



Charles W. and Mary Lesley Ames Family Papers

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They pay $12\frac{1}{2}$ for outing flannel

" " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " muslin for shirts

" " 180 a lb. for gray yarn

Want samples of Sheerless sweaters
Scarf
Woollets

Can they buy gauge of us, and at
what price.

~~Bath Robe flannel~~
~~Outing flannel~~

Unrecorded
March 12th.

RECEIVED - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

March 10/17.

Dear Miss Hamilton.

Miss Margaret Ames
wrote me that you would give
us information and advice, as
necessary.

We wonder if it is necessary to
launder the night shirts, or any
of the bed garments.

Our Director, Mrs. Lake, wrote you
about the pattern labeled "Hospital
Vest." Miss Margaret told us
about a "sleeveless night shirt",
and we are wondering if this
is it. Also, of what material
it should be made.

Your kindness in giving us these
points will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly,

(Mrs Robert) Mary Ely Hannah

Unreceived
April 28th

April 25/17.

Dear Miss Hamilton:

I am getting anxious about the articles to fill our nineteen gift bags.

I do not wonder that you have not filled the order sent you Apr. 8th, as I anticipate the coming wedding made it inconvenient.

Please let me know on enc. card if the order was received (My return card was on back of envelope) and if I may expect it to be filled in due course of business.

We do not mean to impose on the Miss Annes, but they were so cordial about giving us the benefit of their wholesale prices, for the sake of the French Wounded, that I did

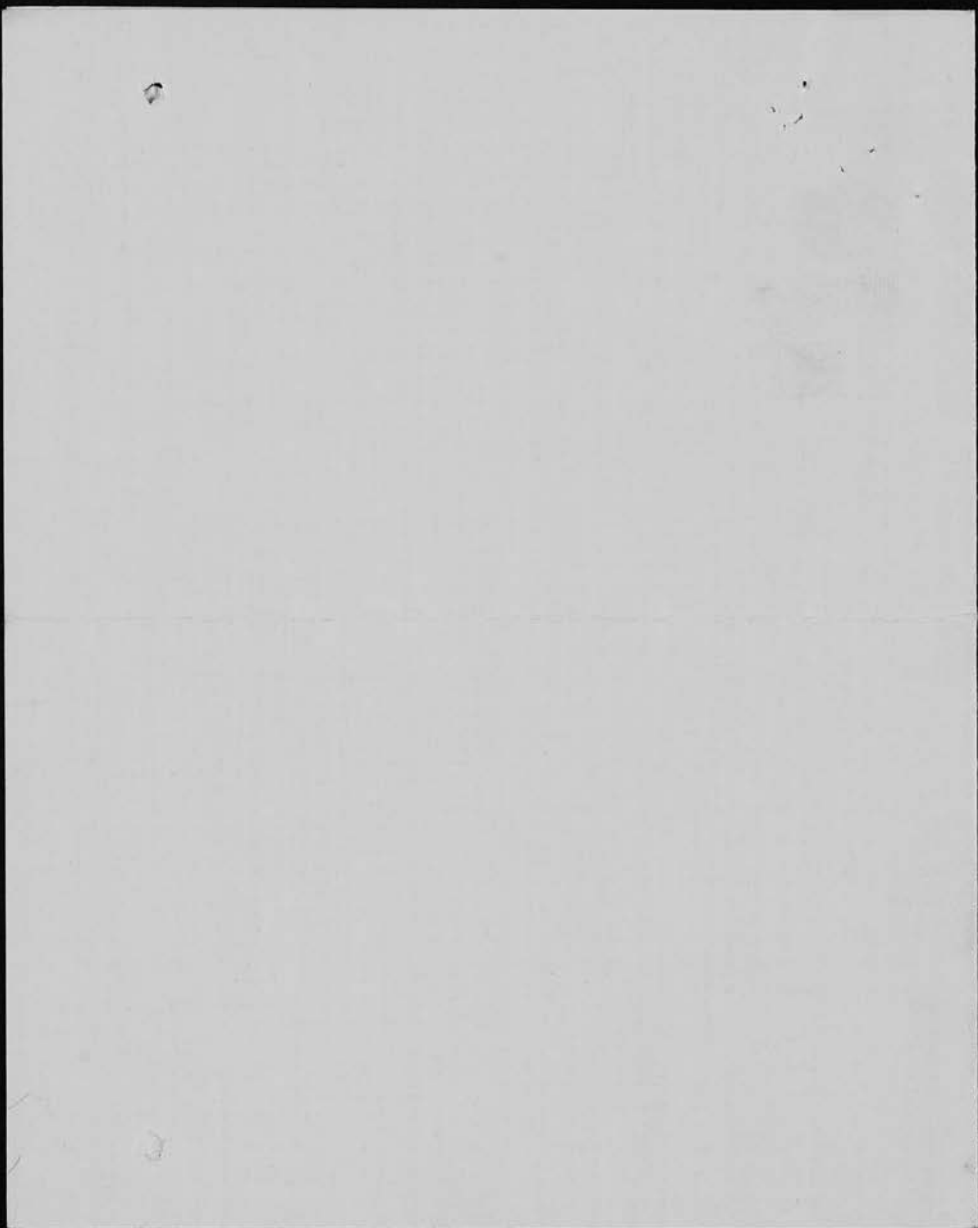
not hesitate to ask for these articles.

