

E. W. 2006 part in  
Yeoman of the Guard.

Fort William.  
Wed Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 1909

My Dearest Sis

I suppose I will have to start out with another apology. - No Valentine and no Birthday Present. I know I should be shot.

Well - Many Happy Returns of the Year if not of the day.

I haven't had a minute to myself for a week at least. It is Lunch hour now & besides things are easy today.

They have been keeping us at rehearsals first till 11.30 P.M., then till 12 and last night till one o'clock. Tonight we have a last light work-out and tomorrow evening we give the first performance. (The second performance is on Friday and the third on Monday.)

I never realized the work that could be put on a thing of this kind; and I never realized how perfect amateurs could make it.

It makes a great deal of difference however having a professional Conductor &

also a professional man at "making-up"

It is quite impossible to recognize some of the men or to tell that their faces have been made up. That is the ones with false hair and beards. Of course you can tell the painted ones when you are close to them.

The girls look great. To tell you the truth I can't tell you what the period was but if one King Edward came nearer Henry VIII, than ~~any~~ another, why it must be in his time because my costume is exactly the same as the one Porters had in the Court of Henry VIII at the Quebec Tercentennial.

All the above means nothing because I find it was the time of Henry VIII.

Most of these people are old members of the Operatic Society and so even if I could have sung well enough for a leading part ~~and~~ it would not have been as much fun for me as being in the chorus.

I will send you the press notices & reports if I think they are nice enough. We had some flash-light ~~taken~~ taken last

night which should give a pretty good idea of the crew.

My work is not hard now but it keeps me pretty busy as a good deal of my time is taken up darning tights and buying elastics and all manner of truck.

When my partner saw me last night she said, she refused to dance with me until I got properly dressed. Suckily I am not as shy as I used to be.

The St. Valentines' Dance was a great success. The lights very appropriately went out and we had to dance for an hour or a half by candle-light.

Just my luck all my partners just then happened to be the right girls' mothers.

I spent my Sunday getting square in the orthodox way with people who had asked me to their houses. Had lunch in Port Arthur, then paid a couple of calls in Fort William and finally was sent to church with a girl.

We have the Bachelors Ball on Tuesday. I'm going but I rather hope it will be the last as I'm getting sick of this chasing

about.

Yesterday afternoon I got out early and intended to go to town and do a few things but as the other inspector & myself were passing along the road by the river bank we saw some kids on sleighs and could not resist the temptation to have a few slides.

Then as a sleigh was passing we jumped on and got a ride. But we had not gone more than half-a-block when a horse came running along the road with a kid's sled tied on behind. I managed to get hold of the horse and after we had unhitched the kid's sled and put it on our rig, I got on the horse and had a fine ride back to West Fort. Today I'm stiff as the very dickens.

I suppose Montreal is all excitement on account of the Ice Palace. I have ordered a Standard giving the Carnival business in it.

Well I think I'll write to you this evening. The Foundry is not much of a place to write from.

Love to you and kindest regards to Mrs. H & all the family  
Yours, affectly, Edward S. Winslow