



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRISBANE.

Friday 6. March 36

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Dear Eno.

Not much news this  
week. - if fact very little!  
I've just sent Herbert  
Ratcliffe 3 small snapshots;  
he will probably be back  
before the other arrives.  
Duncan should be here  
on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We are much  
looking forward to seeing him.  
I could get a word out  
of David Peel. I suspect  
he is very busy with the

boys who are here & he is to be  
married in April! so whether  
he will come up here or not  
I know not!

Amy must be ever so  
much better - which is  
splendid - if she can  
stand in a queue at the  
Embarkment. I've received  
this mail all the papers  
about the funeral - she  
must have been a  
wonderful sight!

I only pray that

all will go well under the  
new régime!

We are still at the  
Seaside - but I shall  
have done it days in  
Dorchester this week - we  
move up on Monday -  
all the family - I  
shall not be sorry. I  
find it very difficult doing  
any work or writing at  
Southport & the telephone  
never stops!

You weather this winter does  
not seem to have been good!  
but, personally, I shall  
welcome a bit of cold.  
By the time I get home, I  
shall have had no cold for  
5 years except the few  
days in Shanghai & Japan!

Love to you all

Joseph

Oshie

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRISBANE.

Saturday 14. March 86

Dear Eric.

Words fail! I've had  
a poisoned foot & it was getting  
right when I woke up yesterday  
with much pain. I thought it  
was blood poisoning but the  
doctor says "Gout!!" in the  
same foot. The worst attack  
I've had but it's better to say  
although I can't feel the foot &  
the ground & have to boil  
it every 4 hours. Age. I  
suppose - a mispent  
tonne & the sins of one  
father! I've got some



wonderful stuff which does do  
Charlie Borrochet sent out to  
me when I had my first  
touch. He had it very badly  
& himself spent many thousands  
in finding the best cure! I ought  
to be walking tomorrow. Luckily  
it's a quiet week end.

I send a letter for  
your son. You like to see.  
I've now heard that  
David Peel is not coming  
up here - I've been sending  
him several wires lately  
to complete the arrangements.  
Margaret will have a good  
friend here from Exeter.

which will help to amuse  
them while here.

At the moment, they  
look so bad so they can  
in Europe. I do hope we  
don't get dropped in to a  
war to help France - If so,  
I suppose the Rifle Brigade  
will be among the first  
Regiments to go. We are  
quite ready for war  
by sea, land, or air!

Tallon is a very  
fine bat & wicket keeper.  
I saw him make his big  
score here the other day.  
a very fine performance - but

any cricket from Queensland  
is not looked on with much  
appreciation by NSW. or Victoria!  
State jealousy being such a  
it is!

No more. Whipped &  
manjire are away up  
country for the week end.  
Court morning makes life  
very dull for them.

Love to you all  
Present

John





GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRISBANE.

26. 2. 36

Dear Eric.

Many thanks for yours of  
Jan: 20. No news from  
Duncan - & all excepting any  
after his letter from Perth  
when he seemed very fit &  
enjoying himself much there -  
but looking forward much to  
seeing him here on 24 March  
or 25<sup>th</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup>. David  
Peel still very quiet - afraid  
his engagement to Sarah



Ramsch has put all such  
thoughts as to the P.S. boys'  
arrangements into the  
background! for the  
moment but trust he will  
awake soon & let me know  
his final arrangements for his  
23 boys & 3 in charge!  
Anyhow, all is pretty well  
fixed for Merland now

I'm sorry I missed  
having a dig at the family

woodcock. It was cruel to  
shoot it!

All well except that  
W. is bothered with Jack  
Cant meaning! I hear  
much about it! I'm up  
for 2 or 3 days with much to  
do but return to the seaside  
tomorrow - perhaps - if I can  
get done in time but there  
seems to be masses of papers  
& engagements.

I've just heard that my  
new Humbert Pallman Limousine  
which I have made the  
Government give me is on the  
sea. It will be the best  
Car in Australia!

Love to all. Excellent  
news about Amy

Yours  
Shi

Do you always stay at Grosvenor  
House. You must be very  
wealthy!!!





GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRISBANE.

Sunday: 29. March '36

Dear Eric.

