

[Letter from Ned Barker to his brother-in-law Arno Knight; Ned is married to Olive's sister Lillian Drinkwater]

South Braintree 85 Mass 11-4-1921
14 Georgianna St

Dear Brother:-

I am reminded to day of the lovely trip we had in Maine and N.H. and am dropping you a line to let you know that you people at Maplelawn Farm did a great deal to make our trip such a splendid pleasure to us and we want to thank you very much for the interest you took in our visit and just wish we lived so we could make a week end call now and then –

We sure had one fine time and the only thing that I regret is that I was fool enough to go over to Mr Ernest Drinkwater who had just as soon have had a call from the old Devil himself as from his own Sister –

He told me the first thing the Doctor said he has a very weak heart and was liable to drop off any time and as I did not want to have him drop dead while I was there I was very carefull what I said –

He told me my letter was an ultimatum and that settled the whole business – I said in that letter “unless I hear from you in the near future I reckon you wish to sever the connection between the two familys” and I aught to have known enough to know that a Drinkwater never retracts –

Say Brother: I made up my mind there is as many kinds of human nature as there is kinds of politician –

Well – so much for the trip and I would be very sorry to see him laying in his coffin all dressed up and no place to go –

I am sending under separate cover some C.Y. full of good reading and some reading in regard to the R.R. Strike that never was – for which I am very thankfull – I reckon all the people have got it in for the R.R. men as you see as you read that not one word is said in praise for them – let me tell you something of our side of the affair –

The Engineman Pay is \$6.00 a day of 10 hours 6 days \$36.00 Now then that looks very big to some folks – but let me tell you what we are up against – I pay \$40.00 a month rent in advance or \$10.00 a week – coal 12 ton \$15.50 a ton \$186.00 or \$3.57 a week – milk .15 ct a qt 7 qt a week \$1.05 – Wood \$15.00 a cord or \$1.25 a week – Gloves & shoes 50 ct a week Meals at .20 ct a meal \$8.40 a week for 2+\$24.77 a week and the Engineman gets \$36.00 a week and out of that he has

after paying the above \$11.26 left – now then brother to your mind is that too much? And low the poor public would have us work for less. O my O my what world is this –

I reckon by now you have about all your apples picked and are getting ready for the cold winter – I hope it will be a mild one but then one can not tell –

We both are very well and hope you all are the same – We arrived home with our freight all O.K. and have lived the trip over many times since – If you get time drop me a line and let me know how your fair came out – with love from both to you all
Ned