

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

To Egan

March 6th/1916.

E. J. L. & E. C. L.

We understand that Wm. Yeates has rented the old pottery at London Jct. and has started to make 40 - 26" general purpose lathes 14' long for Williams & Wilson, Montreal. He has got about ten of our best men and is paying \$3.50 per day to them. We are glad they are away, because they did not appear willing to take week about at night work and have got in a less experienced class of men but awfully willing, they are earning on an average from \$17.00 to \$35.00 per week which is good pay, but they have to work pretty hard for it.

W. H. Heard of the Spray Motor Company, King Street West has got a contract it is said for 50,000, 6" shells, he is doing part of the work at his premises, King Street and has leased the Gas Power Engine Companies shop in the east end on the interswitch, and intends to turn out 100 per day, he is buying a lot of special machinery, why they would let a man with so little real experience in the machine shop take such a large contract, I am unable to understand. I do not know what he is getting for them, my opinion is there is going to be a lot of failures in such companies if they insist upon the quality they we are obliged to produce in our shells.

I regret to say that everything in our line has been increased in price. We got notice to-day from the rolling mills that bar iron in future would be \$2.55 and steel \$2.75 per 100 lbs. Brass and copper goods and everything has bounded high sky in price. Livermore is back, who lost his thumb six weeks ago in the boiler shop, it hurts him some but still he is a plucky fellow and I hope it will not be a very serious drawback to him, he does not whine and make a great deal out of it like a good many would.

We have got it pretty straight from Thomas Robertson & Drummond McCall that the United States Steel Corporation have started a little boycott on us, they will make no promises of delivery to either of these firms for us at \$1.30 per 100, base Pittsburg, of course as long as business is as low as it is we are perfectly satisfied, but should they take it upon their mighty selves to fill the contract next fall, 150 tons might be an elephant on our hands.

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BUSINESS FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 4th/1916.

Monday 28th.
 February.

Maitland put cement floor where the new tools will be placed, yesterday Sunday. The car of new tools arrived from New York and we paid the balance of the draft for same, so much in all \$ 6400

Duty -- \$ 2240
 Freight - \$ 90

8430
 400

 9130
 Billie

Our investment is pretty heavy, which with the belting and appliances necessary will make a tidy little sum, however, I think it is a wise move, as it will bring all the tools on the same cut foot level and Mr. Morgan thinks with the whole establishment working, we will turn out 350, 5" shells per day of 22 hours, this is a conservative estimate and we may probably reach 400, however this has to be proved. We sold to-day the old Lincoln Milling Machine directly behind the large boring mill for \$200.00, we consider this a good sale. Mr. Lamond is back after 10 days down with LaGrippe.

Tuesday 29th
 February.

Wrote a lot of letters and sent post cards of the Laurie Lathe to the leading firms in the United States, we are going to make a special effort to sell this tool now as almost everything in the way of tools are working. We are turning out now 250, 5" shells per day.

Our liabilities to the bank all told are \$ 92,250
 Our sales are \$
 And our labour for the month \$7771.00

Shelly 14065
 Elm 15156

 29131

I hope to have a closer estimate of the months business in a week.

Wednesday 1st
 March

Quite cold, but bright and good sleighing. Tendered to the Edmonton Lumber Company two boilers same as Ibbotson sold to them some years ago. The price will be only a little more, we figured on 35 off, f.o.b. cars here, which is a low one considering what we pay for material now.

Thursday 2nd
 March.

Unloading tools from New York car, we find one is broken on the apron. Had John O'Connor photograph same and will collect probably \$40.00 for same.

March 6th/1916.

The Imperial Munition Board say they will guarantee us 1500 shells per week we doubt this very much as we have heard the mills are not keeping up to their promised output, this will be too bad, however this slack time will enable us to ~~make~~ get our new tools nicely going by the end of next week.

Friday 3rd
March.

Paid \$2359.00 to 144 men, including a bonus of \$680.00, this pay is nearly a record one, we hope however to hold this every Friday and want a corresponding output for the next two months.

Gave Watrous Company, Brantford prices on three Stationary Boilers we have in the yard for some enquiries they have. From what Logan told Carice they are very low in plates and very discouraged over the situation. Got all the tools in place and one counter shaft up, they appear to be a very good purchase.

Saturday 4th
March.

J. Harris called to tender about our copper salvage from the bands, but we were obliged to put him off as we have just got a letter from the New Board asking us to send it all to their stores at Toronto. There appears nothing in the contract with the old Shell Committee that we should do this, and we will try not to but it is very doubtful if we can succeed, we value the copper from the first 20,000, 4.5 shells as being worth over \$1000.00. Wrote and wrote the Munition Board about shortage, resulting in seven machines being idle on Monday. Had a long talk with Morgan who is fitting up a couple of rough head stocks to assist in turning down some of the shells. I think it is a good move, we can put these into the scrap after we get through with the shell business.