I hope you got my cable sent on Wednesday to say that Duncan was well & it was splendid to see him. He was! but I really should not have known him - naturally the change in the last 4 years has been very great, but he has grown into a splendid lad - in every way - I am very proud to have him & claim him as a godson! Mayorie picked him up in the country, where he was staying, & motored him down here: the others coming by train. We had the Director here, Mr Stake, Duncan, Jan Frank of Winchester, who knows David well, as he was a successor to David as Head Prefect at Altham, & a very nice lad - also a Scotsman - "Chips" Maclean of Caulford School - one of the Macleans of Maclean & a grandson of the old lad who is 101! There are 20 other lads all scattered about, but I had a lot to do with the arrangements & they are all at nice places & all are liked.

Duncan was not too well when he arrived. He had "flu" at Sydney & had not quite shaken it off - so we insisted on keeping him quiet & on Thursday he had a complete rest which did him much good & he is quite alright again now. He's such a big lad - 6'3" - that a touch of "flu" like he had, affected him, & I am very glad he is quite himself again. On Friday Mayorie took them out to see wild animals, & then later I took them to see Parliament House & in the town, & tennis in the p.m. I think we had a very happy day at the seaside - Surfing - picnic lunch - tea with friends - & day. Duncan has gone off with Mayorie to the country - Maclean with her, & a good friend - & I know they leave for Sydney to catch the New





Kaloud boat. They've been very occupied and I think they've  
 enjoyed themselves much. At any rate I'm  
 happy, I have much enjoyed having Duncan, & it  
 was splendid that all worked out so well and that we  
 were here. I had to be away all Wednesday opening the  
 Torowomba Show - but all the boys were in the hands of his  
 Government for that day, seeing the Abattoirs, lunching on a  
 boat, & then the Seyal Refinery. The Government has  
 really been extremely good here in helping.

Duncan has given me a lot of news about  
 you all - far better than letters: & it is splendid to  
 hear how much better Amy is. I am certain you will  
 have to let him come on this tour. Experience such as  
 he is getting will be of great value to him & he is  
 taking it all in - full of questions on all matters.  
 This next week you will be starting for Malta  
 with Keene. We leave on Friday for a tour. I shall  
 & I - so I shall not write next mail. I shall  
 find like an Air Mail to tell you about Duncan -  
 I'll keep it open till he has gone tomorrow but I  
 have a very busy day, so thought I'd write now before I  
 go to Church. I will have heard all his news before  
 he came here. He's apparently all the gone well  
 & he has enjoyed himself much & everyone has been  
 very kind to all of them.

Monday morning. Duncan with his 2 colleagues  
 his State, the Director, have just left - 10.30 - am. He took the train  
 yesterday at 11. All is well. Duncan had a great day  
 enjoyed himself. He is ever so much better & looks  
 very fit now. I must stop. It's really been a  
 treat just seeing him - but to you all

Yours  
 Leslie

Sir Leslie Wilson





August 11<sup>th</sup> 1936

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRISBANE.

Dear Eric:

I am sending this by Air Mail to avoid recrimatory remarks from you on the amendment which with, I expect, appear famous in England about my staying here for another term of

Office -

If you only knew the difficulties I have been faced with during the last 6 weeks, of which I could not say a word, you would sympathise deeply with me. Really I have made myself positively ill in trying to decide what I ought to do. To cut it very short, the Government, with absolute unanimity - a Labour Government too - asked me to take on another 5 years - somewhat remarkable from a Labour Government, pleased that one Australian as State Governor - At first, I turned it down promptly but, then, based as I saw & knew that the alternative must be a Queensland Correspondence & this would lead have been awful for Queensland - Correspondence has been going on between myself & the Secretary of State on this subject for months & after having said "No" definitely, I came to the conclusion that I really ought not to although I am really sacrificing myself for the Empire's good. There is nothing I want less than to stay here another 5 years but still I ought to do it. However don't mention the above reason to anyone but its the true one.