Very truly,

(Mrs Robert) Mary Ely Hannah,
Treas.

Fergus Falls Branch,
American Fund for French
Wounded.

Fergus Falls, Minnesota



April 29/17.

Dear Friends of the French Wounded:

I am addressing you collectively to make sure that this will fall into the hands of some one of you - at home.

We have nineteen gift bags ready to fill and the money reserved at the rate of \$2. per bag to pay for articles. I have written twice during April to your Miss Hamilton asking for these articles, and, as the addressed postal for acknowledgment has not come back, I conclude she is off duty.

Miss Margaret and Miss Alice govern a price list at which you could furnish these articles for the bags.

I have not tried to select the game or amusement for each, but have allowed

shipped seven boxes of well made articles - Some of the boxes the limit of size. She sent some boxes by express, hoping to get an early acknowledgment - for the moral effect on our workers. The packing & charges are her contribution and bid fare to be heavy.

We have had some well made surgical dressings - but the model phgs. you left us have been so much handled that the French name of the dressing has become almost of obliterated. We have copied (largely) with pencil. When I was over to your house with Mrs. V. A. Wright, "Miss Margaret" gave me one of your separate French stamps, saying she would ask your Secy. to look up the other two, which you

25¢ per bag. Will you select ^{amusements} nineteen, averaging 25¢. Miss Alice told us how the men exchanged games and puzzles, so if some cost less and others more - perhaps all, in one hospital, will get the benefit.

For the other articles this is our list:

6 razors---	\$4.50	19 mirrors	1.14
6 shaving cream	.48	19 combs--	1.33
7 watches	5.25	19 pipes 15¢ --	2.85
7 jobs---	.49	19 tobacco pouches	1.33
10 fm. rocks---	2.00	19 phgs. envelopes	.38
29 hdhps. 7¢	2.03	19 pads paper	.76
19 tooth brushes	1.52	19 pencils	.57
19 " paste --	1.52	9 neck ties	1.35
10 wash cloths	.40		
10 paper safety pins	.40		
19 soap	.57		
10 knives	2.50		

You may be proud of your work up here. Our Miss Renny has

no longer use. I enclose impression
of the one stamp we have. If you haven't
yours to give, we will gladly pay
for the two, so we may stamp our
dressings properly.

Have you any suggestions to make
on what is most needed. We have
made many surgical shirts & a few
bath robes.

Please lay any defects in this
scrawl to the fact I am sitting
up in bed (recovering from pneumonia)
Nurse standing over me saying
stop! !

Yours sincerely,
Mary Ely Hannah,
Treas -

Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

*Paid in
re.*

Fergus Falls, Minn., May 1, 1917.

