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Personal
Susan and Ed's
& private matters

The Field
25/6/16.

Dear Father

Your letters of May 14th, 22nd, 27th
29th and June 1st are all before me. I
have written no letters at all, except one to
Abel for the past three weeks. We have
been through a rough time and I am
thankful to be alive. I had two officers killed
and lost nearly thirty men killed and
wounded. Tomorrow the 12th was relieved yesterday
and anyway things have quieted down
very much indeed. I won't go into any
particulars in this letter but my diary will
reach you in due course and then you
will know all about it.

I have not seen Bob lately and
think he got away on leave yesterday.
He sent me a copy of his letter to you
of June 11th and before I go any further
I will deal with one or two subjects about
which he wrote. I quite agree with his
desire for Sarah to have all his present
holdings in E. L. Co. should he pre-
decease her, childless or not. I therefore executed
a document giving her the portion of
his stock that I would have received
under the indenture you sent (which I
signed at the same time). This practically
means that your indenture would hold good
and in the event of Bob's death, I would
receive his stock and pass it on to Sarah
during her lifetime if childless. Should they
have issue, I would, of course, not get
the stock anyway.

I do not like criticizing the
wishes of your will and probably have
no business to do so. But I quite agree
with Bob's objections and I think the
points he brings out are worthy of
every consideration. That dear mother

2

and the girls should have the income from your private estate during their lifetime is only right. But that the girls' children should have your private estate divided among them and that Ibb's and mine (if any) should be left out is most unjust. It is a repetition of the unfairness of Grandfather's will except that it goes further and excludes the issue of the sons entirely from sharing in the private estate. I do not know how you view it but I consider that Ibb and I have earned our present share in the business by a good many years of hard work and we are also entitled to your stock on your demise which God grant may be a long way off yet. This is especially true in Ibb's case as I consider he has already shortened his life considerably by his unremitting toil for the firm.

until the war contracts were taken on E. Leonard and Sons Limited was not paying dividends, even now it is not on a proper dividend basis and the future prospects are far from rosy, in fact they are problematic to a degree. The shell business gone, the firm will be up against it again, no capital and a more or less out of date plant. Should I live it is my intention to stay with E. Leonard and do my best to keep the flag flying. Ibb feels the same way but when you will us your stock I cannot see that you are giving us anything gilt edged, quite the contrary in fact. Then there is the 4% C. interest which should perhaps later enroll one of us a seat on the Board. If this interest goes to

the girls and their issue neither Ibb nor
I would have any standing with the
Corporation and outsiders, Cromyos or
others would be elected in your place.
Men are elected to the Board because
they control stock, because they are so
prominent that their names are an asset or
because (as in your case) they combine
both the above. Neither Ibb nor I have
ever been able to achieve very much partly
because of sticking so hard to C.L.S.
and without your stock what chance
would we have of getting on the board?
Except for the little I have saved I
am worth nothing as you know and
Ibb's position is about the same. I have
never spoken of it before but it was
my financial position solely that
prevented me some years ago from
making an attempt at matrimony and
this same drawback exists today
almost to an equal degree.

It has not been pleasant for me
to criticize your will as above, in fact
it has required quite an effort on my
part. I trust however that you will
forgive me for doing so and not take
my remarks amiss. After giving due
consideration to what we have both
said perhaps you will see things a
little from our standpoint and give
the suggestions ^{some thought} ~~due consideration~~. I do
not consider your present will fair to
your sons or to their children but
realize that you have every right
to do as you see fit. Therefore,
having received my notes (a presumption

perhaps, I shall not refer to the matter again except at your own request.

I note the list of bad debts that you propose writing off at the end of the financial year and will be glad when they are off our books. I do not see why the Cushing account cannot be collected but there are probably legal obstacles with which I am not conversant.

I am glad such good progress was made with the addition, of which a B.P. came duly to hand. Our output should be materially increased and I hope the new tools turn out to be satisfactory in every way. Also that you think so well of the new boiler at Oakwood. It was certainly not installed before it was needed urgently.

I want to thank you very much for sending further photographs of the Battery wheel. They came to hand and I am glad to say that every member of the Battery who was with me a year ago and is still with me now has one.

The present state of the bank overdraft is most encouraging and I am more than glad that you expect it to disappear entirely before the end of the summer. I quite agree that there is nothing to be gained by seeing they until you are ready to talk pretty straight to him about the shabby treatment accorded us by the Bank for the past few years. I am sorry Jim Hart left us without notice. However he was

getting on in years and perhaps thought he was entitled to a rest. He was a steady worker and with the firm for a long time but at best he was never a hustler and perhaps he is no great loss.

I am glad my photograph arrived OK also the remittance. Am afraid looking after the latter, my insurance and other personal matters of mine adds materially to your burden and I am only sorry that it should be so. Would it be worth while handing these matters to the Canada Trust Co. to look after for me and thus relieve you to some extent. Do not go out about Massey and his standing. I know he is prominent financially and later on he might be able to do something for us in the way of interesting capital or something of the sort. There is lots of time for that yet but it can do harm to hear him in mind.

If the "F. E. L. note" that I hold is not in the safe drawer it is just possible that it may be in the small drawers of my desk in the study at Oakwood. I want to keep some of my private papers there and you will likely find it in one of them with some mining stock script and perhaps other papers that should be in the safe. Anyway it is worth while looking there. I hope you will go ahead at

6.
once with the small addition you suggest
(to the office) containing a decent
break room for the stenographers also a
similar room for ourselves. As you say
the cost would be very small and
the added convenience would be very
great. Would it not be possible to
have a private entrance (from outside)
for ourselves and another room where
we could have conferences and so on.
The present office is overcrowded and
we have no place where matters can
be discussed in privacy at all.

It is a source of great comfort to
both Bob and myself that dear Mother
and yourself both keep well. I want
however, to urge upon you both the
necessity (as far as at all possible) of
taking things as easily as possible. I
know you will agree that Mother
does too much and I much fear that
you two are overdoing it. I have
suggested several times that you both
take a trip and get a much needed
change and rest. I will hope to hear
that you are doing this (in your
reply) so please arrange it at the
earliest possible moment.

I fear you will be tired of my
enough long before you get to this point
so I will close without further reply.

With deepest love
Your obedient son
Woodman.

see P.S. on
back.

P.S. I think I ought to tell you
that I am now in command of
the Brigade. The Colonel went to
England the other day to take over
the artillery of the 3^d Division and
when my Battery was relieved I was
appointed to the command of the
Brigade. The general has said nothing
to me, in fact I have not seen him
during the horrible three weeks just
past. However it may mean that
I am to keep the brigade and
in due course be gazetted to the
rank of lieutenant colonel. Do not say
anything about it yet as these things
take several months to go through
and anyway life and promotion
are both equally uncertain.

Edw.