

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

Febry.7th/1916.

My Dear Ibb,-

Your draft for 90¢ was received by us and deposited in the Bank of Montreal at your request, we got \$4.77 for it, which was the prevailing value which netted \$492.00, this brings your special account in the bank of Montreal to \$813.72, I had a duplicate pass book made up and will hold it here unless you want to look it over. First deposit was 28th December 1914 - \$150.00. Please advise me as to this?

Since writing you last I had a nice letter from McTaggart's father which was very pleased to get, I see this name is mentioned with the Regiment being recruited in this vicinity and suppose it is one of the family. In your letters you have not once mentioned Falkner's name, I am very anxious to know how he is panning out in his service, we have not seen any of his family since he left but hope he is doing his bit in good shape.

Alice called on Corp. Lewis' Mother, he died in France of rheumatism last week, she is very much cut up about it and Alice had a very painful visit; I believe she will write you on the subject.

I received a letter some time ago from Sarah and answered it and there is one on my desk this morning, also from her which I will answer later. I hope she is keeping her spirits up and is well, it is an awful trial to be away from home under the circumstances.

I am writing a long letter to both of you on business for the last week so that will be a short note.

JSL

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FEL/CC.

My Dear Ibb & Wood:-

Business letter for week ending February 5th/1916.

Monday January 31st.

A very quiet day at the office. Attended the Huron & Erie and find they have about \$900.00 on hand in liquid assets which is a splendid position to be in.

(Jan 31) We close with liabilities all told in the Bank of B.N.A. of \$96,000. From this you will understand we have got our money in from shells and also from our regular business in a very satisfactory manner.

Tuesday Feby. 1st.

We had the misfortune to-day to crack the cylinder of our hydraulic press in nosing 5" shells, however, we have enough nosed for the first carload of this size. We had taken the precaution to make the pattern for the cylinder and consequently lost no time. We immediately had it cast on Wednesday with 15% steel scrap and got a good casting, we put it in the boring mill and it has not stopped since and hope to get it into place on the 8th. Taking it altogether I think this is pretty sharp work and hope it will prove successful as we have been obliged to stop about 8 machines for want of the nosing process.

Attended the Industrial School and the Board passed the request for \$165,000 towards the new school on Dundas Street between Maitland & William.

Evans reports sale today of a 14 x 15 Tangye and a Leonard Engine. Thomas Young who has attended the furnace for the last two winters has joined the 135th Regiment so we had to get another man.

Wednesday Feby. 2nd.

Received package of printed matters from Woodman, also nice letter which I will answer.

Have closed, with Drummond, McCall & Company for ²⁰45 tons. sheet steel to be specified for in the next three months, at quite an advance in price, but we feel that we should have some secured for the summer business.

Also closed for 5000 Boiler tubes at pretty high prices from Thomas Robertson & Co, but all kinds of material are advancing so rapidly we felt justified in doing this and am sure we will not regret it.

We got our contract for 40,000, 4.5 shells from the Imperial Munition Board, Ottawa and duly signed same; they are to be delivered when we start making at the rate of 2000 per week which we can easily do.

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There is a clause however in this contract whereby they can for any reason cancel it, of course paying us for what work we have already done on the contract up to the day of notice.

Subscribed \$50.00 per month from the firm for the next 12 months for the Red Cross Funds in this City, which the Board of Trade and other citizens have collected. They succeeded in a very few days in getting the promise of \$8000.00 per month for this very worthy object. I do not think the amount that we subscribed is in excess of what we ought to do as the work is developing and is of great Patriotic importance.

February 3rd.
Thursday.

Mr. Morgan went to Toronto to-day to look up one 24" Gisholt, one 30" x 14' Modern Engine Lathe and one 24" Modern Engine Lathe, secondhand if possible, he did not see anything there that he thought well of and found prices for secondhand as much as they are asking for new, but would have the advantage of an almost immediate delivery, he did not close, and we are going to make a try for three tools either in New York or Chicago, he leaves Monday morning for that purpose, as we consider these three tools will round up our other tools and give us an even output.

Made a tender to the Concrete People for 6 - 6 H.P. Upright Boilers under Ontario Inspection with all the new requirements and put our price in of \$160.00 including Inspection Fee, they say they can do very much better. It appears that White is making their uprights, and we all think he is welcome to them for any less money, so there is not much prospect of our getting any of their boiler work to do this year. They have not even asked us about engines nor could we undertake any of that class of work for them.

February 4th.
Friday

Paid \$1780.00 to 120 men including \$299.00 bonus. About six tools are idle on account of break in Hydraulic press.

Mr. McKenzie, and Mr. Skey of the Bank of B.N.A. called called and talked about almost everything but finances, our present position in the bank was not mentioned so I did not bring it up, evidently they are perfectly satisfied and I am sure we are, with the prospects before us.

February 5th.
Saturday.

We shipped our last car of 4.5 shells to-day and the 20,000 pan out like this.

Total accepted and shipped	19795
Sent to Quebec for test firing ...	107
To be yet replaced by Canada Forge Co.	53
Spoilt in machining by E.L. & S. Ltd.	35
Missing and unaccounted for	12
Total	20,000.

You will see we have only lost 47 shells, equal to one quarter of one per cent ($\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%).

Mr. Tidy our Inspector here says that no one in Ontario has ever got through a batch with so little loss, in fact there are some who have lost over 5%. He also tells me that our shells are as far as he can see and find out the best made and we have a great reputation with the Inspectors Office Toronto and also the Imperial Munition Board, Ottawa, this is very gratifying and Mr. Morgan and I are agreed

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that it is mainly due to the care that has been exercised in laying out the work first and in the personal attention given to each detail afterwards. I myself think it is largely due to the two Gisholt and the Jones & Lamson tools that we have, as they do most accurate work and unless there is a sandhole or some defect we get most accurate work. We will now proceed to get the actual cost per shell and will have it for you in a couple of weeks. We had a call from Mr. Johnson of the Vickers Company, Montreal who sent us a carload of what we consider inferior 60 lb. shell forgings and have made satisfactory arrangements with him to machine 125 as a bases for the balance of the car. We are also having trouble with the Kingston Locomotive Works for the poor lot of blanks they are sending us. We are machining about 3000 of the 5000 that they have sent us and hope to make some kind of an equitable arrangement with them.

We are not a little alarmed at fires at Parliament Buildings and other places and have about come to the conclusion that we should have a special watchman outside the premises, especially along the track for night services. It will be costly but then it will be all that we could do because if any one is determined, they would burn us up anyway. We have considerable additional insurance. All these add to our expenses but will have to pay, pay, pay.