

The following is a letter from PTE. E. DEWIND, formerly of the Edmonton branch, but now attached to the Machine Gun Section of the 31st Battalion, written 1st November, 1915, from "Somewhere in France":

"This is just a few lines from the Front to let you know that we are all settled down to our new surroundings, and so far no casualties among our old Edmonton staff bunch.

"I am now in the Machine Gun Section of the 31st Battalion and like the work very much, and we have an awfully nice willing bunch of fellows in it. We have been in first and second line trenches for over a month, and at present are having a week's rest in an old farm house near a village. Our buildings are pretty well intact, but it is awful to see this country—village after village wrecked hopelessly, roads injured, farms wrecked and miles of trenches and sand-bag parapets all around. It will be two or three decades after the war before things are in any sort of good shape. It is a beautiful, rich mixed farming country, but a good lot of rain and fog in the fall apparently. 'Sunny Alberta' will look mighty good again to those of us who are lucky enough to pull through.

"The Balkan crisis will probably add several months to the war, but I think the German combine is showing signs of breaking up a bit. The Allies are well off for munitions now, though I must say our Canadian troops would welcome the sight of any of the new machine guns which are ready in Canada.

"We are all very well, and are being splendidly equipped this year with skin coats, rainproof capes, rubber waders, heavy boots, etc., and food is generally very good and plenty of it."

The following is a letter from LIEUT. C. G. DOWSLEY, 2nd Artillery Brigade, First Canadian Division. Mr. Dowsley was formerly a member of the Herbert, Sask., branch. He writes from France, under date of 3rd November, 1915:

"The staff of the Bank does seem to have responded well to the call for men. I am continually running across Commerce men. Four, together with myself, left the Herbert branch with the 1st Division. Two have been killed, one wounded and the other is still in the 2nd Battalion, and I see and hear from him regularly. I have not yet been hit, fortunately. The Artillery is not so dangerous a job as the Infantry, as you will have noticed from the Casualty Returns. The Artillery has lost only 30/35% of their strength in killed and wounded, but our percentage of killed to wounded is much greater than any other arm. Practically all our losses are from shell fire—very few from rifles and machine guns. Depending on the nature of the country, guns are situated 2,000/4,000 yards in rear of the first line trenches. The Forward Observing Station, one to each battery, and manned by a subaltern, look-out man and telephonists, is situated either in the front or support line of trenches, or on a vantage point behind the trenches and in front of the guns. It must command a view of all targets likely to be engaged