

Teheran, Persia  
Sunday, Sept. 5, 1926

Dear Mother:-

I just received the only letter that I have had from you up to the present time which was mailed from Ireland. That one has been first letter that I have had from anywhere for two weeks. There has evidently been some kind of a hold-up in the mails that are coming through Russia. In fact there have been several kinds of hold-ups in Russia recently to all appearances. You may recall that last week I was struggling to get a wire through to Carruthers who had asked that I meet him in Tiflis. By now I think that we have sent about five or six telegrams to Tiflis, to the Near East there, to the Russian authorities in an attempt to get a passport and to Carruthers and up to the present we have not received answers from any of them. The report is that the wires of the telegraph company are cut, while another and more likely report is that the Indo-European Company, an English Company with its wires to Europe through Russia, has a strike on its hands that has been fomented by the Russian Government. Now that our mail has been delayed it may be that there are reasons for the government trying to cripple the telegraph service. Things may be in such condition that they do not want telegraphic information to get out of the country and one way of stopping it is to cripple the telegraph service. Certainly it is strange that we should have trouble with the mail and the telegraph system through Russia at the same time. As for the mail it is the first time that that has been held up since early last winter.

So much for Russia. That is all that we know of the case. News is singularly scarce these days. We do not get the drift of political matters that we were getting a few months ago. As for Persia we know that that they are having a little trouble on their hands in Kurdistan and that our friend, Abdul Haqid Akel, the Kurd who attended Lafayette and who had recently been elected to the Persian Majlis or Parliament, has not been able to leave his home to meet with the Parliament because he does not dare to leave things in their present condition. His two little nephews recently returned to the city in order to be ready for school in another ten days and they said that he would be in town in another week. However they have been saying that for several months now and we expect him when we see him. Meantime we do not hear a word about the progress of the rebellion that is being waged in their part of the country. We know that troops have been sent there and that they are no longer sending any more. We also know the principals involved in the affair, one of them being an uncle of the deposed Shah who formerly engineered several unsuccessful revolutions and had to flee to Europe for his life. There was a price on his head until three years ago, when the thing was removed by the Parliament and he was permitted to return to the country. He has not been back very long, then before he starts another rumpus. He has a very powerful Kurd with him, but even so I do not think that the two of them will be strong enough to do anything against the government.

The trouble in Meshed seems to have died down and the alleged ring-leader brought into the city under arrest. The arrested person is the powerful brute, the Commander-in-chief of the armies of the east, whom I have formerly mentioned in my letters in connection with some of the cruelties that he has perpetrated at Meshed both in the army and outside. He does not seem to have been arrested for those things, however, but only because he did not give enough of the money which he was extorting from the people to the Shah. That was displeasing and the Shah went to Meshed personally, demoted the man from his military rank and sent him back to Teheran as a prisoner. He is now supposed to be awaiting trial, but the



consensus of opinion seems to be that nothing will happen to him as long as the Shah thinks he has turned over a sufficient sum of money. Actually we know very little of what happened in Meshed, even after the Shah went there, and we no less of what is going on in Kurdistan. Rumours have it that the Russians are fermenting all of these revolutions and troubles. That may be, but I am inclined more to the opinion that they are the ordinary thing in such a government. We are living in another Mexico. The autocracy of the ruling monarch makes his office a little more stable than that of the Mexican President, but actually things are in about the same condition with revolution and counter-revolution in this quarter and that. The government is still strong enough to put down the troubles that have arisen, but it is not strong enough to prevent them from fermenting and it may only be a question of time until one of them is successful.

All this political bunk was started by the arrival of your letter, or rather the mention of the arrival of your letter. Until it arrived I did not know when you intended to leave Ireland and finish up your vacation. I have been sending duplicate letters all the while and they will be getting there well on into September. I think that your stay was all too brief. Your itinerary sounded interesting. The visits to Dublin, Belfast, the seashore, etc. all looked good to me. I should have liked to visit those places with you. I hope that Papa changed his mind and decided that he could stand the trip to Liverpool and the train ride to Bristol so that you would have a chance to visit your old home. In a way it seems a shame to get so near and yet not visit the old places. However, with the few friends and relatives that you have living in those parts the visits would not be nearly so worth while as those in Ireland. Traveling is not always the most comfortable thing and one gets tired of it very quickly. I was surprised to hear that so many folks were surprised to see you. I did not know that your visit was a secret in anyway.