There are some compensations - (1) the people really want me (2) Financially the night find things difficult at home with increased taxation & double income tax (3) Loneliness - her doctor tells her - with never be able to winter in England again (4) I might not - probably would not - get a job in England & I can't be idle (5) It's a splendid climate & I've a host of friends - (6) Peter is not here

Against this there are many reasons to go home - (1) I'd like my mother (2) Majorie who will probably be home in England (3) David but he will





GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRISBANE.

most likely to be India & be as near as there.  
(4) This noble G.A. (5) function for 5 more years!  
Kempster has been splendid. She hates the idea - her own  
idea is a peaceful life in a small house in the  
country in England but she says I ought to do it and  
is prepared to put the best face possible on it!  
I have made 2 conditions - one that I  
let 6 months leave & shall come home after the  
Cormatin Celebrations here, arriving about the end of  
June next & the other that I let 4 months  
leave in the middle of my next term. I believe  
they have accepted my conditions but I did  
not like to ask for more!

Well there it is - In the past 3 days  
by poor Private Security, he spent his days in  
coding and decoding cables - All has to be done in  
very proper way but the Pensions will make an  
arrangement to Patience tomorrow & the deed is  
done. Still I can't sleep for thinking if I'm  
right or wrong. I know I am doing the right thing,  
by Queensland but I am worried to death as to  
whether I am doing right by Kempster & Majorie -

I think we shall probably build ourselves  
a house on the sea, for I intend to take the  
next year much more quickly than the last 5,  
& if I can get a nice place where a nice garden  
this will help much - a place to go to quickly when  
we are fit to go & go in peace -

As you can imagine I've got a lot to do  
& this is also the busiest time of the year. It would  
be! I wonder what you will have done in my  
place! However I'll see you in June next  
for some months - I'd give up & think I was  
happily settled in England for next year but then  
I suppose I'd hate it after 6 months.  
Love to all  
M. B. L.





GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
BRISBANE.

Sunday, 29th November. '36.

*Dear Sir,*

Court Circular. Sir Geoffrey & Lady Whiskard have left, Sir Edward & Lady Harding have arrived. The MCC team has also arrived and the Governor's teeth are a perfect curse.

Really there seems no peace in this world. I've been on the verge of a Constitutional crisis of the first magnitude for weeks, but I think that all will be well, as Parliament will rise, I fervently hope, next week, and then we can get down to some real work, including coming to a decision as to whether I am to have the old Government House back or not. If not, I do not know what is going to happen as I have told the Premier that I cannot possibly come back to this place.

I have spent to-day entertaining Obbie Allen & 6 of his very nice men, including Robbins, Verity,, Farnes, Barnett, & others at the seaside, where we eat an enormous amount of oysters and surfed twice. They all said that they had not spent a better day since they had been in Australia, & I think that they meant it. They have not done well in the match v Queensland, and got out to the most easy bowling, but they are still very hopeful, and one great thing is that they are a very happy party, and I do not anticipate that there will be any "unpleasant instances". Obbie is making a great skipper, and all the team swear by him. The first test starts next Friday, and I am trying to make arrangements so as not to miss a ball. I cannot say that I am very hopeful about the result so far as the MCC is concerned, but one never knows what is going to happen in cricket, and they are, by no means, downhearted at the moment. They are accompanied by a whole herd of special correspondents, including Jack Hobbs, Neville Cardus, & yesterday, I had to go to the Races to take Sir Edward, and was put next at lunch to C.B.Fry, a man for whom I have not an outstanding admiration!



Winifred really seems ever so much better, and is very full of work and desire to entertain, which is an excellent sign. Unfortunately, at the moment, we have a domestic crisis in the kitchen, at which I am not surprised, as all 3 of our people there say that they cannot possibly carry on in our underground kitchen in the hot weather.

Will you convey my congratulations to Harry? 3 sons is a good effort, and the title that he will secure in the future is now safe. The name "George Duncan" does make one think of golf & "Fore", but I do not think that this should be any encouragement to Harry to make it Four!

I have any amount of troubles but will not worry you with them! I hope that most will have sorted themselves out or have settled themselves by the time that you receive this.

David writes that he is going to America & to Canada in February to play Squash for England, and that he cannot put it off till he finds out when Marjorie will arrive in England, as her plans are so vague. The lady will not be pleased if she arrives home to find that her brother is in Canada, as I gather that she is relying on him for most things, even the loan of his car!

I hope that the Brewer's Society Banquet went off well. It sounds as if it ought to be a convivial gathering, but one at which the Chancellor of the Exchequer might find some difficulty in making a popular speech!

No more now. This is already far too long.

*John*  
*Lee*

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