

October 13, 1944

Col. Karl F. Baldwin  
American Legation  
Office of Military Attache  
375 Collins Street  
Melbourne, Australia

Dear Col. Baldwin:

I was happy to receive your good letter of September 14th. It is the next best thing to seeing you personally. Gertrude and I were very sorry that our visit to Minnesota and your visit to Lawrence should cause us to miss seeing you.

The lake was beautiful and you would have enjoyed it. Only one week when it seemed warm, and then the thermometer on our porch registered about ninety. Nights were cool, and the fishing satisfactory, our only trouble being transportation. We had to depend on the Freemans for a car, and it happened his Buick had been turned in for repairs which were to have taken ten days, but proved to be sixty. I had to drive for three weeks an asthmatic Plymouth, of ancient type, which among other things leaked gasoline, so we were in rather constant danger; smoked at the wheels after going about ten miles, and had its mechanical parts tied into the car with wire.

We finally got hold of a better car, at a cost of five dollars a day, and during the last week had a good Dodge. We got reservations going up, but found some difficulty in arranging for the return trip, finally getting accommodations on the Chicago & Great Western, a slow moving, but otherwise satisfactory train.

We had our first frost the morning of the 12th of October, and the night before brought in two bushels or more of green tomatoes, which will ripen in our basement so we shall have them for another month at least. This has been a great year for crops of all kind. The trees are still in full foliage, but the hard maples are donning their exquisite fall colors.

Business has been good, but we have been short of help. Our men have been working far too hard and we should like to ease up on them. They are well paid, but a man's body can stand only so much. The Gamble stores opened an enlarged store here this week and on Wednesday had a four page advertisement in the Journal-World. The next day they sold over five thousand dollars worth of merchandise--fine for a new store.

In writing a letter to a patriotic second cousin, a woman of about fifty, whose mind is vigorous and loyal, altho nearly half her life she has been an invalid--I used the following, in which you may be interested: "From a political standpoint I believe that things are improving. I think it would certainly cap the climax if a large body of union men should now strike and leave our soldiers and sailors stalled for want of ships and materials. I am afraid under such circumstances they would find the Commander-in-Chief more interested in votes for himself than in munitions for his fighting men."