Miss S. Hamilton,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Miss Hamilton:-

I received a package of articles for the Gift Box, and same will be checked up as soon as I am able to handle them. I enclose \$21.74 which I make to be the total of the amount of the order as you have filled it.

I know your selection of games and puzzles will be very satisfactory, and I am sorry I was ^{as to write} so impatient ~~in~~ my last letter of April 28th.

Sincerely,

Mary Ely Hannah,
Treas.

Dictated.

Sent receipt

May 13, 1917.

Dear Miss Hamilton;

I wish to express our appreciation of the quality and selection of articles sent us, for our gift bags. We fully realize that we could never get such price from dealers, on the small quantity we buy.

Unless you people protest that we are making too free with Miss Margaret's

and Miss Alice's offer to supply us,
we shall soon be sending another
order. Please convey our appreciation to
Mrs. Ames. Very cordially
Mary Ely Hannah.

Mrs Robert Hannah,
Fergus Falls, Minnesota.
Answered May 15th

Recd
June 8 '17
M L A

RECEIVED ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

May 17, 1917.

Dear Miss Hamilton:

We had a meeting of our executive committee yesterday and decided that we must try to get better prices than our local merchants are giving us. We have more workers than money.

I Can your St. Paul Branch sell us outing flannel, both of the grade you use for surgical shirts and for the bath robes?

We have never been able to buy, at any price, the quality in the bath

robe which ^{the} Miss Ames left ^{us} as a model. The grade about like the model surgical shirt, ~~we~~ costs us $12\frac{1}{2}\%$. Perhaps this is as good a price as we can expect, in these times. If you can

~~also~~ save us any money (after counting express) will you please send samples of the two grades.

II Also, we are paying $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ for the muslin for surgical shirts. Can you help us on this?

III We are using Fishers gray yarn for knitting socks. We have paid \$1.88 per pound for this and our merchant tells us ^(at least) that we shall have to pay more in the future. We have a circle of quite expert,

knitters, twenty-four of them, and we must do the best we can on price; also we must be quite sure we are using our yarn for the articles most needed.

Miss Alice advised our Mrs. Lake, when she called at Mrs. Ames' a short time ago, not to knit the cotton "absorbent sponges," so that has been stopped.

Also, Miss Alice said you would send us samples of the sleeveless sweater, scarf, and wristlets which your people are making, and which Miss Alice said were much wanted. She said you would loan us a sample of each of these, as soon as you had some in. We will return them as soon as

we have started samples of our own.

IV We have had ambulance pillows, to the number of a hundred at time, for our monthly shipment, and we begin to wonder if they are ^{sufficiently} useful over in France to warrant ~~shipping~~ ^{importing}. These are made of material on hand, stuffed with anything handy (cuttings mostly), and circles which are only mildly enthusiastic make them. Please ask Miss Alice if she advises sending such a proportion of these, is ~~advisable~~.

We are getting, from one circle, small hospital pillows, similar to the sample the Mrs. Ames left us. They are made of good cotton, stuffed with cotton or padding and have a well made white slip. About

these we have no question.

We have been making surgical shirts entirely of muslin, since beginning in March. We are now to use cotton flannel, thinking they will want the warmer ones, by the time these reach France.

Our expert sock knitters will keep on knitting socks as long as we can buy yarn. We have many others who will knit mitts, sweaters & scarfs this summer, when we are out of reach of sewing machines.

I know Mrs Ames could not be annoyed by a long letter

like this and I hope it is not an imposition on your time.

One more question.

V Can you let us buy gauze of you? If so, at what price?

I am much better, thank you. My nurse left last Friday.

They will not let me go to the meeting of heads of all the circles this afternoon, but I had a meeting of the executioners here yesterday.

Very cordially,

Mary Ely Hannah,

Mrs Robert Hannah.

Ans a
June 8 '17
M L A

PERCY SMITH MINNEROTA

June 5/17

Dear Miss Alice:

You are Miss Ames now, I know, but the name I first learned seemed to mean you.

Thank you for telling me about your engagement.

