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December 27/16.

SUNDAY

December 17th.

Bright and cold. Attended church, sermon very interesting but for boys only. Cable received from sons now together and well, made our hearts very full.

Called on Aunt Lizzie in the afternoon who Dr. Moore says should go to Bermuda on the 30th with Essa, she looks quite ill, offered my services but find Mr. Baker has taken the matter in hand of securing berths, etc.

Colonel Brown, Capt. Colfield, Mr. John Hunt and wives besides Mr. F.P. Betts were in for afternoon tea.

MONDAY

December 18th.

Cold and bright, thermometer reached zero yesterday.

John O'Conner photographing new extension both inside and out which will send you in a very few days. Could not get a very satisfactory view inside in the 72 ft. allowed.

John Dodd passed five Eclipse Boilers ^{parts} and says 2" valves will be O.K. Snow enough for real good sleighing which is very welcome.

Wrote a strong letter to Lake Erie Coal Company about non delivery of coal who in turn answered that they could not get it from the mines for want of labor, the railways for want of cars and feared there would be a shortage in January unless we had a mild winter. It looks to us as if they were hedging for a higher price. We will have to take our chances as everybody is in the same position, not only for our purposes but for house hold use. The situation is not encouraging.

TUESDAY

December 19th.

Bright and very cold. Paid Ibbs Insurance \$96.90 and Woods Insurance \$199.50 from their respective accounts.

Received \$4400.00 from Imperial Munition Board.

Shipped car of 976 shells.

London Soap Company ordered 72" x 18 ft. Erie made boiler (purchased from the Thames Valley Railway) for \$800.00 with its fixtures. The local Inspector is going to allow 90 lbs. on it which is quite satisfactory to them. If we sell the other boiler and the two engines in the same manner it will result in a very good deal as \$800.00 was all we paid for the four pieces but we had to pay in addition \$400.00 for removing and freight which was nearly double what we expected.

Plant has sold a 66" x 16 in Montreal and Evans has sold a secondhand 13 x 12 Clipper engine and remitted us \$600.00.

Eclipse boilers in boiler shop are moving along very nicely.

THURSDAY

December 21.

Mild like rain. A scare on New York and Toronto stock markets has brought down the Franco-Prussian Loan to be available at 93 1/2 equal to fully 6 1/2% per annum.

Received letter from Wood December 1st when back in his new billets two miles from Ibb, we are all very much relieved.

FRIDAY

December 22nd.

Cold and more snow. Paid \$4327.00 to 198 men including \$1729.00 piece work. Shipped 1474 shells, received \$11400.00 from the I.M.B.

Wrote J.W. Flavelle, Chairman Imperial Munition Board about the coal situation and asked their assistance to allow us the preference on account of making shells. If we cannot keep our shops warm for want of heat the shells immediately commence to rust which would cost us \$200. or \$300. by the sudden change in temperature from warmth to dead cold.

Saw Aunt Lizzie and Esca off for Toronto on the way to Bermuda.

Got a war order for McCormicks secondhand engine 4061 - 20 x 28 for \$1200.00 to go to Roberval, Quebec about the middle of next month. This we consider a very good price but the engine is worth \$1500.00 if it is worth a dollar. We have had it about three years and would have sold it a year ago for \$950.00 so we consider we are lucky.

In the case of a shortage of coal we are considering putting in a 75 H.P. motor in boiler shop. This will cost us \$1500.00 with all the appliances but if we have a hold up at intervals amounting to two weeks time it will pay for itself and installation.

SATURDAY

December 23rd.

Quite cold and bright. Running only at intervals to keep the shells from rusting and taking advantage of putting a couple of rivets in one of the boilers and repairing some brickwork. All the men away and staff in office in the P.M. except above mentioned. Mr. Morgan and myself discussed our prospects for output of shells and difference between the cost of 4.5 & 5" in practice and not theory and concluded that it was worth at least \$1.00 difference between the two sizes.

I might mention that five of the makers of 5" shell a year ago have dropped out of the business or are making another size. Sawyer Massey, Hamilton, Coughlin, also Lyall, Montreal, Doty Engine Co. Goderich, McKinnon & Dash St. Catharines and Westinghouse of Hamilton, and the only ones running on that size are the Long Manfg. Co., Grillia, McGregor & McIntosh of Toronto and ourselves. From what we can learn the British Government withdrew a part of their order to the Munitions Board on account of failure of Canadians to deliver and placed the order elsewhere. We understand that there is no let up in the demand for this size so we think we are in better position than most other concerns even at \$4.00 per shell. We will however endeavor to show them the increased cost of threading for mark VII specification that we should have \$4.50 each.

Cars Loaded Dec. 18th to 23rd.

1 - Car finished shells 976
1 - " " " 1474

Cars unloaded Dec. 18th to 23rd.

1 Car coal
2 Cars rough shells
1 Car " "