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Sunday 6 Feb

My dear Father

Wood and I have fared extremely well this week in the way of letters from you and I assure you that they are very much appreciated. Your letter of the 10th I have already acknowledged and I now have your private ones of 11th and business summary of 17th before me as Wood left them here when he was over last Thursday.

I thank you very much for statement of private $\frac{1}{2}$ and am indeed glad to hear you were able to clean up a little on Lakewood mortgage.

The shell contract, as I take it, when you wrote was about $\frac{1}{4}$ shipped and quite a reduction already made in Bank $\frac{1}{2}$ which is a little below what it was before you took up the shell business. This seems highly

satisfactory and if the 60 ps works out as well you should be able to "talk to the Bank" next June. I should think a change would be

desirable and if the new Bank of Montreal manager (I see our old friend is superannuated) is a man we could work with, would suggest approaching them first. Our personal

liability should be relieved. I consider the assignment of shell contract was very high handed and as you say "won't be forgotten by any of us". I read one of the leading articles in Saturday night [which Campbell gets

regularly] about the way Canadian Mfgs

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had taken hold of the shell business, without advances of any kind from the Government and in some cases had signed off all they owned to do so. It further said there were new great opportunities for Canadian Infgs along other lines if only the Banks and others would help finance them to start with. I think it very true and every new development of our natural resources into finished articles (which we have been buying in the past) should be now helped and fostered.

you say nothing about having booked a new contract but may hear about it later. I hope you have as at the present rate you only have 3 months work ahead of you and it would be too bad to have to wait or stop now you are started.

I received the Saturday night re "Shell Committee" that you kindly sent over. I had already read it and am mailing it on to Wood tonight. I consider that it is your own business and if it is accurate the Canadians have no cause to be ashamed of the way this business has been handled as a whole.

I am in favor (after reading your letter) of buying the two new lathes you speak of for the heavier work. What do you think they should cost? Will the heavier shells require any other new equipment?

I am destroying your letter as requested. Very sorry to hear about poor Livermore. He was always a very faithful worker and deserves some job that he can do without a thumb after he is better.

Don't consider Col McEwen's bill out of the way. Please divide it between Wood and myself. She could be put out on pasture again about end of April. I wish I had Derby over here (like Wood has Peggy) I have not yet been able to get a horse like as well, and in fact have had to take what I have been given, pretty well.

am appalled at the destruction of the Parliament Buildings. It seems too awful to realize and I cannot help attributing it to the Germans in some way or other, you are too lenient with them in Canada. They have too many privileges. Those that are interned should be made to work hard and those that attempt to escape should be shot. I only read of it in the paper today and feel almost like crying. I wish I could go out on one of these raids and stick a bayonet in one's back with my own hand or knock them over the head with an axe. It may seem bloodthirsty but the more I see of them and their methods the more I am convinced that this is the only way to beat them.

Monday 31st Jan. Heard more about the bombardment last night which followed a very successful raid made by our chaps on German trenches right in front of us in which they captured 3 prisoners and accounted for 27 Germans that they saw dead and likely the artillery got many more as their reserves would be cranking up. We had four casualties. You can see about it in press although it is not attributed to us. Rode all around guards with Clemens in the P.M. and showed him how to inspect them the way I want it done. Read and chatted in evening.

Tuesday 1st Feb. A little frost on ridge.

Interviewed some Belgians who have a claim against us for timber but their evidence as to dates did not agree. Campbell working at a map we have in hand. Rode down to see Col Jamison of 1st Div Cav in P.M. and had a nice visit. He often gives me a few pointers. Campbell had hot bath in evening. Read and wrote a little.

Wednesday 2nd Feb. Roads frozen up far side also fords. Near cardigan jacket under my serge. Wrote Father a few lines and also war diary for month of Jan. Pope (a brother of Billy) called in P.M. about a horse. A very nice boy. Billy is still in England. Took ride alone in P.M.

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Thursday 3rd Feb. (LW ride). Milder again.

Wood came over for lunch and we discussed your letters, Father and he brought some over Mother had sent. He felt blue about losing his leave and it does seem too bad. They move back for a month's rest and training tomorrow and Saturday and will be too far away for me to ride over, I fear, in one day. Rode part way home with him about 4.30 P.M. Called on Col Tobin but he was engaged with the General. Attended a fine concert in evening with Campbell given by a neighboring Amm. Col. Amateur talent but excellent. One man had a falsetto voice just like a quail and did not look too badly when dressed up. Got a "gas alert" after we came back as wind from east, when we are always ready for contingencies.

Friday Feb 4th (LW ride). Had a call from young Mallock (a cousin of Teddy) about a horse he wanted changed. In a.m. morning and rode down and called on Col Shaw and Col Tobin in the afternoon. Campbell played match again in evening. Leslie laid up with sprained ankle so Mallock doing double duty.

Saturday Feb 5th. Took a 25 to 28 mile ride with the Ewen passing four wretched towns and some tremendously large

shell holes. Were very close to a position occupied by woods East May and now held by the French. Were very favorably impressed with latter. Saw quite a bit of new railroad work. The day was beautiful and the sun so warm that we almost perspired. We had a feed for the horses with us. Met the General on way back who said he had called but did not go in as found out I was out. Campbell out for dinner so spent rather a lonely evening with news papers and a magazine. Retired about 11.00 PM.

Sunday 6th Feb. Hot bath at 8.15. No ride. Good turnout at church parade. Stayed to communion afterwards with Campbell. Went for a walk and called on White who has a cold again. No guests for dinner. Had a call from a A.F.C. officer in the afternoon and were much interested. Stewart Gunn also called later on and you saw tell his family I never saw them looking better. He has just finished a two weeks course in "bombing". Heard news of destruction of Parliament Bldgs and gun barbified. Campbell is reading beside me and as I am on a Court of Inquiry in the morning I will have to close tonight as I will be hurried then.

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Mother's most welcome letter from Ottawa on two sizes of paper reached me from Sarah yesterday and I sent it on to Wood this A.M. and so delighted to hear of dear Estelle's continued progress and also good news about the boy. She will miss you, Mother when you go. I wonder if you were in Ottawa for the fire? Your letters are always so full of interest to us all and mean a great deal. Sarah sent me a dear letter you had written her and which she appreciated so much.

All well here, Spencer on leave this week and nothing of much interest to record. Am going to try and see Wood about end of week before they move away back.

Very much love
 your devoted son
 Bob.