It sounds perfectly ideal. We will hope the war won't stand long between you and the completion of your happiness. If the Russians will only make good, it must be over some day.

Thank you too for telling us of the use made of the knitted articles.

I wrote Miss Hamilton some time ago to ask if you people are in a position to sell us material ^{at wholesale} as you suggested. I expect the letter has been referred to your mother. I am sorry to be asking a minute of her over taxed time, even for the A. F. F. W.

We now have about \$200.00 to put into material and I do not want to make any other inquiries until I know if you people can help us. I do not suppose a \$200. order would give us wholesale rates from a dealer, but it might give us better prices than we are getting here.

Will you look up our letter
without bothering your Mother,
and let us know if you think
your A. F. F. W. is in a position to
help our branch.

We had a flag sale yesterday,
which is giving us a net profit
of \$500. We have been sending
small sums to N. Y. for the
special relief work in the territory
evacuated by the Germans,
and I shall hope to send a
generous slice of this amount.

I fully realize how busy your
Mother ^{is} with the Red Cross work,
and I do not believe I would
have had the temerity to
write hadn't I hoped Miss
Hamilton could have

attended to the matter.

I do not feel at liberty to
attempt to get
pieces elsewhere — in case Mrs
Ames takes up our letter later
and we have then used up
our money.

We are having inquiries
from adjoining towns and
any time you and "Miss
Margaret" want to continue
your labors ^{here} for the A. F. F. W.
I will act as your advance
agent.

Cordially yours

Mary Ely Hannah.

Answered July 28th

PERCIVAL'S FILES MINNEAPOLIS

July 26, 1917.

My dear Mrs Ames:

One of our branches ^{has} asked us by phone to-day what to do with live geese feathers. They are making up the small hospital pillows (11x14) such as your daughter brought, of the soft hen feathers, and making white outside cases.

I told her, Mrs. Wilson of the town of Maine, to hold the goose feathers until I could hear from you. I judge they may have enough goose feathers for four or six pillows, and I believe goose feathers are not too

trifling for your notice when the comfort of the French wounded are at stake.

Your letter to me in May said Miss Alice is in the east, ~~but~~ I hope some of you can ~~see~~ give us the dimensions of the size best liked "over there".

We are not pushing the A. F. F. W. but it grows in spite of us. If our shipping grows any heavier, we may appeal to you to take the articles from some of the ^{outside} places.

We have held back about starting branches until they became very urgent, for obvious reasons. We hoped the Red Cross would get on its feet, as it should.

These women in Maine are working very enthusiastically, in spite of poor crop conditions, their own heavy daily work and the heat.

I do not think the fathers will take rings, but I want to answer them as soon as possible, while their zeal is fresh.

Their contribution for July will quite fill a box, and the work is most beautifully done.

Sincerely yours,
Mary E. Hamrah.
Swan Lake Cottage.

P. S. The R. C. organizers here wanted me to be the Secy. but that was out of the question. Mr. Hamrah has taken ~~it~~ that office.
M.E.H.

Aliee Ames
wrote to
Mrs Hammond
& addressed
2 doz. Harmonica
Sent 7⁰⁰ Chuck
of many 2 dozens
Lathrop returned
1⁰⁰ because they
had sold off
the harmonica

Dear Mrs Ames:

We are filling a
consignment of bags for France
for Christmas, in response to
a letter from Mrs. Lathrop to
my Louise.

Now, in my enthusiasm, I
have more harmonicas than
we can use. Before sending
them back to Chicago, I thought
it proper to ask if you need
them for your gift bag shop.

When you sold us the filling
for our nineteen bags in May,

you wrote that you were all
out of harmonicas. We thought
these a great find. My sister
went to ten places in Chicago
before getting them, and they
are made in America!

They cost us \$3.50 a dozen
and we shall have at least
two dozen left, perhaps four
dozen. We shall send about
a hundred bags, but the 30¢
each prevents many from
buying them.

Please tell Miss Aliee that
Louise has lived for these bags
since she received Mrs. Lathrop's
letter, on July 3d., and yesterday
was a crowning delight, when

her very dear Dorothy Adams
let her help sell the things at
the store at our public library.

