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FEL/C.

My Dear Ibb & Wood,-

-- RE WESTERN EXTENSION TO MACHINE SHOP --

We have got to have more room in the machine even to furnish our last order for 60,000 - 60 Pr. (5") shells. Mr. Morgan and I are going to move the three drills into the mounting shop as two of them are used for tapping shells, and put the three lathes he will buy in their place. We also agree that the tool room should be removed and the three Gisholts put in that space. This would be the most desirable plan and very convenient for all purposes. Where to place the tool room is the problem. At first we thought of putting it up stairs immediately above its present locality but we found it too weak and shakey especially the latter which would not possibly do to get out accurate work. We will have to decide next week, in the meantime I am getting out a plan to put up a one story extension at West end from plans that Cariss and I drew over a year ago. The size to be 60 foot long and 56 foot wide, the same height as present and a duplicate of the present shop in posts, joists, walls but double the windows north and south than the present shop has. The walls would be strong enough for another story and the roof made so it could be lifted and used again. McBride is to give me an estimate on Monday and if it does not exceed \$3000.00 I have at least your (Ibbs) consent to go ahead. We can build this in three to four weeks and put the tool room in it.

We find in shell making and piece work it is absolutely necessary to have tools and appliances to spare and for that reason want more room including a first class tool lathe and perhaps the second shaper not now in use to keep that department to the fore. We can barely keep supplied with the very best men in the shop to help Sampson, Walkley, Harrison and sometimes another hand. In all the shell shops we visited it was claimed this tool making foundation of success with the rough and crude labor we have to employ, they are a run let. I enclose a rough sketch of the plan I have decided upon.

Mr. Morgan is inclined to put up a temporary structure with posts in the ground, inch boards, tar paper, etc, etc, which would cost a third but would be cold in winter and a regular eye sore to our Establishment. With a \$275,000. ahead of us, I think \$3000.00 building quite justified. I hope you will approve of this extension as time will not admit for a reply.

-- RE 8" H.E. SHELLS. Either this or the 9.2 contract would give us about eleven monthwork amounting to about \$450,000 with a reimbursement for machines and Buildings from the Imperial Munition Board in case of the order being at any time cancelled. This would involve purchase of at least \$50,000. in Tools, \$25,000. in appliances and \$50,000. in labor and expenses before we got any returns.

What I propose is to get Bank accommodation for at least \$150,000. and start in and make a department for it alone and a separate lot of books and office help. I would extend the

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proposed extension another 60 feet making 120 long, 56 feet wide one setry and clean out the balance of the York Street shed of patterns and machinery and elevate the roof three or four feet and put windows all round North and South side, Whitewash it inside put in a cement floor and do all the finishing in that part and all the machine work in the brickshop. I would run this shop by electricity, likely Hydro and motors, and heat it with a separate Boiler with a cluster of pipes in a casing and force the air from an electric fan through pipe from one end to another.

I was quite encouraged by seeing so much faith and money put into shell making in my late visit to Montreal. This 8" shell contract may be accepted at any time by War office in London so after consulting together you had better cable me what you think about it. Morgan and I are game for it if you are.