

14796 Russell Ave
White Rock BC.
V4B 2P2 Canada

March 26 - 1980

Dear John,

We received the money from the Bank O.P. I am sorry to hear that you are laid off. Do you have any unemployment insurance in England. The workers are restless everywhere in Vancouver a First Class police Constable gets \$24,000.00 per annum (about £8000.00) they wonder if they should ~~not~~ accept it. Construction workers average \$15.00 per hour (£5.00) & they want an increase of \$3.50 per year. We get a lot of textile materials from Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong etc. For example a Canadian shirt of superior make can be \$16-\$18, but a similar shirt from Hong Kong is \$7-\$8.00 our dollar is at a discount of 16% with U.S. dollar. U.S. dollar is \$2.50 to the £ sterling.

It is a problem - I think - to be in business for yourself if you have to depend on labor for help. In Canada they want to run the business for you - or get a big share of the profits - but please do not ask them to take a share of the loss - if any. Your letter post marked Jan 30. Just arrived the other day we were

interested in letter enclosed. I have a ~~lot~~ number of
letters from Dorothy - your late mother. perhaps they would
interest you.

I am going to England May 2 - return May 24, I have to
go with my daughter in law - my son cannot leave his
business to go with her. She has a lot of Uncles & Aunts
in Somerset, Devon & Cornwall. This is a poor time to
go to England - with one dollar down. by the way
Gasoline (Petrol to you) cost about 98c here (about
a dollar a gallon or about a third of your English £. per gallon)

I note what you say about being in the greeting card
business for five years, so I guess you are well experienced in
it. in Canada, all the Drug Stores & Dept Stores sell a lot
of greeting cards. the competition is fierce, but of course
they all sell them at the same price (which is printed on the
back - in a code number. 400 mean 40c 100 mean 1.00
600, mean 60c etc. at Christmas the dept stores - large
ones sell off all the cards, they have left, diaries etc.
at 50% the day after the holidays. You can buy a \$4.00 box
of Xmas cards for 2.00 - most people do this, as it is
something you don't have to worry about next year

I guess there is not any retail business where you can get away from the help problem. I hope you find a successful thing to do. A few years ago I advised Mollie to come to Canada & but of course I wouldn't advise Aigne to do that now. I think labor here is worse than in England.

In 1938 I advised Mollie to come to BC & buy a nursery garden - near Victoria at Judson Head it was 45 acres and a fair house they wanted \$8000⁰⁰ (about \$2000 then) Right now of course that property would be worth about \$200,000⁰⁰ (\$70,000.00). Real estate prices have escalated here about 2000% even since 1950.

A house in Vancouver an ordinary 3 bed room 1 1/2 baths, house of 1300 sq ft. (Canada's - Average bungalow - timber & Shueco Const) has gone up 35% in the last 6 months, & compared with 1934 a \$135,000⁰⁰ house in Vancouver - better area only cost \$6000⁰⁰ when we came out here from Saskatchewan. This little house we have - in 1934, would have been hard to sell for \$3000⁰⁰ now it would cost \$55,000⁰⁰. (It is 10 years old).

I was in the Real estate business, after the saw mill work belly-up. The only money I ever made was in buying houses & fixing them up & selling them, & of course I'm too old to do that now (at 76, I should be)

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besides there are no bargains anymore. although our
prices are lower than Vancouver. A \$135,000⁰⁰ house in Van
could be got out here for maybe \$95,000⁰⁰ even with a sea
view. Calgary is another high priced place - higher than
Vancouver. Well John I hope you got the boy driving
OK without any trouble.

I put in a new lawn in front of the place yesterday. It is
on a 33' lot. (33' x 114')

I hope when you when I get over there. We had a mild winter
in B.C. except for the people who came from the Prairie
they don't know what a real winter is like

Best regards to you & Phil & the boys

Bob

14776 Russell Ave
White Rock BC
Canada
V4B 2P2

Mar 21/81

Dear John & Shirley was nice to hear from you
The Calendar will be welcome even if it arrives
in August - as long as has pic line of
Yorkshire. So nice to see pic line of the
old country. Reed the money wants for
the trouble.

Also wants a lot for your kind invitation to
stay with you. I don't think we can come this
year. Ada does not get around too good
not much good on steps & won't ride
escalators so you see that is bad for
stairs & air ports. Over

I still get around put addition to
roof on garden shed - She says I'm Crazy.