I would like to answer your letter more fully but inasmuch as I do not have it with me at the present time I will have to let it go for the present. We are living in something like confusion at the present time but we hope that things will clear up within the next week, certainly.

You may recall that we had given up the idea of getting the house that we expected to get, a week ago. The five roomed house that we thought was so convenient. The owner could not get his tenants out and we had located another house which we thought would suit us and were prepared to live in it. When we came down from "up-country" on Thursday we found that difficulties had arisen. In the first place the owner of the second house that we had decided upon had offered us it at a certain price and then he proceeded to cut off two little out-houses and the bottom of the yard from the property. That was not what we had agreed upon. Meantime the owner of the original house had succeeded in getting his tenants removed to some extent and had started some of the promised repairs. He came to us asking if we would not take the house. That was on Thursday. He promised to have it ready for us on Saturday, yesterday. I did not think much of his promise inasmuch as he had already promised it to us on three successive dates and had not been able to keep one of them. To settle the matter Teddy and I went to see both the houses, and Teddy decided that it was worth waiting a few days to revert to the original house. The tenants had agreed to empty three of the rooms of the house and I decided to move our things in in order to give them some trouble and hasten their departure. They then promised me that they would leave to-day, Sunday. They are now moving their things out of two rooms while I have a servant standing watch on our things in the other three rooms. Meantime, Teddy and I have been eating and sleeping at the Mitchisons. We have simply continued our Summer Camping.

We would be able to start getting settled to-morrow were it not that several things make it difficult. In the first place there is a



good bit of plastering and wall-coloring to be done. Instead of the bare white walls we are going to have colored walls this time. I think that it will relieve the monotony a great deal. Then there is painting to be done and wood-work to be cleaned and glass to be put in, and electric wires for door-bells and servants bells to be strung, etc. The carpenter has to make us some new curtain poles; the hasseer man has to fit us out with floor and window hasseer, or matting; a new toilet is being put in the house: etc., etc. Meantime we are without servants. Our cook left us during the Summer and instead of a school boy to wait on the table this year we think that we will need a full-time second servant, which will necessitate getting a man or a woman for the job. I have sent for our old cook and he has agreed to return at the same price. He may want to hold us up for more money later, but I told him plainly that if he could get more money at another place that he was to go and I would not stop him, and that we could not pay him one cent more than he was getting before. I am afraid that the price of cooks is going to go up because the price of food has gone up so in the year that we have been here that all wages will certainly have to be raised to meet the new situation. But until we are sure of that our cook will have to work for the same or we will have to get another cook. He has been out of work ever since he left us at the beginning of the Summer, and I think that he should be glad to get work of any kind at most any price. However, Persians do not work that way. They are peculiarly indifferent to starvation and poverty if they do not think that they are getting the money which their honourable position deserves. I am glad for Eddy's sake, however, that we can get the old cook back and that we will not have to worry for awhile about that problem and that more than likely the matter will be settled for another year anyway. The second servant problem still has to be settled.

I am writing this letter while the rest of the folks are making an attempt to go to Church. They all sauntered down to the Mission Compound for a ten o'clock service, all thinking that there was none, but yet serving their consciences by making the attempt. It is a hot day, and I was fighting sand-flies all night, and I thought that I would put my conscience aside in the matter inasmuch as I was reasonably sure that they have not yet started the ten o'clock services. The nine o'clock service continues all Summer but I had to let our servant who is watching our things get something to eat at about that time, and since I was doing guard duty in our house-to-be I could not get to Church. The Rest did not finish breakfast in time.

I think that instead of writing any more I will stop and draw a diagram of our new house for you so that you may see that it is a better house than we had last year. It is on the same street only on another corner of the intersection of the alley and the street on which our former house was located. Had we not had to move to Hutchisons for the Summer in order to store our things moving would have been very simple. As it was we have moved around to the Hutchs and now we have had to move back again. At least our goods are moved, even if we have to place them yet.

Will close now. With love to the whole gang.

*Walton*

