfranchised, viz. soldiers'
mothers, wives and daughters and sisters, were

much more fanatical than the men. I never
was in favor of woman's suffrage anyway and I
am now convinced of the error of it now than
ever. It will not help in the slightest toward
pacifist policies or anything else that is worth while.

I think before another year is over we are going
to face the hardest and most difficult times that
America (including Canada) has ever encountered. With
the present trend I don't see how it can be otherwise.
So far, apart from the high prices, we are not suf-
fering except locally from the scarcity of coal. I have
so far been able to get a half ton at a time by the
time I ran out. I don't know though whether this
will continue or not. It was on account of lack of
coal that Dr. Lanyon had to forego running the College
through the holidays. Neither the College nor the Sem-
inary will open now before July 3. This will
give me a good rest - not that I particularly
need it, but still I don't mind having it. In spite
of the fact that I hardly ever get to bed before half-
past eleven and after 12 o'clock, I don't feel nearly
so tired as I did in the pastorate and my physi-
cal condition is practically perfect. I received yes-
terday a little box of ten fine cigars from one of
my former parishioners at Morrisburg. Bonnie also
received a tatted centerpiece as a present. To night the
boys have their concert at St. John's and to-morrow
night Pastor Behrens's S.S. will hold forth. I can't
write any more at present. Wishing you all
the joys of the season and the richest blessing of
the Saviour born this day, I am, Sir, your devoted
servant