

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

March 2nd/1916.

Your combined letter of the 12th February the main subject I will treat in a letter after I have thought the matter over.

RE MACHINE SHOP WORK. I have got a list of important firms in the United States and will think out some plan to get something to do to replace the Engine Making. While on the subject we understand that Inglis Toronto Shops are quite busy on a lot of machine work. Waterous also busy on Pulp machinery and are each running the Shell business separately with special machines. We are about the only ones of the large firms who are using the Engine Tools for Shell work. We do not know what Goldie is doing other than he got an order for High Speed 400 H.P. Engine last week. So far I believe we have taken the right course in intending to scrap all our old engine lathes when shells are finished. They of course will have to scrap their special machines as well.

RE BOILER SHOP. I take it you have misunderstood what I mean to convey. About all the business we are doing is in Foundry and Boiler Shop and with the few hands we have are kept fairly busy in February principally on the small class 42" diameter and under. We hoped to do more in Dairies but it is too late now to ^{expect} ~~much~~ much, I think we will be able to keep the shop going nicely this spring. I agree with you this branch must be fostered and expanded as it may lead to us prosecuting it altogether. There is less detail in it and we can govern and get at the cost to a certainty. While I am not satisfied with Cariss as a Manager and the Cooks foreman, I do not think we could do better than we are at present, Cariss will keep them to Inspection rules and regulations besides Holmes and I are (when we can) getting better prices 35 & 30 off when we can. White is making the Concrete Company Upright Boilers at least \$25.00 less each than we can afford adding usual burden. So that trade is done to us. We are now only making boilers when we get orders and have plates and heads on hand. No prospects of getting plates from mills for six months. If we have to buy from Thomas Robertson & Company it will be a plate at a time for their price now is \$3.40 for boiler plates *En Store*.

RE NEW TOOLS. Our secondhand tools (2 Gisholt's and three engine lathes) are being unloaded to-day and they do not look badly. We will get out of them all they are good for. We paid last month for them including freight and duty and war tax about \$9000.00 so we will just about hold our own for February.