

Monday Jan 11th 1926

No 22

C/o Bath & Co

G.P.O. Box 253F

Sydney

My Dearest Mother,

I was lucky today in receiving first letter from England - though last week I received none. There was one from you & one from Edna, Basil, Len Port. & May Garrett. (I forgot to fill my pen so must use pencil)

I was very glad to hear that you were all keeping well & that "Elfordleigh" was gone at last. Your winter seems to have been "real English" weather too.

I'm sorry I didn't write last week - I left it till too late & couldn't manage it.

Christmas & New Year have come & gone with mostly very fine weather. Christmas Day I spent at the Flemings. I went up just before dinner. We had a fairly big dinner considering it was summertime & after dinner Dong, Ian & I took a rug & pillows & lay under a pine tree in the garden, & Mat, was energetic & wrote letters in the sunnier house. I think most of the rest of the family went to sleep.

After afternoon tea we played French croquet & I tried to make a toy aeroplane fly properly for Margaret. Then we had tea & as it was still light we visited the orchard & eat apricots & plums & gathered some for Mr. Fleming to give to somebody. In the evening we played snooker. I established a record for the table by obtaining 27 without scoring a single

points for myself. - All points forfeited by the others.
 I'm quite hopeless at Billiards. And that was
 Christmas Day. On Boxing Day I stayed at home
 & helped clear out the Studio for Nora's wedding reception.
 In the evening I went to a party at the Jacksons at
 Warrawee. It was fancy dress & I wore my costume with
 the big grill which was quite admired. There were between
 20 & 30 people there & it was a very good party indeed.
 I got home ~~there~~ at about 2.30 am - made a dead heat of
 it with Nora & her fiancée who were at the same party but
 left a little earlier.

Sunday Dec 27th Dudley & I went into Sydney
 to meet Mr Stevenson at the Australia Hotel where he was
 staying - he arrived on Boxing Day from New Zealand. We
 met there about ten am & told him all about the
 trouble in the Office - the funny business with the
 books & Cronas's behaviour. We were there talking till
 lunch time & I stayed & had lunch with him & a friend
 of his - the chief officer of the "Tahiti".

Next day Stevenson went to see the Auditor &
 lawyer & Bank Managers before he came to the office. Then
 he questioned Cronas who denied that he'd been drinking at
 all. So after 5pm. he called us in & told Cronas in front
 of us that he knew he'd been drinking. Cronas admitted he'd
 been doing it & clearing Stevenson. So Stevenson
 "suspended" him & cabled to London what he'd done.

asking for instructions. London replied to dismiss Curran, which he did.

The position now is that Stevenson is returning to NZeland on Jan 15th, (Friday) & leaving Dudley Alkern & myself in joint control until his return in March.

Dudley & I have both received at bonus of £25 which is very nice & we're getting a rise of £50 per annum from Jan. 1st.

I think we shall be able to run the place alright in Stevenson's absence. Jim will show what bearing this has on my future position remains to be seen but it looks better than in the past.

New Year's eve I spent at the Calder's at Lindfield at a small party arriving home at 3 am. I didn't get up till 12.30 next day & took it very lazily too.

On Saturday 2nd we had a picnic on Middle Harbor - rowing. We stayed fairly late & I have never seen water so wonderfully phosphorescent as it was on the row home. On Sunday 3rd I went down to Moorman & the Clarks - whom I knew in London - & had tea with them. In the afternoon we went to Manly to surf.

They have asked me to spend next week-end with them at Newport at a cottage they've taken

This week-end I had a fine time

On Friday^{ev.} Jeffrey Cadden & I went up to Terrigal & stayed at the same boarding house as the Hemmings. We had a very nice time indeed. Dances Friday & Saturday evenings. Saturday afternoon I scored for most of a cricket match between Terrigal C.C. & Visitors.

Sunday (yesterday) was delightful. We had three surfs. One before breakfast, one at noon & one at 5pm. We came back to work this morning wishing we didn't have to! I feel much better than I did although very sleepy this evening. That probably accounts for the writing!

And I'm going to bed early to finish the work the holiday began so I'll say Goodnight.

Best love & all

Dotie

E.O.