

ROCK ISLAND LINES

EN ROUTE

March. 12 1928.

My dearest Ruth

I am on the way from Chicago to Iowa City - my furthest west. At Chicago I had a letter from you, a very nice one, dear, with the best news you have yet given me about Arthur. You seem to be having a lot of bad luck with the car one way or another. I hope / the time I get back you will have got to the end of it - still trouble with plugs hardly counts - we must look after that ourselves.

I am sitting in what is called an 'observation' car - I haven't met one

before. It is placed at the end of the train - has a very large window through which you look back along the line. But since leaving Chicago the country has become gradually more snowy - here there is a foot or so. Chicago has evidently a milder climate than the East, I suppose on account of the Great Lake Michigan. It is an immense town - I don't think seven is much exaggerated - stretched out thirty miles along the lake. They've not made the best of that advantage, still it is a great attraction. Sudden to see the pale blue water stretching to the horizon as the train was passing through the outlying factories on Saturday was a wonderful

surprise. The suburban parts too are spacious & unimproved. It's one of the best open air towns I know - much more habitable than N.Y.

Just now we crossed the Mississippi or Missouri I suppose at Davenport - a very impressive river.

I was amused by the letter you enclosed from Miss Marjorie Holmes - & pleased too - I liked the spirit of it refusing to believe that the author of the first letter cannot be nice enough to write again. I expect she's got some fine stuff in her; after all it's quite right to be voracious at seventeen. You glad I did write, though after considerable delay, & sorry you didn't as Maria will keep her waiting for another 3 weeks after this.

last one. The time is beginning to feel short
& crowded before the 31st. I see that ship
goes to Plymouth. What is to be done
about meeting? After our last experience
I feel inclined to say wait for me at Gold-
maning. At all events it is not worth the
expense of a train journey to Plymouth to
gain those few hours: the only suggestion
I can make is that you should motor to
Salisbury & pick me up there. If you write
to me on the Saxonia a day or two before
I arrive telling me what to do I will
follow instructions - if I don't get a letter
I will wire my train; if I do I will wire
as you say. But I will expect a letter. It
would certainly be a lovely plan to have
you meet me at Salisbury or Basingstoke.

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It does seem rather absurd & annoying that there was no way for me to lecture at a place like Chicago. The Geographic Society offered \$200 & Keedick refused. I daresay he may have been right. Another school not far from Massachusetts is giving 250 so it looks as though my organization in place the size of Chicago ought to do no less well. But the trouble all along is this bitter fight raging between Keedick & various bodies; he wants to establish the principle that his lecturers, & they are all the best, shall be worth so much; & they on the

Other hand. are standing out for their figure. Don't think Keeble's figure } any means outrageous for a show that comes over from England.

Chicago again Tuesday evening the 13th

A rather dull show altogether at Iowa - the audience gasping like fish in a terrible hot atmosphere. An insignificant town but possessing one fine building, the old State House, now part of the University. We missed my train here, quite a tragedy as I don't reach Toronto till

4.30 p.m. instead of 8.30 a.m. A very bad storm seems to have disorganised things somewhat & my train was over 2 hrs late arriving here. I shall get one on at 11.15 p.m. Now I'm in a cafeteria where I ate cheap dinner - but quite good. I'll tell you about that system.

Very soon I'm going to find a movie show. I haven't seen one in this country yet.

I've been very bad about writing home & really must do that. I don't know why writing letters has proved so impossible out here - I never had less

inclination \circ at the same time less opportunity. Writing in the train is such slow work as a rule that it is hardly worth trying. And I seem to have endless notes to write about arrangements.

Oh, my dearest one, you won't have long to wait after receiving this. How lovely it will be! And what a nice long stretch of spring we'll have together. I shall be very angry if it's too early.

Goodbye sweet love
Many kisses to the children.

Yours lovingly
George