

From the holdings of  
Western Archives, Western University

Letter

11 June 1916

My dear Father

I am writing you for Wood and myself  
in answer to your letter of 17th May about  
the "Round Robin" agreement as a result of my  
short conversation with him last night  
as described in my diary letter of even date

As I mentioned briefly in my midweek  
letter to you I do not consider the second new  
paragraph on the second sheet fair to Sarah  
nor the following paragraph fair to Wood's  
wife should be many. If either of us had  
a private estate of any consequence it  
would not mean so much, but as we have  
not and as we have worked hard for  
E & S for 11 or 12 years I do not think that  
what little interest we have in the  
business (the earning power of which as stock  
always has been nil and ~~is~~ is doubtful in  
the future) should be taken away from our  
widows as is done in the paragraphs I  
refer to. To rectify this Wood drew up  
an undertaking last night making over  
to Sarah the portion of my share awarded  
him by the agreement and I also appended  
a similar undertaking on my part. We  
will expect you to make one also  
cancelling the paragraph on page 3 in  
as far as it would effect our widows



2

and allowing ~~them~~ the full use of all our  
holdings during their life time whether  
they have children or not. If this is  
not done Sarah (and Woods wife if any)  
would be unprovided for except by the  
little insurance we each carry. Wood  
concurs in the above and I am writing  
for him and sending him a copy of this  
letter.

Wed July 2-16

We also feel that you will not take  
it amiss if we jointly criticize you  
well as described in your letter of 7th.  
This is the first intimation either of us  
have had as to your intentions in that  
respect as we never to my knowledge  
discussed details of it.

We both feel that it is unfair to  
us and our possible issue as Leonards  
We think that <sup>the principal of</sup> all your estate should  
eventually come back to Wood and myself  
as Leonards and not go to Carlings or  
Schafields. We have no objection whatever  
to dearest Mather and the girls too having  
the use of the interest of your private  
estate while they live but consider that  
the principal should come back to  
Wood & I or our children as Leonards  
and not go pass on ~~to~~ the children  
of the husbands of the girls. You



you have a living example of such a possibility in Agnes Barron who will one day be better off than any of your daughters & sons (Leonards) and whose Father is being kept now by Leonard money. your will is not even as favorable to our children (if we ever have any) as Grandfather's will makes no provision (from your letter) for a distribution amongst grandchildren if daughters die without issue while his did.

Our idea is that Mother should have the entire use of your private estate while she lives and <sup>should</sup> provide for <sup>if unmarried</sup> Alice out of the same. Estelle & Elsie should have a certain annuity from your private estate after dear Mother's death and Alice (if unmarried) a larger one [otherwise the same as the other two] but the principle should come back to Wood & our children if any otherwise to the girls children. We have no objections to paying dear Mother the annuity you mention as the taxes. That part is quite all right.

The principle of letting Leonard money pass out of the Leonard family as long as there are Leonards is what we  
strongly object to.



I think dear Mother feels as Wood and I do and he suggests that you show her this letter. I don't know just how the girls feel, but I think they will concur in the justice of what I say.

It is possibly presumptuous of me to write like this and dictate to you as to what you should do with your own but at the same time Wood & I feel we would like you to know how we truthfully feel about it. If during the last 10 years we had been able to save a little out of the salaries (!!!) we received from the firm we might not feel so strongly but we have no assets of our own as you know except what we have saved out of very small salaries and since we are over there,

I am also enclosing an appendix to my will in accordance with the agreement which I would ask you to deposit with Gibbons.

The witnesses to Wood's various signatures are :-

J. Patten (formerly one of Sir Adam Pech's groom and now Wood's servant)  
A. Edgeler his saddle sergeant  
 formerly of Amaster Out



a R Murray <sup>5</sup> one of his subalterns of  
Charlton (?) New Brunswick.  
J. Tremar a telephonist of 12th Battery

I will get my papers witnessed in  
the morning and tell you a little about  
them.

I trust and pray that we may all  
get together again some day at the  
dear old office and look back on  
the Great War, but at the same it  
is as well to be prepared and the week  
ahead of us is going to be a hard one  
for the Canadian Corps and I fear  
dear Wood is in grave danger at  
present.

Will close now my dear Father  
with much love. I feel you will  
take our remarks in the spirit in  
which they are intended and  
whatever you now decide will not  
be the subject of any further letters  
from us.



your devoted son

Howson Leonard

P.S. The witnesses to my will are Culbert  
McEwen and F.S. TOWNSEND of this  
unit formerly of Almyer but where  
he is well known.