



Sept. 33

R.M.S. Empress of Britain  
Wednesday afternoon.

Dear 334.

Here we are only a few hours now from land and everyone packing baggage labels & trunks as they always do on the last day. This is a wonderful way to come. It seems as if we had hardly got unpacked and settled down when we have to get ready to get off. No time to get bored. We think we will never come any other way.

Both should the voyage splendidly except

that Mrs. H. took a heavy cold on leaving  
so thought it wise to stay in bed - the place  
she likes best on board ship anyway. But  
we had a lovely stewardess who has  
brought us the best food the ship afforded  
& we never failed to do justice to it.  
Sea was a bit rolly most of the time.  
Last night there was a concert in the  
big first class lounge by the Scots  
Guards & I thought I would dissipate  
& wear the evening gowns. The night  
was quite a bit rough & in the middle  
things began to slide. First a music  
stand slid across the platform then  
the big Oriental rug in the centre of



R.M.S. ....

The room on which a great many were sitting on female chairs, began to do a sidestep & the first thing we knew the whole thing went & every body piled up in a heap at the other side. The papers were in the middle of a Stratigraphy but one of them did a sudden reel instead. There was great laughing when people realized what was the matter & as no one was hurt & only a couple of chairs broken. things

went on as before.

But it was funny to see the pair  
kitties trying to do a dance. When  
they wined put down one leg the floor was  
too near, like climbing up hill, & when  
they put down the other. It wasn't  
there at all.

Thurs. noon:

Just crossing now from Cherbourg  
to Southampton on the last round.  
Saw land at 2 this morning. I  
happened to wake & when I looked  
out of the porthole there was the 1<sup>st</sup>  
lighthouse on The Bishopps, winking  
at me in a very friendly way.  
We have dropped all our parley-



R.M.S. ....

bous passengers & are now headed  
for the little islands. Trunks & bags  
are labelled & gone, passports &  
landing cards stamped & all we have  
to do is to walk off the ship into  
the arms of the Customs officers. We  
have nothing contraband except some  
Whiskey which is labelled "Lactopessin"  
& which Mrs. H. will carry in her  
private bag. Tell mother the  
mustards only came into play once -

& did the trick so well that we  
sat up & enjoyed lunch soon  
after. Had only one excuse for a  
glass of beer - but took it.

Emmie's roses lasted all the way  
& were lovely.

Met a nice young woman who  
is on the Secretariat of the League  
of Nations, a Toronto graduate.

Who had a card of introduction  
to us. Also a dear pair of  
newlyweds from N. S.

Very strong smell of fish -  
I think it must be the Channel <sup>Love's</sup>  
Smell. This is the best from London. In.

**MB Williams to (her family at) "334," Sep 1933**

**Transcription / Additional Information**

[Canadian Pacific Steamship Lines letterhead]

Sept. 33

R.M.S. Empress of Britain.

Wednesday afternoon.

Dear 334,

Here we are only a few hours now from land and everyone lacking baggage labels & trains as they always do on the last day. This is a wonderful way to come. It seems as if we had hardly got unpacked and settled down when we have to get ready to get off. No time to get bored. We think we will never come any other way. Both stood the voyage splendidly except

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that Mrs. H. took a heavy cold on leaving so thought it wise to stay in bed - the place she likes best on board ship anyway. But we had a lovely stewardess who has brought us the best food the ship afforded & we've never failed to do justice to it. Sea was a bit rolly most of the time. Last night there was a concert in the big first class lounge by the Scots Guards & I thought I would dissipate & view the evening gowns. The night was quite a bit rough & in the middle things began to slide. First a music stand slid across the platform then the big Oriental rug in the centre of

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the room on which a great many were sitting on small chairs began to do a sidestep & the first thing we knew the whole thing went & every body piled up in a big heap at the other side. The pipers were in the middle of a Strathspey but one of them did a sudden reel instead. There was great laughing when people realized what was the matter & as no one was hurt & only a couple of chairs broken, things

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went on as before.

But it was funny to see the pair kilties trying to do a dance. When they would put down one leg the floor was too near, like climbing up hill, & when they put down the other it wasn't there at all.

Thurs. noon

Just crossing now from Cherbourg to Southampton on the last round. Saw land at 2 this morning. I happened to wake & when I looked out of the porthole there was the 1<sup>st</sup> lighthouse on The Bishops, winking at me in a very friendly way. We have dropped all our parlez-

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vous passengers & are now headed for the little island. Trunks & bags are labelled & gone, passports & landing cards stamped & all we have to do is walk off the ship into the arms of the Customs Officers. We have nothing contraband except some whiskey which is labelled "lactopepsin" & which Mrs. H. will carry in her private bag. Tell mother the mustards only came into play once

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& did the trick so well that we sat up & enjoyed lunch soon after. Had only one excuse for a glass of beer - but took it. Ernie's roses lasted all the way & were lovely.

Met a nice young woman who is on the Secretariat of the League of Nations, a Toronto graduate who had a card of introduction to us. Also a dear pair of newlyweds from N.S.

Very strong smell of fish! Think it must be the Channel [smell ..... from London]

[Last line cut off by scanner.]

Love,

M.