Sincerely yours

(Mrs Robert) Mary Elyt Hume.

Answered
Sept. 22nd

RECEIVED
SEPT 22 1917
MINNEAPOLIS

Sept. 19/17

Dear Miss Hamilton:

Can you
people let us have a ^{few} ~~few~~ ^{of the three} ~~few~~
package of each ^{of the three} kinds of
dressings you make?

The ones Miss Margaret and
Miss Alice left with us have
been handled until there
is but a faint resemblance
to their original folds —
much less to the wrapping
and sewing of the package
itself. If they are now

making any other hospital
dressings, except the ones
we first had, please let us
have a sample.

Please be sure they are
marked in the usual
way. We want to be
sure we keep up to
standard, and feel that
we have nothing by which
to "standardize" our dressings.

Very cordially yours —
(Mrs Robert) Mary Ely Hummel

Ans^d

PETERS GROVE, MINNESOTA

March 17, 1918.

Dear Mrs Ames:

Your very interesting letter of the 26th ^{Feb.} was greatly appreciated. It was the first intimation we had of the outcome of the Feb. 5th meeting. We had an executive session on it, and felt our ground of existence to be stronger.

Whenever there are any further meetings at which you can and will represent us, please notify us, and we will very gladly send you our proxy. I see you ~~did~~ not finally receive the

proxy of Mrs Wells, Battle Lake, in spite of my letters to her in the east.

She is now at home, and I am sure is quite glad to come into line with ~~the~~ any policy you may approve. Her initials are W. A. You also have Mrs. Hurst's

name. She is a very different type of woman, and like Mrs. Wells, a power in her community (Henning).

I enclose our first annual report. We surprised ourselves, when we got our figures together, and I hope you will be proud of us. Please show this to our sponsors, Mrs Cushing and "Miss" Alice. The number of articles sent includes

1231 pairs socks. The pyjamas, suits, sweaters and other large articles run into the hundreds.

I see you speak of our getting the profiles from Battle Lake & Hennig. This I will most gladly do, if you will notify me.

We always get a request for profiles from N. Y. office, but always too late - too late even to wire, usually.

We have given up all hope of permission to buy from the B. C. I succeeded in getting something over four thousand yards of gauze shortly after writing you, part at 6¢ per yd. and part at 7¢! Our work is chiefly on garments, and I can but wonder how

long we can keep on at present prices. We have about a six months supply of everything, and after that may have to cut down our output, to stretch our funds to cover cost.

Mrs Vernon has invited my Louise to visit Lucy the week after Easter, which I think she may do.

Louise and I often wonder if Miss Alice has gone back to France. I asked Mrs Vernon if Dr. Crothers was to go back and she forgets to tell me.

Again - thank you for your interesting letter.

Sincerely yours
Mary Elvina Hamrah.

Ans'd
May 24 '18
M & G.

May 22, 1918.

Dear friends of the A. F. N.

Some of our Circle leaders have seen notices of a "movie" film showing care of wounded in France, etc. They think you have charge of it.

Will you please write us on what terms it is sent out and if a date could be arranged for us?

I address the family - as I do not know which of you could most conveniently answer us.

The draft I sent the New York office this morning. Totals our remittances since Mch. 1st.

as \$947.10.

We have done no shipping since Mch 1st; are waiting until the terminals are cleared and we can be assured ^{that} the 32 of our boxes, which we suppose are still in N. Y., are shipped out.

Sincerely yours
(M. Robert) Mary Ely Hannah.

Ans^d 1/8
Aug¹

FARGO FALLS MINNESOTA

July 21, 1918.

Dear Mrs. Ames:

Mrs. Vernon tells me that you would like some information about our A. F. D. W. Branches.

Our Fargo Falls Branch consists of nine Town Circles and three rural Circles. Town membership 170 to 180.

The Town of Maine Branch is independent of us, except that they ship with us and send their money contributions with ours. Their leader is Mrs. H. L. Wilson, Route 2, Underwood.

