

[Image of Irish homes and restaurants]
Wyley

Friendly greetings and warmest wishes for your joy at Christmas and your happiness in the New Year

Tommy Brodie
(over)

Dear Miss Loving,

The scene on the front of the Card is typical of what you could expect to see if you were to visit in Londonderry, Ireland. Londonderry is under British rule but four miles away is the Irish Free State. From conversing with the Civilians I found that the Free State us quite the place because they aren't under rule. The people of Londonderry are quite poor it seems and their standards of living are quite low. There is a great shortage of everything including shoes for the children who run around the streets barefooted so cold that their feet are very red but they being very hardy they don't seem to mind the cold. The principle food of the Irish is fish and chips (potatoes) and not the famed Irish stew. American cigarettes cost 2 shillings & 6 pence (50¢) Being greatly interested in their money I learned it quickly. If I get the chance to see you I shall give you a few pieces.

Irish Money – American Value

3 pence	.05
6 “	.10
1 shilling	.20
2 shilling coin	.40
Half crown	.50
1 pound	4.16
1 firloin	.40

In Londonderry a woman works for a pound a week (4.16) an a man earns on the average \$17.00.

If a person desires to make a purchase of say a package of English cigarettes, he buys the pkg., empties the carton they come in and presents the empty package back to the seller. Indeed, we in America are very fortunate to have so much, and the Irish have a great desire to visit America. It rains quite a lot in Londonderry, therefore it is quite damp. Our blackouts in America are a joke compared to theirs. People, buses and carriages feel their way in the darkness but make surprisingly good time. I guess I better close now. Sorry to mess up your greeting card but I thought you would be interested in my observations. Merry Christmas – Tom Brodie