resulting in the prevailing hand-to-mouth conditions. Another contributing fact to food scarcity in Petrograd is the absence of market gardening in the suburbs, due doubtless to the climate and poor soil, thus there is no nearby source of daily supply for a large population.

Fuel promises to be scarce here next winter. The staple fuel is wood, brought in by barges on the canals. Nothing like the ordinary amount of wood is being delivered this summer, I am told. I have often, when strolling along the canals, watched with interest the system of getting this wood into the City. A great deal is cut in the Finnish district around Lake Ladoga and floated in barges through the Neva River- the outlet of the lake- and thence by the canals to the different parts of the City. The barges are often rough wooden affairs, not water-tight, and apparently are used once only. Wood is now worth 100 roubles a cubic saghen.

August 9th. A cold day, with showers and high wind. A couple of soldiers, deserters from the front, were arrested and taken out of the hotel cafe this a.m.; considerable excitement among the crowd. General conditions about the City are again quite normal, but the telephone building in the Morskaia is still guarded and no one is allowed to pass on that side of the street. By the way, orders have gone out that only the Russian language shall be used in talking through a telephone; this is annoying and cuts off our method of calling for help in case of trouble. I have at last memorised a few Russian telephone numbers, such as the hotel, the embassy, the number of my room and of our office, now this is of no use. The American Red Cross delegation, about forty Colonels, Majors, Captains and Lieutenants, arrived yesterday. It is headed by Colonel (Doctor) Billings of Chicago, and