

State of Rhode Island
Senate Chamber
Frederick A. H. Bodington Providence Mar. 18, 1919
Little Compton

My Dear Brother & Sister

This few lines must answer Alf's letter as well as yours which I was so pleased to received; it will always be a treat to get news from all of you at home. There is not much news just at this time, we are trying to adjust ourselves to normal conditions since the world war has ended. Our whole commercial & industrial enterprises are very unsettled causing some unrest in laboring circles as thousands of boys are coming home to take up their life work, all of which will take time, patience and good judgment, both by laborer & capitalist whose interests are identical.

It seems strange that the boys that went from this town can't seem to settle down and go to work. They have acquired a roaming habit and can't be contented without lots of strife, the last war we had in this Country made thousands of tramps.

I told Hazel that I was thinking of coming Home next winter. It will seem good to stand once more on the back of a steamer and watch for the shores of my Homeland, in my dreams I have been Home among old scenes, old songs and old friends, but my eyes would open with American skies over me.

You tell Alf the alien home may have gems & gold, Shadows may never have glommed it: but the heart will sigh for the absent land; were the love light first illumined it.

It is hard to map out a certain course for any boy; there is a place for all of us. This country is one of opportunity and a boy can make of himself what there happens to be in him, in the country where I live there is very little chance for a young man. If I had my time to live over again I would go to Texas next to the Mexican border. Mexico is one of the richest countries in the world but things and conditions are very unsettled there just now.

You must feel happy your boy has pulled through, his experiences must be wonderful, something he can think about all his life, all the Boys that went from my home town were given a send off in front of my house. We sang songs, gave them a nice little talk, took a collection, and drove them to the station and made it as enjoyable as the circumstance would permit. We have had no winter to speak of. It has been impossible to cut ice.

Frederick has been more fortunate than some, he harvested 1350 tons, about half he needs, but the price will be high so he will make a good season's work.

In your next letter tell me about Sid & Bud also Daisy. I seem to have a line on all the rest of the immediate family, Auntie Pattie, Auntie Loo, Uncle Bill and their children. I would like to know what they are doing, if any have made their mark in the world. When I make my next visit am going to see them all before I leave the country. What are the chances of hiring cars? Do you have Hudsons over there, my car is a 6 cylinder Hudson Super Six. I want to get one that I can drive myself, one that I am used to. Write soon and keep me posted on all the news. They all have gone to bed; so will close with fond love and good wishes to all.

F. A. H. Bodington