There is a branch at Battle Lake, which is entirely independent of us. Their leader is

Mrs. W. A. Wells. The Battle Lake Branch covers the ground so well that the Red Cross has ~~never~~ attempted to organize there - Besides which, Battle Lake has responded to every call from the R. C. for funds.

If you want the names of Circle leaders, or any more details, I will most gladly give them.

We are still without positive assurance from the New York office that our boxes have been shipped.

Mrs. Vernon told me (last evening) of the talk she had with you over these matters; also that there is some prospect that some of your family may come up here to give us

encouragement. She says if she is not here, she will delegate to me the opportunity to have you here under my own roof.

Mrs. Vernon brought good news from Mrs. Cushing; also that possibly Miss Alice might be there to come up with you.

Louise and I were in N.Y. last week for four days. We went to have Louise's tonsils attended to. I found it a very confining and very miserable undertaking for her.

She says she thinks she is never to get over to see "Miss Margaret" and "Miss Alice", as she was in N.Y. in April to visit Lucy, but of course

did not expect Mrs. Vernon to take her over for the long promised call.

Sincerely yours
Mary Elytham

P.S. We have sent the N.Y. office for Mrs. Lathrop \$1059.10 since March 1st. Aren't you proud of us?

Swan Lake.

Aug. 4, 1918.

Dear Mrs Ames:

Your letter of the 1st reached me last evening.

Words would not express how sorry I feel for Mrs Cushing. It is senseless and a mockery to say: "I know just how she feels." Each Mother's hurt is her own. I know Mr Cushing's disappointment must be very keen, but the grieving is in the Mother's heart.

We lost our boy. My Mabeome never breathed, although he was very large and ^{perfectly formed} ~~strong~~. He would be fifteen the 14th of next month.

You may guess what Louise's coming, two years later, meant to me. Louise will be thirteen in November.

I did not think of your intending to include anything about this Branch in your report. I hope I did not neglect giving you the names of our ^{the} officers, of what we call our Central Committee.

Mrs. F. H. Lake, Chairman,

Mrs W. L. Parsons v. "

Miss Mildred Lowry, Secy.

Mrs Hannah, Treas.

Miss Perry - Packing and shipping.

Miss Jessie Perry - Communications for ^{France}.

Miss Jessie R. perhaps has no paper

title, but she performs an important function. I call her our bureau of information. She goes to the Circle and reads them our bulletins and letters— or parts of them. We tried passing our material about and it always got lost, or was never in the right place at the right time.

Miss Penny carries a very heavy end of our work, perhaps the heaviest. She does all the packing and pays all the transportation. She has never permitted help, even on the packing until this spring.

The entire Lake family give very generously to every appeal.

A part of the time Mrs. Lake has been unable to serve because of the need of her time in the family, therefore Mrs. Parsons' duties have been very heavy, at times.

I certainly hope to arrange that Louise can come over to see you the next time she is down. It is not fair to deprive her of the opportunity.

When you or any of your family can take the time to come up, please let us hear. I am sure a visit from you, sponsors, would be good for us.

Mrs. V. A. is away just now taking as much needed rest. I hope she will come back before we leave the lake. We are only just here and I have seen Mrs. V. A. very little this summer.

With good wishes for Mrs. Cushing, I am
Sincerely yours Mary Ely Arnold

Ans &
Jan 25 '18
M L C

THE RED CROSS - BOSTON, MA

Jan. 13, 1918.

Dear Mrs. Ames:

I wonder if you
can help us to get any better
price on gauze than I can
get, unaided, from Noyes Bros.
& Cutter.

I got a case, 25 bolts, in October,
for which I paid \$5. a bolt.
I do not know the present price.
Ours is all sold, although not
used, yet.

The Red Cross, here, is suffering
from gauze shortage, and our

Circles came in and bought
out the stock, but the R. C. asked
for it. One Circle leader said
she heard the R. C. had "taken" it.

I do not mean to ask you
to sell us any, out of your
stock, but if you can order
one or two cases for us, to be
shipped direct from your dealer,
if you can still do better than
the Noyes Bros. and Cutter prices, as
I know you could last spring.

