

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

Feb. 28th/1916.

FEL/CC.

My Dear Ibb & Wood,-

MEMO OF EVENTS ENDING FEBRUARY 26th/1916.

Monday 21st
February.

Very quiet day in the office. Two carloads of shell blanks arrived. Offered to take \$1400. for our claim on the Alta Electric Company, Bassano, this is \$150. less than our claim with about five years interest. Attended City Council with Industrial School Board and got consent to issue \$165,000. Debentures for the new school, the Council was practically unanimous, which was very satisfactory. The Council also passed two mills on the dollar assessment for the coming year for the Patriotic Fund, this is also very satisfactory.

Tuesday 22nd
February.

One order for 5 x 4 Upright Engine which we fortunately have on hand. Very busy unloading three carloads of coal, running 22 hours a day is consuming fuel very fast, especially in the winter, see my report in last letter.

60# shells are now being turned out very speedily in the machine shop and we are counting on shipping our two cars on the 29th which we will no doubt do. We are nosing over 250 of this size shell without any trouble and could easily do 400 on a pinch. *overtime*

Received letter to-day from Sarah, Ibbotson & Woodman. I find the Red Cross duties in the last month has considerably run down Alice, will have to arrange a short change for her.

Wednesday 23rd.
February.

Deposited cheque for \$4500. for the last car of 4.5 shells this is very prompt payment and they have not deducted anything for our shortages which are very small, but no doubt they will come later. Had an offer from Calgary Hospital of \$400. less than our claim, this is perfectly ridiculous and shows what a mean close fisted lot they are in that Province, I declare I feel like pulling out and closing up the Agency. We had a note come due of the Foothills Lumber Company which came back without a word of explanation, we will have to sue them. Cariss went to Toronto about boiler lists and higher prices and returned very much discusted, only the two Waterous's and he present. McKay of Geldie McCulloch was for a few minutes, but they could not get him back. Inglis promised to send Rennie but he never turned up, we will not go down again unless we have a positive promise from both. Waterous is in favor of reducing the list on steam boilers to 25% off our list, which we should certainly get.

Thomas Robertson & Co. retail price for plates to-day is \$3.40 and all other commodities on the same level. As near as we could find out all the other boiler manufacturers have little or no stock except Inglis who has a very good stock of plates. As I said before we are only building boilers from plates we have on hand, as we cannot get delivery from mills for the next six months.

Thursday 24th
February.

We have word that our car of machinery purchased in New York has been shipped which we are glad of. We had a serious break on the large Jones & Lanson lathe, the boring out of the 5" shell is really more than it should be called upon to do, we will put it to lighter work as soon as the new Machinery arrives.

Harry Marshall who went to Montreal three years ago has given notice of his resignation on account of not paying him more money per month. We will try and pacify him but really there is little or nothing to do in Montreal except a little jobbing and fixing up.

Friday 25th.
February.

We paid \$2402.00 to 134 men including \$658.00 bonus. You will see by this that we are running stronger especially with the night gang, but we will have to have rough blanks much faster if we are going to keep up our pace and hope we will not be delayed on this score.

L. Lamond is still away sick with La Grippe.

Mosed 275 - 5" shells to-day. Made out a couple of quotations but very little prospect of ordinary business.

Had lunch with the Hon. Robert Rogers at the Tecumseh House and accompanied him, City Council and Board of Trade to Port Stanley to look at the old dock, it is certainly in a dilapidated state and must be fixed immediately or the harbor will fill up with sand from the Western Storms.

Saturday 26th.
February.

Got our first lot of proof 5" shells out for 2400 which are ready to ship. As they have not got a 5" gun on this side these proofs have to go to the Woolwich, England to be proved by firing before they are accepted. This seems uncalled for precaution, however, they know the business better than we do.

Enclosed is a couple of rough photographs, one of which is the old No. 1 lathe with the copper band turning chuck with counter in view, the horizontal slide takes off the larger part of the brass, while the vertical slide at the back handled by a lever sizes it up, we have been told that our plan is one of the best for this class of work.

Also enclosed is some interesting matters being the last report of Colonel Carnegie who speaks very highly of the quality of the shells made by Canadian Manufacturers, please return me this after reading.

The New Imperial Munition Board think they have got things about right now but our opinion is that they have got a good deal to learn about the whole business yet. We have not got the details yet of what Schofields duties are.

Enclos-Two.