

March
Twentieth
1922.

Colonel Snell, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Army Medical Department,
Militia Headquarters,
Ottawa.

My dear Snell:-

First, let me say that I am sorry I did not see you when you were in Montreal a few weeks ago winning the single championship in Badminton. I congratulate you most warmly on that success. I was reminded of the games of Badminton we used to have overseas and particularly the one at Hersin Coupigny, where I put my leg out.

Now, Snell, I want to tell you about an officer of ours who was very badly wounded at the Somme. His name is John F. Cahan, who was a Captain, I think, with the 1st Canadian Pioneer Bn. at the time he was wounded. I remember very well his coming to me at Tara Hill and telling me about the work on which the Pioneer Bn. was engaged. His Company was to be relieved that night by another company of the Pioneers. He was very much interested in the work (light railway construction) upon which they were engaged and volunteered to me that instead of coming out with his company he would himself remain on the job in order to help the incoming company. He did this and I have always regretted it very much for that night he was badly wounded, his spine, I believe, being injured.

Since that time he has suffered most frightfully and has undergone, at the least, six major operations. Two years ago I saw him in a hospital in New York and when I was in Philadelphia on Washington's birthday I again saw him at the University Hospital. He had recently undergone the last major operation. One glance at his face was sufficient indication of the torture he has endured and that he has not gone off his mind altogether is splendid testimony to his fine moral qualities. I have had a letter from him this morning