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29-II-16

My dear Father

Wife 18 Moll

Your very interesting business letter of Feb 14<sup>th</sup> reached me today also one from dear Alice of Feb 13<sup>th</sup> enclosing one from Mother about Aubrey's supposed name. Many thanks. Letters from home mean a great deal as I have often said.

I think Alice omitted one page of Mother's letter about Aubrey so I am not very sure of details.

As I want to send them on to Wood at once, I will make a few hasty remarks at once.

I most certainly approve of your new purchases of fine clothes as I take it for about \$2000 especially as you hope to increase the output to over 500 thereby. I would try and hold out for this number however.

It just strikes me that you should be able to import them free of duty for this purpose but I suppose you have fully investigated this matter. It seems a hardship to pay the Government for machinery for war work especially when

It must be hard to get in Canada quickly enough. From what you have fought it would appear to me that the work on these larger shells is more a straight lathe job than an 'automatic machine' job such as we considered the 18 pr shells.

It just occurs to me that there will be a little difficulty driving these five new machines with your present engine and power facilities but suppose that a good many tools that are ordinarily in operation are now idle.

You did well to replace the hydraulic cylinder so quickly. I think you are to be complimented on it.

When you get the time I would be glad to know how you award and pay your bonus. I thought you had a piece work price for most of the operations but apparently not. Have you or rather do you intend making any reduction in what you pay for labor on the 4.5 shells proportionate to the lower price you are now receiving

III

from Shell Committee, which by the way you did not mention in your letter, although I think you said once before it was to be reduced from 5.90 to 4.00 or by 33 1/3 %. These seems a big reduction but as I do not know the cost I cannot say very much.

I strongly approve of getting rid of old Laurie Lake and hope you will be able to make a handsome profit on it.

With reference to additional watchman you only say that I suppose we cannot take too many S precautions. I wonder if you are not entitled to a military guard of some kind. I should think you would be. Have you ever mentioned it to Col. Shannon. Is the Williams you refer to our old Baker Shop Laundry man who went over with Wood and was wounded?

It runs in my mind that you said something about finishing the proposed Extension to west end of Machine Shop but I never had it clearly in my mind as to whether this addition had been

IV

finished or not. Please tell me.  
 I am perfectly agreeable to the  
 destruction of all old engine  
patterns as I don't believe we  
 have ~~any~~ ever made any money out  
 of a single engine we have built  
 (except perhaps some chippers) since  
 I have been connected with the firm  
 and I feel sure that the same is true  
 for some time prior to that. I  
strongly endorse clearing every  
 pattern out of top story of  
 machine shop but think there are  
 some there that should be saved and  
 only the older engine ones  
 burnt. Could not some in end 70  
 of west yard be burnt and make  
 some room for the more useful  
 ones in machine shop; the  
 only other alternative would be  
 to build a galvanized shed out in  
east end and put them there, but  
 suppose even this would be  
 hardly worth while. In any case  
 I feel we would all rest much  
easier if they were out of the west  
 end of machine shop upstairs.  
 Am glad to see that you are  
 keeping the stack down, I never

V

remember your answering a letter  
Woad & I wrote together about last  
years statement. I think you said  
you would reply later after consulting  
Mr Holmes. Perhaps the answer  
has gone astray. Woad mentioned it  
also the last time I saw him and  
is still holding your letter about the  
statement. If however it has not  
been answered I don't bother now as I  
know your hands must be very full  
also Mr Holmes, but if it was  
answered perhaps a copy could be  
sent now as there were one or two  
points I am still doubtful about.  
I hope next June's statement will  
eliminate any need to worry about  
a previous one.

What a god send the shell business  
has been, especially as the engine  
business is so dead and we want  
to get out of it. I often try and  
think what we will do after  
the war is over? your plan of  
sending for catalogues is certainly  
a good one.

I think the performance of our  
boilers (7.12 # walk # # cohus) is very  
good considering circumstances

VI

They seem to have held out very well and I hope will continue to do so. How is the water softener working.

It will be a great relief to get rid of some of the larger S. H. bales in stock. Am glad to see Plant is clearing up some of his S. H. stock.

Is the old gentleman still taking a holiday. I believe I asked the question before.

Tell Alice I intended writing this mail but won't be able to now but will soon.

Would like a few more particulars about Aubrey and what he is going to do with his own business, but I suppose they will come in due course.

Prices of material seem to be soaring. The ship building industry in Gt Britain and U. S. is going to boom for some years after the war, which I suppose will keep these prices up.

Thanks for other enclosures and promises of photographs. Sorry to have to close so briefly but mail is just going. Love to mother and don't forgetting yourself Jfb