

Bank of Scotland Branch

Dornoch Thursday 1917

Dear John

I should have written you before now but I was always hoping that something quite definite would turn up as to poor Donald however I know that is now settling but the one conclusion to draw that he gave up his life on that memorable October of last year.

In enclosing all the papers I think that will necessary for you to exhibit to the Savings Bank authorities

so after you can get matters arranged just procure a Bank Draft in favour of your Father and remit it direct to them

They are both wonderful well, in fact you would not see me partake of change as your Father is he wears well. Your Mother also keeps very fit but perhaps she takes things more to heart & worries more so that always tells on the general health however taking her all over she keeps her years well. Of course Tom is now divided by all the young fellows but a very nice search

to be seen however the older men
always prevent the old calling
& with good success too in fact
the Village is more prosperous
now days than ever & you may
be sure there is no one more
pleased than myself.

I am working here all
alone practically now they took
all my boys one after the
other so at present I have
simply to carry on single
handed late & early is the
order of the day now however
I do not grumble as we must
all bear our share in the
great fight & I have got a
young boy for the messages so
that is a great help
I always trust you will

and like the land of your
adoption which I always have
said is the finest Continent
in the world and I do think one
the World settles down to more
peaceful years Australia will
be the great migration country to
which people will flock.

There is nothing much
going on around us here but the
felling of timber by the
Canadians will be with us this
winter & all the woods are to
be levelled it is a pity John clearing
it all away so ruthlessly but what
can one do!

With kindest regards
& best of wishes
from your truly
John Bell