

March 25th/18.

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

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

My Dear Ibb,-

SUNDAY March 17th. Mild and bright. Attended church with Estelle and paid \$52. each for self and you for the current year, will do more if necessary.

Had two soldiers from the Hospital to tea which they seemed very grateful for, only one of them however has seen service.

MONDAY March 18th. Received \$7345. from Imperial Munitions Board.
Three more Tractor inquiries.

Majey Semmerville's son killed in France aged 22, the whole City in sympathy with His Worship.

A long letter from you about business, Tractors, Marine Engines and money which I will answer after reading same to Messrs. Holmes & Morgan.

TUESDAY March 19th. Paid 1½ exchange on New York for \$4130.00 to pay for the Tractors (4) coming to over \$60.00, freight however is very much less than we expected only being \$9.00 each from Marion. The whole financial centre in N.Y. seems to be in a bubble, they do not know what to charge or what to do so many demands on them for money. The balance of Trade against Canada is something like four hundred and fifty millions per annum which is draining the country very fast.

Inspector Burns inspected and passed three boilers to-day.

Hayman now painting inside walls of mounting shop, it looks very fine.

Inspector Careless passed some 5" mis-machined shells which we are to make into 4.5", they however will be scrutinized very carefully by Morgan.

WEDNESDAY March 20th. Ordered through a travelling agent a No. 6 Fellows Gear Cutting Machine with tools which will amount to with tools and duty \$1981.00. It is as good as new and we have the company to back us up having bought it from their agent similar to what we have been doing with the Gishelt Company. When it comes we will immediately start on a lot of gears to put on Gishelt and other machines, which will pay the interest upon it alone. When we are through with shells this machine will cut all the gears for Tractors and is very modern.

Wired and wrote Washington about tender blanks for nearly 1000 small boilers of 10 to 125 H.P. which they want for their emergency fleet, received this inquiry through our friend Mr. Connolly of Cleveland whom you know. He has also written me a very nice letter. They will accept some of our Uprights made up but they are asking tenders for boiler knocked down for which we have very few plates. We will make a drive for it anyway.

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e are likely to have to pay 17¢ per pound for forged cranks for Clipper engines, in fact we should have half a dozen on the premises in case of break downs.

Received from I.M.B. for February 26th, March 6th & 8th - \$12818.00.

Ordered cared of steel plates from Weed, Alexander & James, Hamilton. Since giving them this order we find the plates are not stamped so we will cancel that part of the order.

Messrs. Cooper & Carless Inspectors called and went over our process of recessing scored shells which is due to the tool breaking both outside and inside. We have been in the habit of heating these and drawing the metal over to get full diameter practically against instructions with Mr. Everett, the Inspectors cognisance. It appears he want a little too far and then turned a sharp turn on us which annoyed us all very much by bringing it to the notice of the Toronto authorities. We had a pretty hot time for an hour in the office but on promising not to do so again the matter was passed by. This will double our loss in our total output which is a serious matter. This seems very inconsistent to us for they allow us to heat the open end of the shell to a white heat and nose the shell while at the same time they will not allow us to heat the shell a little lower down to ~~finish~~ it to the right diameter. Our opinion of course does not stand and we may as well put it in our ~~book~~ *pipe & smoke*

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THURSDAY March 21st. Bright and warm. Harry Shirley, Weed's Batman for 19 months called and we went over many instances in connection with the dear boys service in France.

Wired Evans a price on 12 x 12 Leonard Ball in Montreal and also in connection with the Corliss engine which he has an inquiry for.

Ordered one 7/16 plate from Montreal at 13¢ lb. which plant hunted up for us. It is of course stamped and can be used for boiler purposes. We want a part of it to repair one of the Street Rlt. boilers.

Mr. Skey called and says that he has word from Montreal by wire that the bank of Montreal are going to absorb his bank but a re-adjustment of business in large centres will not be for sometime and that we may continue as heretofore, this situation is a great surprise to the whole of Canada and further that the Minister of Finance has agreed to it because we want all the competition possible. All the banks in good standing are making from 15 to 19% per annum on their capital which is altogether too much.

FRIDAY March 22nd. Bright and cold. Paid \$5112. to 208 men including \$2764. piece work.

Out of shell blanks to-day. Rough turners and borers off but we are promised all we want in about 10 days.

Attended Red Cross and Patriotic Societies General Meeting and received report and approved of a canvass on the 16th April. Sir George Gibbons made Honorary President, and T.A. Silverwood Active President.

Aubrey Schofield arrived at 9.30 and gave us quite a surprise.

SATURDAY MARCH 23rd. Bright and cold. Morgan and myself had a long talk with Schofield about shell situation and he advises strongly for us to keep on the 4.5 size even if we are not running a full output. American orders are not so sure on account of labor influence on the other size and he is very suspicious about it. Gurney of the Shipbuilding Branch (I.M.B.) is taking charge of the American Office at Toronto. It is understood no more contracts will be let until the yards are cleared of the present orders. *which will now take the year*

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Received tender papers from Washington which are not too bad and we will get at it Monday.

Received an order from Plant for a secondhand 8 x 10 Leonard Ball, and also got an order here for a 72" x 14' Secondhand return tubular boiler and stack at a very fair price. We will have to repair the boiler and have it passed by Ontario authorities who will give us 80# on it, working pressure.

Delivered second Tractor to the purchaser who takes it to the N.W. 1st of next week. Demonstrating the Tractor in front of the office and it turns a complete circle about 24 ft. diam. It is certainly a marvellous piece of mechanism.

Shipped 1st car to St. John this year with a miscellaneous lot of stock.

Received letter from General Manager McKensie of the Bank of B.N.A. asking us to continue on the same lines as heretofore.

Had tea at the Kennels and walked home with Aubrey.