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Western Archives, Western University

April 17th/1916.

FEL/C.

General letter April 9th to April 15th inclusive.

Sunday 9th.
April.

Major Ball late of the 7th C.M.R. called upon us. He has been stationed with the regiment at Hamilton but rather expects to be moved to London as soon as the camps open. Major Bishop and his bride, Cameron Wilson and his bride had supper with us.

Monday 10th.
April.

Had a conference with the Directors and concluded to advance prices all along the line as per enclosed list. We will put Mr. Lamond in Mr. Cariss' place for the present. Got a letter from Evans to get ready a Portable Boiler (30 H.P. Loco on wheels) belonging to Mr. Wallace of Mount Brydges which we had in stock for sale. They sell very slowly around here. Greatly troubled with men leaving as there is a great scarcity of help in all lines of business, some are making the excuse that the shells are so hard that they cannot make big pay out of it. Started revising Blue Print price lists and getting out lists for stock on hand.

Tuesday 11th.
April.

Richardson of St. Marys wants us to defend a suit for them entered in connection with an upright boiler in which the owner allowed the handhole to leak for a year which eat away the plate, and try to make them responsible. Gibbons says we will have to fight it. We are much concerned to-day receiving a letter from the Munition Board who will not extend the time for completion of our 60 Pr. shells. We will be about six thousand short of our twenty thousand entailing a loss by the lower price of over Ten Thousand Dollars.

Applied to Warren Bros. to repair the (5) Petawawa engines which went through a fire, as it is impossible for us to take our vice hands off necessary work to keep the lathes going on shells.

Wednesday 12th.
April.

Counter shaft on one of the 24" lathes fell down and just escaped the man who was running it by a couple of inches, this lathe was finishing the outside and was being worked up to its full capacity. This is the second counter shaft that has gone down since we started shells, so you will understand how we are driving things. We have now three cars of rough shells on the siding. Shipped one car to St. John (6th) car this year. Blair Russel quoted us \$4.10 for flange up to 84", shipment three to six weeks from a new Company at Coatesville who formerly worked for Worth Bros. This is an awful price, but Robertson charges us \$3.50 to which we add the freight and have to buy plates that are sure to have some waste.

April 17th/16.

So there is not much difference provided we could get six weeks. We are going to look into this matter and may open up for less than carload lots with this new company. Under no consideration will we stock up at these prices, and only order when we have orders to cover same.

Imperial Munition Board now write us to hurry on with the balance of the 5" shells and ask when we will want the blanks for the 4.5. This is as we wish it and glad to get onto the lighter shell which our machinery will be able to handle and give a great deal better output. The tone of this letter was very much nicer than the former and we hope they will still allow us to finish our six thousand 5" next month without a reduction in the price.

Thursday 13th.
April.

C.H. Plant writes us from Montreal that he has several orders pending at the old discount 40 off, but we have advised him to withdraw same as we cannot afford to buy and make up at that figure under the present conditions. Thos. Robertson & Co. are quoting us 37¢ from stock in Montreal for 4" boiler tubes, this is nearly double former prices.

Tenders

Greatly bothered with belts slipping and breaking last night and did not get our usual output. I have an idea it was the change of weather that brought it about, but if we do not have drawbacks in one shape we seem to have it in another.

Friday 14th.
April.

Paid \$2658.00 to 156 men including \$783. for piece work. Made transfer of one share in Capital stock from Cariss to Leonard who will take the former's place on the Board in case of my inability to be present so that the business can go forward legally. Went over a lot of business affairs with Cariss who seems to be in good spirits and understand from other parties he is going to work for a New Motor Company in Mount Brydges.

Paid Col. McSwan \$48.00 for care of Dolly and the colt for the last three months.

Saturday 15th.
April.

Cariss turned over all his books, papers and names and I paid him off and took it upon myself to offer to employ him again in some capacity should he not like the present one in 90 days. He has worked for us for 14 years and been very faithful and conscientious and I am sorry to have him go. In some respects he is a very hard man to understand but very correct in his calculations. Mr. Morgan returned last night from a meeting of the Munition Board of the Canadian Manufacturers and was not impressed by the usefulness of this organization. It appears they sent Lloyd Harris and Scully to Ottawa all of which I have went into in another letter I have written to you.

Received packages, diary and letters from Woodman to-day, also couple of letters from Ibb. Aunt Lizzie went to Toronto to-day to be with Edna as Gerald has to go under an operation for appendicitis, last word we had he was going well.

Psi got struck with a street car on Adelaide Street to-day and is quite miserable and cross, poor fellow he has had a couple of fights with Archie Becher's dog and does not appear to be himself at all. I wish the dog was with you Ibb he would have a more lively time as I cannot have him at the office.