

To British Mission  
Kladivoetski.

19 Postdamskaja  
Kladivoetski Ispoln  
March 27<sup>th</sup>/19 Siberia

Dear Dr. Macmillan,

May I not, as President Wilson would  
say, direct my hand across a  
troubled land to wish you the best  
that fortune has to offer. If you  
follow the line from Kladivoetski  
through Manchuria, Mongolia,  
Trans-Baikal to Lake Baikal you  
will find me tucked away at  
the south western corner of the Lake.  
I have seen & heard of people in-  
teresting sights & things but cannot  
write of them as I would like  
for there are rules of censorship  
to be followed. You will have seen  
Denis Cairns, I expect, & he will  
have told you much of Kladivoetski  
& district. There is very different  
& more interesting for we are <sup>more</sup> closely  
associated with matters concerning  
the immediate past, present &  
future of the country, and we are  
not so close to the re-established  
law & order existing at the base.  
I will try to create the atmosphere  
for you: there is a word you  
know - "Becheviti" - there is another,  
closely related - "Ceechast" meaning  
"presently", "directly", "in a moment" & so on  
& denoting really the essence of "pro-  
crastination". Now a certain Gentle-  
man from our land on being  
asked what he was doing out  
here said that he was just "ceechasting"  
through the land of "Becheviti" & that  
Gentleman exactly described the at-  
mosphere. Of my memory never me  
asight. Some one said of France's  
revolutionary days that the people were



of having <sup>on</sup> a couple of roles  
stretched over a battlement about  
so words to that effect. They dance here  
but roses do not grow in the  
heart of Siberia. The other expression  
conveys the idea better. To Russia is  
interesting: there is not the security  
of a Washington to but something  
bordering on the law of a Texas  
ranch prevails: there are some 300,  
000 people half of whom are refugees  
from invaded & devastated districts.  
There is much colour: German, Hungarian  
& Austrian prisoners of war, Greeks,  
Cossacks, Poles, Mongolians, Japanese,  
Roumanians & of course Russians.  
There are six of us here, 3 Canadian  
& 3 English officers. Murray Hulse  
is one of them & a very decent  
good he is. Other R.C.R. officers I have  
seen passing through to Omei &  
elsewhere. We are here to introduce  
British methods of training into the  
various camps & academies here-  
abouts. We hope materially to  
contribute to the structure of the  
new Russian armies. The work has  
something of its interest on the  
novelty of the situation wears off  
but the experience is one I would  
not willingly miss. The language  
is well the very mention of  
it has put me in a bad temper.  
I'll leave the description of it to  
"Old Bill" He would receive very far  
away from here. News comes in  
bundles ~~green~~ yellow with age: a  
letter would be very welcome: an  
ounce of home news is worth a  
ton of startling political revelations.  
My best wishes to yourself &  
all the family. Sincerely  
Overland