

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

April 3rd/1916.

FEL/C.

--- GENERAL BUSINESS MARCH 27th TO APRIL 1st INCLUSIVE. ---

March 27th.
Monday.

Received cheque for \$8400. from the Imperial Munition Board on account of 5" shells, dictated and wrote both Sons about album, etc. Had a long conference with Mr. Holmes & Morgan, the latter suggesting that we insist upon filling our contract for 40,000, 4.5 shells @ \$4.00 and at the same time carry on the proposed order of 40,000, 5" shells which we expect to receive. This is rather different from what we first supposed, but is feasible in my opinion, because the \$4.00 per shell is \$1. more than they are placing their orders at the present day, and we think even if we have to buy more machinery we will make a very fair profit on that order. The Munition Board are out to get the shells made as cheaply as possible for their own credit. We would be able to turn out about 250 to 300 of these shells by setting up about 17 large and small tools and appliances for the purpose. We have about one third of these that we can turn in, the balance would have to be made or purchased which would include two more Gisholts, two finishing engine lathes, two home made roughing tools and some others, an expenditure of \$12,000.00. We phoned Mr. McAvity at Ottawa and in subsequent letters he does not think unfavorable of the proposition, but wants a little delay as they are not very full of orders from the old country for this size shell.

Shipping carload of orders and stock to St. John, N.B.

Tuesday 28th.
March.

Had a conference with R.S. Holmes and he thinks that if we use the Blacksmiths' shop and Sheet Iron shop for making 4.5 shells and putting them in the East Bay of the boiler shop, we would manage without putting up additional buildings, this plan is feasible in my opinion, but I doubt if Mr. Morgan will agree to it. My own opinion is that we had best put up a \$3000.00 addition to the West end of the boiler shop, one storey high but have not discussed that phase of the matter. We heard of a chance to sell the two boilers and two engines of the Windsor Electric Light Company to a firm in Nova Scotia and have been very busy telegraphing and estimating in order to get the thing in shape.

Wednesday 29th
March.

Looked over a lot of offers for Gisholt lathes and engine lathes received from the United States and think that we can readily get all the tools we require for the 4.5 contract. Mr. Lamond went to Stratford to sell a 54" x 14 Heating Boiler. The parties will let us know in a day or two.

April 3/1916.

Thursday, 30th.
March.

Made out a list of secondhand tools we had on hand. Mr. Evans has sold the No. 48 Suspension Drill and a No. 8 old Turret Lathe to a party in St. John, N.B. Enclosed is a list of the tools we are offering and the price, which may be of interest to you.

Went with Mother and Alice to Mr. Shaws funeral at Belmore which took all the afternoon. We found the roads very bad, but got through nicely. His wife was present with many friends and we were very glad we went. Received letters from both of you to-day.

Friday 31st
March.

Paid \$2638.00 to 151 men including \$661. for piece work. Squirrels are both out on the lawn at Oakwood and the snow all gone. Sent the shell album by parcel post to-day, the same address as the letters, if you do not get it in a reasonable time you better apply to the War Office, London. Got a letter from the Munition Board, not altogether satisfactory about 4.5 contract, and wrote them to some length pointing out several points in our favor. Three orders received to-day, and we beg to enclose list of orders received this week.

Petawawa Camp have sent us three of our make of engines to be overhauled which we will do our best with, giving the preference to the shells, some went through a fire recently, they are in bad shape, but will do our best to get them ready for the coming camp.

Saturday 1st.
APRIL.

Mr. Morgan started the home made roughing lathe on 5" shells, it is going to be quite satisfactory he says, it has cost more than I supposed it would and it looks like a young elephant, but if it does the work, we do not mind.

Did not feel well this afternoon and laid off the balance of the day