I wish I could have known
last spring what prices were ahead
of us - I suppose every one who
is trying to do relief work wishes
the same. I was afraid to buy
more than a few bolts of any-
thing. Now, I have become a

plunger, in the language of the
"curb" - or is it the "street."

It would have given me a
panic to have thought of trying
to pay two or three hundred
dollars for anything, now I feel
confident of being able to pay
for any quantity that we can
get.

The gauze the Red Cross here
has is very poor quality, some of
our workers say. Our five dollar
gauze is very good. I have
not attempted to work on B. C.
surgical dressings. I work one
half day a week for them running
a power machine and making
surgical shirts.

Please let me hear at what
price you can ~~get~~ order gauze

for us, or if you advise me to
order direct from your dealer.
If I should order
direct, will you please give me
the address, name of the grade
you are using and if I may
use your name in writing.

I thank you for helping us
to keep up our work for the
A. F. F. W.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Elizabeth Hannah.

P.S. I was very grateful for the few
minutes conversation with
Mrs. Lathrop. Please tell Miss Alice
that Louise's first words were:
"How did her voice sound?" Louise
appreciates a beautiful voice.

M.E.H.

PERCIVAL L. L. MINNESOTA.

Jan. 27/8.

Dear Mrs Ames:

I have discussed the matter of the Feb. 5th meeting, by phone, and find the officers of our Branch very glad to send you a proxy to represent us. We shall post this ^{proxy} Tue. evening 5 o'clock. If you are to leave St. Paul before you could receive our letter on Wed., please send me your New York address.

The head of the Henning Branch, Mrs Hirsch, is here in town and is coming to see me this afternoon. I will send you her proxy, or give

her the form I have written for us. If they are fighting hard in N. Y. to retain control, they may object to our lack of form. I have nothing for a guide in such a case.

The chairman of the Battle Lake Branch, ^{Mrs. Wells} is now in New York. I shall write her of the situation and give you her address, when I get it. Obviously, I cannot give you her address. Both the Henning and Battle Lake Branches are strong enough so that the Red Cross (at Mr. Hannah's suggestion) have left the field to the A. F. F. W.

Mrs. Wells is keen, alert, attractive, and most enthusiastic for the A. F. F. W. I shall explain ^{to her} briefly our position on this proposed amendment and that our proxies have gone, ours and

Battle Lake. that for Henning.

Later -

Mrs Hursh will send you
her proxy to-night.

Here is another matter:

Your suggestion that we can possibly buy gauze from the Division Headquarters in Mpls. would indicate that you do not know that Mr. Gerrould refuses to sell anything to the A.F.F.W. and forbids the local Chapter here to do so. Mr. Hannah has shown me his letter to this effect, enclosing a letter from Washington giving him authority to refuse.

If we are co-operating with the R.C. Mrs. Lathrop says (according to Mrs. V.A.'s report to us yesterday) that if the R.C. in France is short they come to our A.F.F.W. stores, why can't they be made to see that it is fair to let us buy from them, always reimbursing them for overhead charges?

Is it not possible that while in the east you and Mr. Ames can bring about a change of this order? Here is the case in point. Sock yarn for which the R.C. charges to its auxiliary branches \$2.35 ^{per pound} we must now pay \$3. We have a great many fine knitters, and our yarn buyer was

here with Mrs. Hursh and ^{seized} this opportunity to beg that you intercede ^{for} us.

I shall write at once to the address you give to get prices for gauze. We had representatives of nearly all the branches in Otter Tail County here for a benefit Recital on Friday evening and Mrs. V.A.'s talk about Mrs. Lathrop's visit on Saturday morning.

Am I presumptuous? I think not. If you take time to get an order from the R.C. to sell to us, it will save our A.F.F.W. many thousands of dollars - all over the U. S. A.

Sincerely yours,
Mary Eliza Hannah.

TERMINUS LACUS MINUTEPHILA

Feb. 2, 1918.

