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Western Archives, Western University

November 6th/16.

FEL/C.

Sunday

October 29th.

Did not get up until noon as was very tired from a long walk which I took, on Saturday. Went for a Motor drive with Mother, Alice and Elaine to St. Thomas, Aylmer, Dorchester and home about 60 miles, time 3 1/2 hrs. Sky and sunset most beautiful. Wrote you both, also Sarah and Aunt May and got to bed very late. Maitland was putting down plates in the machine shop and Inspectors worked half day on shells.

MONDAY

October 30th.

We have had to lay off a lot of men and 20 machines idle as per enclosed slip.

The second engine arrived from Woodstock and Ingersoll Railway. It looks as good as new for practical purposes and is well worth what we are asking for them \$1,000.00. ^{2d} They are of the Peerless type and I think we have made an excellent purchase (\$800.00) for the four pieces but our expenses in getting them into London will be fully \$300.00 in addition. Even at that rate we stand not to lose anything even if we have to sell the bonds of the company at a discount.

Letters and wires from G.H. Evans regarding a couple of engines he is likely to sell.

Very tired at night. Received a short letter from Ibb when in London.

TUESDAY

October 31st.

Shipped carload of 984 shells. Did not feel well and remained home all afternoon. Dictated a letter to Col. Ogilvie, Ottawa, Chief Inspector on the lines of his non-committal one of recent date. Told him we should have two more inspectors.

WEDNESDAY

November 1st.

Wrote several pending letters of minor importance. Have just got word there are two carload of plates on the London & Port Stanley siding. Sent down Wm. Cook who reports that as far as he can see they compare to our thicknesses and sizes. Will be glad if it turns out so.

Got a letter from the Bank of Nova Scotia that there was \$1.90 in open account standing in the favor of Woodman and also Kerry for the last two years. Gave a receipt for the money and handed it over to Kerry's widow, he having been killed in action a few weeks ago. I suppose this is some of the Battery account in which they were both interested and hope you approve of what we have done.

Nov. 6/16.

Called on Mr. McLean of the Bank of Commerce who recently lost a son at the front. He has another also in the Engineers and is doing his bit. Mrs. McLean cannot be reconciled to the loss of her son, which is what a great many other wives and mothers are suffering.

THURSDAY

November 2nd.

Decided to bill our 5" shells @ \$4.50 each as the contract we have does not say to the contrary, so will take the chance, have a little doubt if this will go through. We certainly should have the extra 50¢ per shell because of our labor troubles and the greatly increased cost of expenses we have had to meet since the 1st May.

Received \$13,000.00 from the Imperial Munition Board which comes in very handy but we would have liked it on the 31st to make our balance more favorable.

Men are cutting down the broken limb of the Oak tree at Oakwood which was nearly 20" dia. and will nearly give us a cord of wood for the furnace

Lieut. Green, Local Inspector for Western Ontario called and says another inspector will be on on Monday. He was not so critical as usual. Mr. Morgan arranged with he and Mr. Everett to go over a lot of shells that Tidy had condemned, will report later.

Tarring the roof of the moulding shop and doing a little jobbing this nice weather.

Received two brass 18 Pr. cases from Major Massie in Toronto and wrote him my thanks for same. They arrived in good condition, would like to have the history of them.

Please say if I can send Sheffield one of the ash trays that you sent to me a month ago.

FRIDAY

November 3rd.

Paid \$3530.00 to 196 men including \$1317.00 piece work. A lot of short time was put in this week on account of non-arrival of shell blanks.

Mr. Morgan and Mr. Everett inspected spoiled and discarded shells last night and 250 were put aside for trifling changes and there is some chance of working ^{some of} the balance (250) which have bad threads, by boring out and inserting the brass end. We will save several hundred dollars by this liberal treatment from the new inspector, who Mr. Morgan finds most fair and says if he had his nine months ago, we would have been \$15,000.00 in pocket. This is a pretty big statement but Tidy has done some things we find out that have been very very uncalled for. He trusted no man, not even Morgan himself and made us take out plugs and cut off bands for most trivial faults.

Commenced loading a car of copper turnings.

Paid \$500.00 in full for the Trafalgar property. We are now free of a liability that has been hanging over us for nine years.

It now appears that these cars of plates were ours and we got authority from Watson Jack of Montreal to clear them to-day. We will lose no time as we can now make up a few boilers of sizes which I will write to you very soon. I will make up the exact cost per lb. and advise you. W.C.R.S.

Lacey who has been doing the work at Oakwood for the last two years has taken a position in the soldiers Hospital about being organized at Victoria.

Shipped carload of shells 1478.

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SATURDAY
November 4th.

Shipped carload to St. John, N.B., 54" x 14" R.T. Boiler, one 13 x 12
Clipper Engine and the balance of smoke stack, grate bars, etc. Also
shipped a 14 x 15 Leonard Tangye in a box car to go near Campbellton,
N.B. to the Sydney Lumber Company. Evans arranged these sales this
week and we are very glad to get these engines which have been on hand
practically two years, away.

Paid \$4500.00 for 100 tons plate. Got a good remittance from G.M.R.

Received word from the Munition Board that the Inspection Department
insist upon us returning to baking the shells in an oven after being
varnished, similar to what we did with the 4.5 a year ago. This is a
great disappointment to us as two weeks ago we took out our splendid
outfit to make room for the inspectors. This was rather contrary to
Mr. Holmes and my own opinion but Morgan said it was absolutely necessary
to keep up his output. The oven cost us \$700.00. We will have to
plan to restore it as Schofield says there is not much chance of doing
otherwise, as whatever instructions come from Woolwich have to be
followed. Will report later on this subject.

Schofield visited the works and went over what we were doing and we
take it from what he says that there is a considerable decline in the
demand for 60 Prs. but does not think that we will be disturbed from this
size. What we most fear is the fact that there are now in Canada four or
five inspectors specially sent out to revise the work of the present
inspection staff and he is afraid it will cause considerable change as
some of the work sent over by Canadians has not been up to the standard.
He further informs us that we are well out of making 4.5 shells as they
have made some expensive changes which the Manufacturers of this size
are protesting against, one of them having closed their establishment and
sold the machinery. This should make the Imperial Munition Board think
twice before decreasing the price to cover the present conditions of
labor and expenses.

Cars loaded Oct. 30th to Nov. 4th.

Oct. 31	1	Car finished shells	982
Nov. 3	1	" " "	1478
" 4	1	" St John & NB of Engs & Boilers	
" 4	1/2	" Eng to Campbellton & NB	

Cars unloaded Oct. 30th to Nov. 4th/16.

Oct. 30	1	Car engine from Woodstock
31	1	" coal
31	1	" engine from Woodstock
Nov. 1	1	" coal
	1	" engine & boiler St. John.