

From the holdings of  
**Western Archives, Western University**

March 13th/1916.

FEL/C.

My Dear Sons,-

Enclosed please find the following -

- First. Piece work price for work on shells.
- Second. Auxillary Labor necessary to make shells.
- Third. List of mens earning per week, day hands 10½ hrs. night hands 11½ hrs.

RE PIECE WORK. As far as we can compare we are 20% lower in our rates than Steel Company of Canada and Dominion Wire and Montreal Rolling Mills; 40% lower than Kingston Loco Works; 50% lower than Canada Car & Steel Foundry, 15% lower than McAvity, St. John, N.B. This information was got in December 1916 and there will no doubt be a reduction now. We have of course to take off piece and put them on day work if machine breaks or runs out of work. We can seldom get shells to come through evenly without bunching. The totals for piece work look very favorably, but with extra cost for everything we think you must add 2½ to 3 times to cover all expenses. The shipping and handling is done by the day but grouped in this case at so much per shell which A.H.M. assured me is quite enough. We do not think there will be any reduction in piece work prices as they have to work pretty hard and long. As a rule they are unskilled men.

RE AUXILIARY LABOR. This list I think is also a very liberal one but on the other hand some other employees not mentioned do work occasionally. We are paying one third more than a year ago as they all can get even more pay. Mechanics' on iron work are very scarce (Building Trades are dull) and wanted badly if advertisements are to be depended upon. We are doing well to hold what we have.

RE LIST MENS EARNINGS. We now have 146 men on the roll and paying out \$2400. per week including about \$550. bonus. This will be our run for the next six weeks and perhaps more as we hope to get up to 350 per day of 5" at the end of our contract. Have only shipped 2400 so far of this size. There is a hum about the place that sounds goods. You will see that all the men are making good pay, especially the piece work men but they have to work hard.

RE STEAM BOILERS. They have been giving us good service all the winter contrary to my expectations. With five new tools they will have to do more but the weather is already milder. Sleighing is still with us.

J.H.B.

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MEI/C.

GENERAL BUSINESS WEEK ENDING MARCH 11th/1916.

Monday 6th.  
March.

20 Men working yesterday adjusting new tools and putting up counter shaft (yesterday was Sunday). Unloading the carload of blanks shells from the Pipe Company of Toronto, they appear to be good in every respect. Mr. Morgan discovered some of our shells were rusty before being varnished and the Inspector has refused them, this no doubt has been due to a change of weather we will have to be more careful in future, it involves however considerable trouble in sand blasting the varnish entirely out and revarnishing them again, we rather think that McIlvenny is responsible for this.

Tuesday 7th.  
March.

Mr. Holmes went to Toronto to-day attending a meeting of the Manufacturers' of Shells throughout the Dominion about 125 were present, under the Chairmanship of Robert Hobson, ~~Toronto~~ <sup>Hamilton</sup>. It was very business like and eight or nine Committee's formed in groups under the different diameters with a view of reducing the cost and assisting each other in production, also valuing all new and old machinery. Mr. Charles ~~Waterous~~ <sup>Waterous</sup> was put in charge of Committee making 4.5 and 5" shells which we have joined. It has been proposed that several experts be employed to visit the different shops and communicate with each other in this way.. We had a letter from Mr. Waterous on Friday asking to send him a list of our prices by the piece, this we refused to as we knew we are doing them less than anybody else in Ontario, as it would be to the others advantage and end something like the cost of boilers did two years ago in settling on a fixed price agreeable to all. I told Mr. Waterous that this depended entirely on the skill and machinery employed in the various shops. There is a meeting tomorrow but we will not attend as we do not think it is necessary just at present.

Mr. Morgan has further trouble about having too many small series shipped in the different carloads, this is the result of trying to work off the defective shells that the Vickers and Kingston Locomotive's have sent us which is a great annoyance and a drawback to us. The Vickers Company are agreeable to us charging them double the actual labour on the respective shells, but the Kingston people are not.

Mar. 13/16.

Tuesday 7th.  
Mar. Conld.

However, there is to be a Mr. Casey from that Company here this week and we hope to have this miserable position closed up as it has held us up for about three weeks. They will not pull us over again in the same manner, we will absolutely refuse to touch any but first class rough forgings after this.

Wednesday 8th.  
March.

Had a long discussion with Mr. Holmes regarding <sup>Calgary</sup> ~~Alberta~~ Hospital, Bassano Electric Light Company, and a boiler we are afraid we will have to take back from Palmerston. Received a letter from both to-day. (Ibbotson & Woodson).

Thursday 9th.  
March.

A very quiet day. The putting up of the new tools progressing fairly well.

Friday 10th.  
March.

6" of snow and good sleighing. Paid \$2344.00 to 146 men including \$596. bonus. Letter from Munition Board about copper salvage, which we have on hand from the 4.5 shells. They are claiming every pound of it and we have tried to claim that it is a usual practice for us in the trade to keep this but we will have to back down and make some compromise which Mr. Holmes will try and bring about by getting a fixed allowance for each shell which will return us more than enough for the labour of handling and shipping, which we had better do I think under the circumstances. Heating Boiler at Oakwood gave way this morning at 7 A.M. and flooded the cellar, and on examination found the shell rusted through near the back head in the bottom, got Gibson at it who put in a plug and some asbestos and stopped it and we had heat on before going to bed, this boiler has given me trouble more or less for the last two years, I think owing to the expansion of tubes as they are in two different lengths and in three heads. I will have to put in a duplicate this summer or go back to the grand old friend of mankind a regular stationary boiler which I think is the cheapest and best way. Saitland thinks he can get one in a little longer than the present one which will give us a little more heating surface and I hope more satisfaction.

*Ward*

Saturday 11th.  
March.

Quite a busy day in the office. Had a call from Mr. Wise about the Palmerston boiler. He has a sawmill and they are running on Munition boxes so he could not very well shut down long enough for us to take the 72" x 16' out. Our claim was \$550. and we compromised by his giving us a cheque for \$480.00, the difference would be practically the cost to us of taking out the boiler and paying the freight to London so I think we are well out of it. So far this month we have got less orders for general business than for January & February. The enquiries for engines and boilers are at a very low ebb. We have barely enough work to keep foundry going but have a couple of weeks work ahead in the boiler shop on stock boilers.