

They go into the
new house in April.
E.P.W.

good remarks in inspection
Sherbrooke

Sunday, 30th Dec^r 1917

My dear Dad

I hope you and Frances and Terence had a very Happy Christmas together. We had a fine tree and everyone enjoyed himself or herself. Personally, I should not have minded a little quieter and less ambitious day but I suppose strenuousness is a good thing occasionally.

We were eventually successful in being offered both the American Shell order about which I spoke to you and also a somewhat larger and more attractive British 6" order similar to what we are doing now. So we turned back the American order and chose the British. No doubt you will have noticed a good deal of criticism of the American Purchasing Department for lack of enterprise and organization. We

2
were afraid of this condition and so
were very glad to be able to choose a
British order. ↗

We purchased the capital stock of
the Jencks Machine Company last Thursday
and Mr Gilman ~~is~~ is now General Manager
with myself ~~as~~ a director and his assistant
and in charge of the Munition and Inspection
Departments, the same as at the Rand.
We are refusing all orders for early
deliveries and have commenced to lay-
out two of the buildings to make ten
thousand six inch shells a week
beginning in two months time and
extending to next October.

I bought the house for the original
price asked but got the kitchen stove
and all the lighting fixtures thrown in
except table lamps. Lois has also bought
a number of things for less than half
price. On my way down to Washington to

get the shell order I had dinner in
 New York with Mr Doubleday and
 Mr Gilman. I told Mr Doubleday in
 front of Mr Gilman that Mr Gilman
 was getting me a new house in
 Sherbrooke in consideration for the
 new order. Of course Mr Gilman
 had to admit it so as soon as I
 got the order I closed for the house.
 Mr Gilman says the house is contingent
 upon the successful carrying out of
 the contract but I am not much afraid
 of that. That was the best way I could
 see of getting reasonable compensation for
 my years work.

The eternal inspection is now the only
 "fly in the ointment." They are the most
 unreasonable autocrats imaginable. And
 because they are autocrats they cannot
 learn except by accident. Consequently

if the war goes on another year or two either the inspectors will be properly lodged in an Insane Asylum or else their victims will collapse first.

I have not been in to Montreal for the second trying on of my suits but expect to be in town next week on my way to or from Ottawa.

All my securities are now in charge of the Bank of Montreal here. Mr Fleet has arranged to get cash from Lois' mortgage on April first in case we should need it to pay for the house.

I had a great time last night putting on a couple of double windows that we had thought in error we could dispense with. But three days of 20' to 35' below zero upset all calculations.

With love and best wishes for 1918

Your affect son
Edward