

Dec 10, 1903

My dear Friends,

Little did I dream this time last year that I would be sending you my New Year Greeting this year from over the sea thousands of miles away. The approach of Xmas makes me feel pretty homesick at times, tho' I hav'nt much time to brood over it which is perhaps a very good thing. Before launching into my "yarn" let me wish one and all every happiness and prosperity for the coming year and all succeeding ones.

There is to be a general gathering of the whole colony on Xmas day and great preparations are being made to make it a great success. Church Service at 10:30. High Tea at 5 followed by a Concert and large Xmas tree for the children. It is all being well organized, sub committees consisting of each 4 ladies being appointed as follows - Meat Committee, Bread, Butter and Milk. Cakes and pastry, etc, etc, all acting under a general committee. Mr. Hall who is the owner of the large store is lending his building for the occasion and on Boxing Night we hope to have a dance. Everything is going ahead now with amazing rapidity.

We have been most fortunate in having most glorious weather, continuous sunshine from day to day and hard frost at night. Our clergyman Mr. Lloyd is a very musical man and every Wednesday he holds a choir practice at his own house. The last hour is devoted to the music for the following Sunday services after which we have secular music, quartettes, trios, duets and solos, all the best music we can muster. He has now formed a "Musical Union" and we have already 110 names on the list of members. I need scarcely say I have joined and I thoroughly enjoy the practices they are so splendidly conducted. We really

have a very fine choir. Every Thursday eve there is either a concert or debate upon some popular topic. The past fortnight it has been decided by general consent to erect a structure which for the time being will serve as church, school and recreational room. Everyone is giving a log (it is of course to be built of logs) and the name of each donor to be engraved thereon by their own hand. All the work of erecting it is to be done voluntarily each one having volunteered a day's, two day's or a weeks work. Things go ahead and no mistake. With regard to the Choral Union the idea is for all the places around such as Battleford, Onion Lake, Bresaylor all to form branches and practice the same music and then have a meeting from time to time of the massed choirs. The Lloydminster choir has already been invited to Onion Lake in March (36 miles). The whole party to go is sleighs. We have a sleigh now which we use with our wagon box it is a delightful sensation flying over the snow which is not soft like in England but very hard and crisp.

One great draw back here is lack of water. We dug one well without success and have now started another. The have got down 20 feet but no luck as yet. Every drop of water I use for cooking and washing is melted snow and lovely water it is too, but of course it means a lot of labour carting it in and melting it down.

Everyone is in great excitement just now. An "everseer" has been elected (same as our Mayor) and canvassing is going on pretty smartly and I rather fancy the general favourite is Mr. Amos. So you see with one thing and another we are quite busy. And now, dear friends, a little bird tells me some of you are just working hard for the benefits of the hospital here in response to my appeal. I can find no words to express my delight and

gratitude and am positive that your kindly effort in so good a cause will surely bring its own reward and I am sure many a hearty blessing will be evoked on your behalf in Lloydminster. A little lumber shack is to be put up almost immediately so great is the need for it. I thank you all most earnestly. You would not wonder at my taking this so much to heart could you but witness what I have or been through what I myself have suffered. You cannot realize how awful it is. My next letter to you will be a true and accurate account of how we spent our first Xmas in the Colony. The little ones are all well and happy and growing very rapidly. The wee Canadian is the happiest baby I have ever seen. She will, I think, be very much like Doris. I think I have told you most of the news. I have been somewhat handicapped in my work lately owing to a sprained arm. I have managed at some time or another to strain the principal muscles of my left arm. It has been terribly painful. Dr. Amos feared at first that I had put it out of joint.

Mr. Rendell has just bought in a piece of Railway land adjoining our homestead consisting of 320 acres. As soon as the railway is up it must be most valuable and will add greatly to the value of our homestead. We also have bought a little colt 1 year old for 11 dollars and a ton of hay thrown in. The children are very delighted. Our old Sport is very well and quite at home. Our police are still with us and are very lively boys no fear of being dull where they are. They make a great pet of Doris. She always pours out tea for them. The other people are leaving next Wednesday, for which I am truly thankful. I must now close with a hearty good wishes to all.

Your affectionate friend,

Alice Rendell.