

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

April 10th/1916.

GENERAL BUSINESS LETTER FROM APRIL 3rd to APRIL 8th INCLUSIVE.

Monday 3rd
April

We had a long conversation with C.C. Cariss this morning on the subject of his resignation. I asked him not to leave us three months ago and would not ask him again. His answer was he had nothing against the firm they had always treated him right, but he had other arrangements, these arrangements he did not seem willing to enlighten me on, so I could not go further, I am unable to say what his future course will be. We however, will put the Boiler Shop under the immediate charge of Wm. Cook for the present with the assistance of Mr. Morgan and myself, think we can take charge of all the orders that our limited stock of boiler tubes will take care of.

Received \$5900. from the Imperial Munition Board for a carload of shells. Deposited dividend cheques in the various banks today. Mr. Holmes and myself are making a trial machinery valuation in view of the Government Tax that is going to be levied this year. I do not wish to disturb the value of ~~buildings~~ ^{buildings} and land but may be obliged to do so later on. Mr. Holmes is working at the list of tools, new and old and the repairs and appliances we applied to some of them for making shells.

Tuesday 4th.
April.

50 all
Saw Alice off on the 5. ~~5~~ train for Montreal where she arrived safely at 7.30. Took a run through the shop at 6 o'clock and found things running fairly well. Got quite a few orders; see list for engines and boilers enclosed. Shipped doubtful shells to Kingston. Got an order from De Laval for a 5½ x 6 engine, but were obliged to supply a 6½ x 6 as it is impossible to get out the former under the present circumstances and did not wish to disappoint this company as they are most excellent customers. We have decided to put James Short under the little crane in the sheet iron shop and try and get some more vice hands to look after engine repairs and see if we cannot work up some stock.

The home made roughing tool lathe that Mr. Morgan made up turned out 30 shells in 10 hours which we consider very good.

Wednesday 5th
April.

Letter from the Imperial Munition Board wanting cancellation of our 4.5 contract for 40,000 which we are considering. We are greatly bothered now with sand holes in the 5" forgings we are machining which is very discouraging. We lost one months time in output by them when we first started, to have a repetition is very annoying.

April 10th/16.

Wed. 5th April
Con'd.

Mother and I attended the Industrial School Exhibition in the evening which we found very interesting. The school is making rapid progress in usefulness and in numbers of pupils attending.

Thursday 6th
April.

Shipped car of 5" shells (714 60\$).
Wire from Pittsburg about Laurie Lathes asking if we would take \$2500. for it. After considering the matter we accepted subject to acceptance which will take place sometime next week, we sincerely hope we can get rid of it for we want the room.
Letter from G.H. Evans who has quoted the engines and boilers at the Windsor Municipal Plant to the Yarmouth Electric Light Company, we sent James Lamond down and have put in an option on the scrap basis, which we think will go through, if it does we will do our best to sell it to the above company and if we do not we all think it would be good stock to bring to London and resell. The boilers we think we can get rid of easily this summer at fair prices, the engines will be very doubtful, we will try and make \$1000. on the deal if possible.

Friday 7th.
April.

Paid \$2617. to 151 men including \$673.00 piece work. This is the largest pay roll we have had. Wrote the Imperial Munition Board that we could not see our way to cancel our contract of 4.5 shells and making a vigorous protest against the present 5" blanks that we are getting, even with our additional six tools that are now in operation, we are only getting about one third of our output for this reason. Very busy all day in the office.

Saturday 8th.
April.

Received \$11,000. from the Imperial Munition Board for two cartloads shipped in March. Quite cold and some snow.
Mr. Morgan is now having trouble with his men working on shells. They are being coaxed away for higher wages and leaving machines idle whenever they like. There is an independence that always makes itself known when workmen get scarce. I am afraid we are going to have a great deal of trouble on this score all summer and it will be very hard for us to keep up the output we promised.
Woodmans picture appeared in the Globe and Free Press to-day announcing his being honored by the King.
The Bank of British North America refuse to allow us any interest on \$22,000. that was to our credit at the end of March. We however, are going to make a claim for the use of same on an average basis and see what the result will be, they seem very stiff indeed.

7806