

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 10, 1917, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. May 10, 1917. Alec dear:

Miss MacKenzie has nearly broke down and feels that she must have complete rest if she is to continue working. She has not had any vacation for a long time and she has had the care of her mother all winter. She shows it and her physician advises her that he can do nothing for her, she simply must rest. I told her that I would take the responsibility of telling her she should have her month's vacation. She did not expect any pay but I thought she ought to have it, she has worked very faithfully and without respite all these last two years.

She says it will take to the end of this month to finish up Cousin Mary's letters and such other work have left her and then she has to bring her mother up to Baddeck and when she has settled her she would like to go off alone where she would have nothing to think about.

The new taxes seem to be terrible. The income tax I don't think so bad. It's war time and we must pay but I can't see the policy of taxing such poor man's necessity as eggs, fish, flour etc. they are high enough already. Taxes for letters, cheques, theatre tickets etc are all right, but it is dangerous surely to tax newspapers and periodicals, especially so that they no longer become national in scope. The geographic for instance would cost California subscribers double what it costs Washington ones.

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It continues cold and raw. I don't see why the leaves are coming out.

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Elsie marches in procession May 12 at the Red Cross Dedication. Isn't it magnificent the reception the French are getting everywhere. Madame Jusserand writes they were invited to Milwaukee also but there was not time. I fear it will be hard for them going home to all the greyness and tragedy.

Much love. Mabel. I told Dr. Grosvenor the story of you wading up to your knees in ice-water at 2 A.M. in some experiment, not mentioning the nature. He repeated it to one of the Defense Board whose observation was "That is the only way in which we can ever hope to solve the submarine problem".