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Sept. 15, 1917

Lieut-Col Ibbotson Leonard,
Canadian Corps Calvary Regt.,
B.E.F.
France.

Dear Ibbotson,-

Sept. 4 in Ottawa, Mr. Morgan arrived and we had a friendly interview with Mr. Southam who would do the best for us under the circumstances. Introduced us to Mr. Petersen with a view of getting an order for 6" shell which they are placing now with people like ourselves. Mr. Southam spoke very highly of our standing to Mr. Petersen and we think we made a favourable impression.

Sept. 5 Wednesday had an interview with Mr. Gurney who was glad we called as he had reserved for us a 700 H.P. marine engine and the particulars of this I wrote you in my letter of the 9th.

Sept. 6 Thursday got home at noon went to office and remained attending to urgent letters. Wrote Gurney confirming our letters re Marine engine engines.

Sept. 7, Friday paid \$2167 to 133 men including 756 piece work. Shipped 1968 4.5 shells. Maitland made a good job of things at Oakwook and cleaning out the tanks, during my absence. Balance to credit at British North America \$5300.

Saturday Sept. 8, did not run shop in afternoon, had a long talk with Mr. Morgan and Holmes about the tractors and two of us will go to Toronto next week on the 18th to see the trials at New Market. Paid out during my absence the following,- August 15 \$4058 to 199 men including \$1349 piece work. Aug. 22 \$3366 to 194 men including \$1276 piece work Aug. 29 \$3036 to 143 men including 1256 piece work. Discussed discounts of smoke stack and boilers which based upon the present cost of material, especially and labour. We added a 100% to our price list and I have never seen the trade in such a state before. The highest point I ever remember was 1/3 to our price list.

Sunday Sept. 9 It was just five months ago today that dear Woodman gave his life. Attended church in the morning alone. Norwood preached a characteristic sermon. He leaves on Monday. Called on Mr. P and saw him for a few minutes. He was very much overcome. Wrote you a long letter as to shell contract, marine engines table for E.W.L.

Monday Sept. 10th very little mail, had a discussion as to what additions we would make to machine shop and mounting shop and sheet iron shop in the case we get an order for Marine engines we will get touched upon in my letter on Sunday. Saw Mr. and Mrs. Norwood said good-bye to them sending love to all including yourself.

Tuesday Sept. 11, it is a beautiful day and warm western fair now in full

Morgan has concluded that our best plan for this winter would be to run the engine for driving shafts in the mounting and sheet iron shops also the fan for heating and put a little less work on the generator in the Machine Shop. How we will heat the foundry remains an open question but if the worse comes to the worse we can do it with life steam. We have saved form \$6 to \$8 per car by loading direct from cement platform into the car which will handsomely pay for the expense we have been to for the platform say \$600. Attended Huron and Erie and curtailed many applications as money fees is dearer and we must go slowly. We are afraid that Sir Thomas White finance minister will put the rate of the next loan so high that it will draw a large fund from our savings bank. I hardly think it will effect us much, however.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 Wrote a long letter to Evans about tractors he is very much interested in them. Received a letter from Sir G. Pearl about Sarah getting out of England. He, however, says that it is in the hands of the Department of the External affairs at Ottawa after all to whom I will write once again but I am afraid that they are making a football of the application but I do not see why a residence like she is cannot be allowed to come back. There does not seem to be common sense in it. If she were going into England I could understand such a prohibition. We have sold a 60 x 10 Return boiler 2044 you remember this in stock so long, we got \$600 for it. Received several letters from you including one to myself.

Thursday, Sept. 13 another beautiful day. Shut down a $\frac{1}{2}$ day to let men go to the Western Fair. Discussed a further reduction to 1500 4.5 shells per week with Mr. Holmes and Mr. Morgan in connection with the Imperial Munitions board letter. By the same cover we got a letter from Mr. Southam asking us to have a representative in Ottawa on Monday¹⁷ to see Mr. Petersen regarding 6" shells. Mr. Morgan wrote him that he and myself would be on hand Monday morning. The situation is now very complex as to the possibility of getting a contract, for marine Engines. If we get in a collery I will use the cable freely. Paid \$840 for 8 shares in Huron and Erie and borrowed the money from E.W.L. account but will replace it next week when mother returns from Ottawa with her cheque. We had a letter instructing us not to ship out any mor 4.5 shells but to store any we make. We did not expect this and it puts another complexity before us as we have very little room to spare.

Friday, Sept. 14, Bright and warm again paid \$2865 to 143 men including \$1193 piece work. Had a conference with Mr. Morgan and have arranged for Mr. Wheaton to attend to the tractor trials at New Market next week and we will try to meet him and attend also but must give our business in Ottawa the preference.