

was in so Dad. took him for a recruiting officer as that is the way Pratt's letters have been addressed to me. However when I identified him Dad. showed him the sheep & horses and was friendly enough. Bill had hired a team and two seats sleigh from Faulkner and six of us went up, Nellie, Essie & Marg, Bill, Roy Dell & myself. I was appointed driver and so was in the front seat with Bill & Nellie. The night mare, Mand (which I think is the same mare al. got from Walt M. Call and which is widely known to be a devil) got started to go in a canter as soon as we started out and before we got to the head of Main St. my arm was just about all in trying in vain to bring her down to a trot. Once we got on the gravel she lengthened out into a full run and there seemed to be no way of holding her. I stood up and sawawed. At last Bill took them till I got my gloves off to get a better grip but he couldnt hold them at all and then we each took a line, all this time poor Nellie was getting more frightened. This method of driving of canter had its disadvantages and Mand got into the ditch and nearly upset us once and Bill had to get over in the middle to rest his arm so I was sitting on the arm of the seat and came with in an ace of falling out. However when we got up about Barwell's place we struck some loose ground and there Mand

came down to a walk. perforce, and used all her energy to draw and from Bill Roberts corner to the half way house we went at a stately walk, as I didnt want to get them started again till we turned the corner anyway and the girls were very well satisfied with the gait. Nellie was very nervous and Essie was inclined to be although she was in the back seat but I dont think Marg. cared a cent. They went at a delightful trot all the way into Simcoe and we certainly had a very enjoyable time at the rink, the band was there and the ice in lovely shape. afterwards we all went into Lees and had oyster soup. Bill standing treat for everything. Roy didnt come home with us as he being in the 133<sup>rd</sup> Batt. hand is fractured in Simcoe and has to be on hand in the morning for church parade I suppose. The team acted fine coming home and we had a fine drive back. We started off with the three girls in the back seat but when we got down on the Deer Gravel Bill got me to step and he changed places with Marg. and he and Essie nearly froze poor Nellie with their actions. Essie pretended to resist strongly but she enjoyed her self just the same Nellie didnt like it so well. I took the team to the barn after letting them all eat at the Bagley's corner and I was about half dead when I got home about one o'clock. Dick came in half an hour later. It has been cold all day but milder to night.