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January 3/17.

SUNDAY
December 24th.

Clear and cold. All went to church. Was in the house all day resting and was especially struck with an article in the Saturday Evening Post on the Financial outlook of the Allies of which I sent you a copy which would like you both to read as the prospects are one of great uncertainty for the coming year in my opinion.

MONDAY
December 25th.

Mild and Bright. Mother and Alice went to church but I went to the office and Mr. Morgan and Self looked over mail which contained quite a few inquiries and a little money.

Discussed rating of McCormick Secondhand Wheelock Engine which we both concluded would live up to the requirements of the order just in. We also discussed our prospects for an increased shell output which in my opinion is rather doubtful.

Went to Christmas Tree at the Childrens' Aid with Mother, we found about 40 enjoying a most beautiful number of presents. This Institution is one of the greatest blessings that Canada has inaugurated to make these little lives bread winners for the future. Mother and I went to Wong's for our Christmas dinner and Alice went to Mr. Meredith's. We then spent two hours at the Lyric moving pictures and saw Canadian Fairbanks Works, Toronto making shells with girls and women up to 9.2, was most interesting, they are rolled from one machine to the other and lifted by pneumatic hoists. They seem to be quicker in movement than our own men, I was much impressed by what I saw.

Received a lot of cards and photos but no presents and spent the evening quietly.

TUESDAY
December 26th.

Cold and bright. Employees in the various shops came back in practically full force which pleased us all. Maitland unloading a car of tubes and shells.

Captain Nellis of the 13th or 14th Battalion with his sister called and went over his many thrilling adventures from the Maps and what he said Woodman must have been firing over him at the Battle of the Somme, poor fellow received three wounds and has a small piece of shrapnel lodged near his stomach besides a shrapnel bullet located near the joint in his left leg. He will return to the front as soon as the Medical Board will allow him, was much impressed by what he said. He has a brother in one of the Battalions of which I forget the number and another brother preparing to go forward.

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WEDNESDAY
December 27th.

Inspectors not all back and shipment delayed and Morgan quite annoyed. Resulting in only 2000 being our output this week. Saw nine cases of 500 shells waiting inspection at 10 A.M. 28th. Mr. Everett is not to blame for this.

Looking over several estimates with James Lamond.

Attended Huron & Erie and passed some good loans and also looked over our building on Market Square and may decide to purchase and put up something new as we need the room as the business now warrants it. Arranged to purchase 10,000 Angle French at 93¢ equal to 7% per annum. In the evening Corp. Vaughn called and we went over his Association with Woodman and the 12th Battery up to a year ago when he was gassed, has been an invalid since but not being a strong man the authorities are going to send him to St. Agathe, Quebec. *- nearly*

THURSDAY
December 28th.

Cold and frozen slush. Shipped 988 shells, was very busy in the office and did not get out into the works until 5 P.M. Looking over stock of plates, heads, etc, for 5 - 48" x 8 ft. special Uprights for Beatty Bros. Welland who have a war order for hoists. This would be a nice order and fill in after our Eclipse very well but we could hardly make the first date of shipment, but could complete the order about the 13th of March.

FRIDAY
December 29th.

Cold and bright. Shipped 992 shells. Paid \$2799.00 to 199 men including \$125.00 piece work.

Renewed debenture in Canada Trust for 5%, which is the highest we ever received.

Attended a farewell dinner to young Naval Recruits at the Tecumseh by the Board of Trade, about 40 young lads will go from this part of Ontario they were a nice lot of boys. In a way I was sorry to see such young lives go into the fighting ranks of the future but the British Navy will need them as I understand it has increased in ships and men 75% more than 1914. Total 5" shells shipped on account of contract to date 74478.

SATURDAY
December 30th.

Dull and cold. Very small mail. John Hunt and Mr. Everett Inspector went over shell making. The former is going to do some work at Canadian Fairbanks Morse Toronto without remuneration. He has got the right kind of stuff in him.

Received \$6833.00 from Imperial Munition Board. Wired Regina price of 35 H.P. Locomotive Oilwell Type.

Called with Mother in the afternoon on Mrs. Kerry whose husband was killed in August, she has two sons also serving, one of which is wounded in the Hospital in England and four young children about her, very considerate and brave considering the outlook before her. Called also on Driver Stone who went with Wood across but has been in the 5th Battery ever since. He spoke in the highest way of what the 12th Battery were doing. He seems a nice bright chap and will go back as soon as he is allowed to. He was also gassed.