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Thursday 25th May

My dear Father

I could not help thinking of a year ago yesterday last year in Fordingham.

I think you played golf but the remainder of us went up to Carlings Heights to see the Military Sports, then into the Barracks for tea and afterwards James motored us home via the tunnels I think. Mother drove up in a Victoria with Alice Sarah and myself and we remained in it most of the afternoon. I remember how well she looked. I hear she has gotten a little thinner but looks well.

Your interesting letter of May 5th came on Monday with news about Malloch's death. L.P.S. A.R. and your trip to Ottawa about reduction in shell prices. I am very sorry you were unsuccessful and it means a big loss about \$16,800 on 700 shells.

However I suppose your acquiescence was the only thing in view of what the duty said. At that time have you been given to finish the 40,000 - 4.5" shells? Do you expect to be held up on them also? If so it will mean the same loss again and we will not know where we are at

It seems to me, like a pretty high handed piece of business.

Wood came up the day before yesterday and we discussed the situation and are naturally both very much relieved to hear about Margaret. I am sure it must be a load off your mind also. We both feel that the shop is not equipped for making the 8" & 9.2" shells and we would both much prefer to see you stick to the 4.5" or 5" as a maximum.

I was not quite clear as to whether they offered you the larger shells as an alternative to the 4.5" or if they meant it to come on after you had finished the 40,000 4.5" at \$4.50.

By all means finish the 4.5" first and then try and get some more of that size and I feel confident you will be ahead in the long run.

I suppose your next letter will tell us what you decided to do.

Wood is such a long way off that we are not able to see each other so frequently just now, although it is one of my greatest pleasures over here to be with him for a few

hours. He is in much the same position as myself about promotion and the waiting and uncertainty is trying. He surely deserves it and I would rather see him get it than get this new regiment myself. We are both hoping that this week will clear it up.

Please compliment Mr Harwood for me on the good showing of memorial and give my very kind regards

Too bad about countershaft and loss of time and money. I fear you would have even repaired this if you attempted the 8" & 9.2" shells.

I hope you will attend any meeting personally and visit the Munition Board yourself (as you have already) if necessary in the future. It is not considered it good policy to send Hargan or Halbeson on all these trips.

Am surprised as to what you say about excessive profits tax not going through. I thought it was already law. Are you sure about this?

It would appear to me that your depreciation of shell making tools and

other tools is high but justifiable if you think we can stand it when the books are closed in June. I presume the depreciations of 50% & 25% are for ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~assumed~~ ^{assumed} for the current year and ^{will be applied again for the} subsequent year.

As far as patents are concerned I don't think they can be depreciated and a lot devalued. We quickly consider that last year's losses most assuredly should come in. The tax as I understand ~~the~~ ^{the} applies from August 1914 and the loss was made since then and most assuredly should be covered out of subsequent profits (if any) before latter are taxed. I think only fair and just.

I wonder what you will do about your Woods' & my salaries but as I have already touched pretty ^{fully} on this in a previous letter I will not repeat.

If the Dominion Bridge are not attempting shells over 6" I do not think we should attempt any over 5". Your Montreal trip must have been most interesting and instructive

I am very glad indeed that you went down. You will realize more fully what other people are doing. What are Goldie, Watsons, Jencks and Inglis about. You have not mentioned them for a long time.

The circular letter about Homestead is discouraging and I am very sorry for Aunt Abby and Kendall. It looks as if it might be serious for them. However we will hope for the best. I am glad you sent in our proxies. Mother has a small holding too I believe. When I called on Bert at Rat Portage I was much impressed with him as a man of good judgement and also as a hard worker. I would be glad if you let me know how the matter turns out.

Weather is beautiful over here just now. We are now furnishing digging parties. The men ride up as close as possible to where they are to work and leave their horses and go on dismounted. No mail yesterday but hope that today will make up. Very much love
your devoted son J.H.