My dear Mrs Ames:

I hope our proxy,
posted by Mrs. Lake on Tue. the 24th, Jan.
reached you before leaving for
New York, or was forwarded to you.

I wrote Miss Hamilton asking
your address that I might tell
you what I have written Mrs.
Wells, Chairman of the Battle Lake
Branch. I sent her a copy of ^{our} the
proxy which the Henning Branch
also used, and asked, in case
she cannot attend the meeting
on the 5th to please send you
her proxy ^{addressed to} the A. S. F. N. headquar.
Her address is 7272 Viola St.,
Philadelphia.

Our three Branches, Battle Lake,
Henning, and Tergus Falls, each
with several rural sub-branches,
are all very eager to support
Mrs Lathrop.

Our only excuse for existing
separate from the Red Cross, is
to support Mrs Lathrop's work in
France. It is the personal element
which she makes us feel - even
at this distance - which makes it
possible for us to hold our numbers.

Please - Mrs. Ames - come to our
rescue on that R. C. Washington
order not to sell to our A. S. F. N.
It would seem to be "all in the family",
with Mr. Hannah as Secy. of the Red
Cross for this Chapter, but he is
powerless to help us. During the

two weeks when the Minneapolis
headquarters had given permission
for us to buy of them, Mr. Hannah
ordered for us, when sending for
goods for the local chapter.

Now, he does not feel at liberty ^{in ordering from}
to ^{even} use Red Cross stationery for us.

We are quite able to do our own
writing, if we could only buy
of the Red Cross. We are nearly
out of yarn, and the best price
we can get for sock yarn is \$3 a
pound. Mr. Hannah has just
received notice that a quantity
has been bought for the R. C. and
they can buy at \$2.20 a pound.

We are interested to know if
Mrs. Crothers and Dr. Crothers are going
back to France.

I know from Mrs. Vernon that

your youngest daughter is going.
I envy her, her youth, her ability,
and her opportunity.

I hope she will strength to
meet whatever comes and a safe
return to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Ely Hannah.

P.S.

Mrs. Vernon told us here (when she
was up for Elsie Wright's wedding)
that Mrs. Lathrop said she had
never had much help from any
other workers, as from your daughters.
We consider "Miss Margaret" and
"Miss Alice" our sponsors, and were very
proud over this high praise.

Louise has slept on Miss Alice's cake,
and related a marvelous dream.
M.E.H.

Fergus Falls, Minn.
Feb. 25, 1918.

Feb 27 11/8
Ans. to
Feb. 28

Dear Mrs. Ames:-

We are to have our first annual meeting of the Fergus Branch of the A.F.F.W. as soon after March 4th, as I can get the accounts closed.

I know you are always more than busy, but if you know the situation here, perhaps you can take time to give us some report on the outcome of the meeting in New York on Feb. 5th.

Did you receive our proxy, also that of Mrs. Hursh of the Henning Brance? We shall hear presently from Mrs. Wells whether she attended the meeting in person, or succeeded in reaching you with her proxy. We also receive a request from Miss Scarborough for a proxy, but it came too late, so we were not obliged to refuse her.

If there are any inside facts which you think proper to give us, which it would not be well to read at the annual meeting, please put them on a separate slip, which I will share with our executive officers. We would be very glad of a letter from you to be read at our meeting.

Also, please tell us if you think there is any hope that you will be able to get the Red Cross to recall that order not to sell to us?

I think you will be gratified with the outcome of our year's work. The local officers of the Red Cross are more than willing to show us every courtesy, and but for this order from Washington would sell us material out of their stock. Mr. Gerrould of Minneapolis seems to be very antagonistic. He, and other officers at the Headquarters have told our local officers that they should force us to a consolidation, and that they should put in a Red Cross Brance at Battle Lake and Henning. Our officers stoutly maintain that as long as the A.F.F.W. is covering the field in such an effective way, they are not willing to go in there to try to force a R.C. branch, unless the people of those towns request it, which they do not.

Did your daughter, Miss Betty, cross with Mrs. Lathrop, and have you heard from the party?
Cordially yours,
Mary Ely Humech.