I guess the Harpers are all nuts anyway

So I will write more to you later I also
hope your unemployment eases. The lady
(The Iron Maiden?) seems to have only
one thing in mind sh.

With sincere wishes

Bob & Ada

←

14776. RUSSELL AVE
WHITE ROCK. BC
V4B 2P2. Canada.

May 31/83.

Dear John,

Thank you for the returns from Ind Hager.
Yes I suppose the Govt has to move things
around to try & please some voters. I can
never see how it can help them after all

they cannot please the voters in the town
they move a thing to without displeasing the
voters in the town they move it from Canby?

I hope that the iron lady gets back
in, we could do with a few like her in
Canada to control the greed of the
unions and their so called "closed
shop" agreements nothing less democratic
than the closed shop was ever invented
and it makes it almost impossible for
young people starting out, even to break into

a closed shop industry - no matter how much the employer might like to see a little new blood (strong backs? get into his shop).

I think myself that Mrs Thatcher should have gone right after the Falklands when the surge in her favor was very strong.

Sometimes here in BC they go after three years although the term is supposed to be five. They go when things look good we were lucky to get our job back in with an increased majority - the opposition is called N.D.P. (New Democratic Party) they are anything but democratic. They are closely allied with labor unions. They had the job here in BC 1972 - 1975 & nearly sent us all down the drain.

I hear that this City "Committee" at Wellensburg has decided that unemployment

will remain high for the next TEN years.

Here in BC in the Construction trades the workers make \$756⁰⁰ per week in Calgary \$666 - Montreal \$618 Toronto \$652
 you see we are higher than any one - although the average construction worker can work more months here than anywhere in Canada, harsh winter construction was never shut down. Yet they have to get \$500-600 per month more than any other workers in Canada. We also have the highest cost of living, & the highest paid Bus Drivers, than any city in the world.

The gov't campaigned on plans to put labor in its place, but as soon as they get in they start trying to be friends with labor. Our teachers here average \$34,000⁰⁰ per year. What do teachers in England make

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Now I'd like to know that if you can remember next time you write. We have "Supervisors" in the education who actually make from \$75,000 to \$90,000 a year.

about your red flag at Sheffield. the City of Vancouver has three "Sister Cities" one is Odessa, in Russia the other two I think are in Asia. The Council in Van is visiting the two of them during the next three years. (The mayor of Vancouver is a N. D. P. 'er).

When we came out to BC in 1937 it was quite different here. a lot of English retired people - now Vancouver is like Toronto there are more foreigners than Canadian English! especially East Indian. There are thousands of pupils in Van Schools whose 2nd language is English.

in other words they can be taught in English.
 If I had my way no immigrant would be
 admitted unless he or she could work in
 English & they would have to present their
 children at least basically able to learn in
 the English language.

Canada has become a haven for dead beats
 murderers & other criminals from all over
 the world.

I think perhaps some of you people over
 there sometimes think things aren't too
 good, but they can be a lot worse
 in some of the so called better places
 to go to.

Mr Trudeau is a Catholic & so I
 suppose he does not recognize divorce
 although perhaps Mr Trudeau can divorce

him, legally. I think she knew quite well what she was getting when she got him. She was a well known radical as a student at Simon Fraser University. Actually I think it is a clear case of two people both deserving what they got. Much as we dislike Pierre Trudeau we wouldn't want to see Mrs T get the three boys. At least I wouldn't.

I don't think there is the least chance of Trudeau's liberals (if you want to call them liberals) getting in again next year. At the present time the folks give the standing Cons - about 50% lib 27% NDP 13% undecided 10%

The Conservatives are in the process of picking a new leader - or re electing the old leader.

I don't think much of Mr Clark, his wife
 doesn't use his name she keep her own name
 McTeese (although they are married).

We have been having hot weather it was a
 record for May the other day. & we had
 a mild winter I suppose we may get
 a ~~bad~~ one next year. - the ones of us who
 will still be here.

You never mentioned of Shady got over that
~~throat~~ problem she had I hope she did
 & I hope the boys, Frank & Antony are doing
 well I often think of your lovely town of
 Kighly & you view over the White Valley.
 So well close for now John wishing you all
 the best for you & your family & we often think
 of you Sincerely Bob & Ada