

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

November 12/17.

Lieut.Col. Ibbotson Leonard,
Canadian Light Horse,
B.E.F. France.

My Dear Ibb,-

November 4th. SUNDAY. Attended church with Mother and Alice and had a good sermon. Mother and Alice took two wounded soldiers out of the hospital and gave them a ride to Springbank Park and back and also a cup of tea, they were very grateful.

November 5th. TUESDAY. No word of Tractor. Mr.Wheaton working on shells for the day only!

Ernest Yeates who is making 18 prs. in London called yesterday and says the U.S. are placing orders in Canada and paying .90¢ more for schrapnel and \$3.00 more for 6" shells than the Munitions Board have been paying Canadians. We will no doubt here about this a little later.

Attended Sir George Gibbons lunch at the club about Victory Loan with other leading manufacturers and arrived at several points regarding procedure of canvassing. The new 4.5 contract for 42,000 shells arrived and we are writing Mr.Brown regarding some points not understood.

A good mail this morning with order for a 55 x 16 R.T. boiler which we made 19 years ago. I looked it over and find it in very good shape except a few low places which we have had filled up with anti-oxide welding. We tested it to 150 lbs. C.W.P. and will try and get it off Saturday to some point in N.B.

November 6th. Tuesday. Paid my Equitable Life Premium.

Two secondhand boilers arrived from Montreal which we will take to pieces shorten, re-tube and test. They will sell well either here or in Montreal.

Could get \$10,000. for our large boring and turning mill from Mr.Yeates and perhaps more from some parties who want a mill very badly. We considered this tempting offer but concluded that even with the engine business in its present low state we could ^{not} afford to lose that mill. It will turn pulleys from 2 ft. to 15 ft. diam. and 3 ft. face.

Attended Huron & Erie in afternoon and Canada Trust 7% now is the prevailing price for money on real estate.

Received your cable "Well" to-day.

We had a call from Mr.Doty of the National Shipbuilding Co. Goderich who have three large marine engines to make asking us to bore out 9 cylinders for these engines about 42" stroke and from 18", 33" & 54" diam. We looked over the Blue Print carefully but have not got four men to spare who are fully competent to take hold of these and turn them out day and night.

Nov. 12/17

EIL.

If they cannot get anyone else to assist them we will take the matter up later and do what we can. We are given to understand that the inspection of these engines is most severe and we do not feel like burdening ourselves with the responsibility unless we get at least \$2.00 per hour for their use.

November 7th. Wednesday. Received 7 Russian Internal Bonds duly endorsed by authority in N.Y. The interest is six months overdue but in the face of the low exchange now prevailing between N.Y. and Petrograd Mr. Holmes and I concluded we would not ask to have them collected. The Russian situation is far from being satisfactory and everyone thinks if it remains so it means one or two more years of war.

We had a letter from Faulds, Solicitor here regarding an accident to one of the G.T. men whose head struck a post supporting our coal bin doing some switching a few weeks ago. We will look into the matter. From what we hear however he was not badly hurt but there are no bounds which this gentleman will not take if he can possibly get a good sum out of it. The railway company should take this responsibility but they have not opened their heads.

Shipped 1490 shells to-day.

Imperial Munitions Board now claim cut off ends of shells as a salvage, this will make very little difference as there is very little taken off now, everything has been cut down to such a close limit.

Had a nine hole game with Skey on the new links and enjoyed it very much. The weather perfect.

November 8th. Thursday. You left the business in my hands and joined the 24th Regiment in Montreal three years ago to-day and since then health has permitted me to be on the job with very few exceptions, and am ready for another three years if necessary.

Laid out wall line next G.T. for our new shop and have half a dozen men excavating. Tractor arrived from Marion, Ohio after being three weeks on the way. Some of the small parts missing.

As a sample of prevailing prices we got an order to-day for 50 ft. 30" smoke stack No. 10 gauge at \$7.65 per foot.

Received \$11,200. from Imperial Munitions Board.

Discussed Victory Loan with Messrs. Holmes & Morgan and will take hold of the collection from our own employees and keep other people out of the works for that purpose.

Major Hume Cronyn nominated as a union candidate at the Conservative Nomination this afternoon, it was a great surprise to him and all his friends but from what we can learn the two factions Gray and Beck have united on him and they are evidently quite sincere.

November 9th. Friday. C.W.L.'s Birthday. Huron & Erie had a special meeting and approved of Mr. Cronyn's nomination, I did so with the proviso that his term if elected be only for the present union parliament but I could not approve of him remaining in politics after the war for the sake of the Huron & Erie's non-political standing for over 50 years.

Met Sir George Gibbons on the Street and told him there was not a single crumb of comfort to me in Sir Wilfred's Manifesto, he said wait and see what George Jr. says on Monday which I consented to do.

At 7.30 this morning main line shaft broke in machine shop and we re-placed it with a new and larger section and got the shop running at 10.30 P.M. using a few new pulleys, this is pretty sharp and good work I think.

Nov. 12/17.

EIL.

Accepted \$350.00 from Arthur Lobb, Winnipeg to close balance due on Laurentia Milk Co. Battleford, Sask. long outstanding claim by payment of principal in full with the expenses connected with it but no interest. We are glad indeed to do it in this way.

Shipped car of 994 shells and unloaded two cars of blanks.

Huber Tractor looks weel and strictly on the lines of their wood cuts and description.

Paid \$4043. to 173 men including \$1981. piece work.

November 10th. Saturday. Started putting in 6" of concrete footing in the wall next G.T.

Mr. Hume Cronyn called at Oakwood after lunch and asked that all his friends come forward and support him. I will do so if George S. does not come out straight for conscription on Monday.

Huber Tractor made a good start as lined in my private letter.

Conferred with Messrs. Holmes & Morgan about Victory Loan.