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M. WWII —— TBR. CON. : E. C. Manning, 1940

FOLDER No.
99-13

MacMillan, H.R.
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

601 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE TIMBER CONTROLLER

October 30, 1940.

Personal

Memorandum to Mr. H. R. MacMillan:

re Nanaimo Camp.

Your personal letter October 26th,

You score one point. I will remember.

E. C. M.

S A

W. W. II — T.B.R. Con. : E. C. Manning, 1940

FOLDER No. 99-13

DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY
601 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE TIMBER CONTROLLER

September 18, 1940.

Personal

Dear Miss Dee:

Thank you for your letter of the 16th.

I have changed your letter No. 163 of September 4, to 136A, so that our records now agree with yours. I presume that No. 193 should also have been a wire number (that is, 193 dated September 12). May I change this on our records to #164A?

Probably you will have noticed that our wires Nos. 85 and 86 were not sent in consecutive order. No. 86 was crossed off my list in error, before 85 had been used, so 85 was sent the following evening.

Thank you, too, for taking up the matter of copies. Mr. Andrews is still an offender though, stenographer's initial "H".

The mimeographed list you sent will come in very handy for reference.

It's a beautiful day here - wish I had more time to admire the view from my window, but things really aren't as rushed as when I first came. Occasionally we have quite a normal day.

Very truly yours,

E. M. Stewart
(Mrs.!)

W. WWII — TBR. CONT. : E. C. Manning, 1940

FOLDER No. 99-13

M. WWII — TBR. CON. : E. C. Manning, 1940

DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY
601 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE TIMBER CONTROLLER

October 3, 1940.

Personal Memorandum to Mr. H. R. MacMillan:

During his absence, Mr. Manning has asked me to submit the following information to you:

Sometime ago, Dant and Russell, of Portland, Oregon, shipped 400 M. feet of Douglas fir timbers to J. & W. Duncan Ltd., Montreal, per S.S. "Carretta". We understand that the shipment arrived in Montreal some 10 days to two weeks ago.

At the time this business was done by Dant and Russell, the H. R. MacMillan Export Company was aware of the opportunity, and could conceivably have competed successfully. It was deemed improper for a Canadian Company to ship American lumber to the Canadian market at a time when foreign exchange was so badly needed.

At the present time an opportunity is presented to make a similar sale. Space is available for about 500 M. feet, and today's price of about $18.75 U.S. for 12x12 plus $19.00 U.S. freight is considered workable.

The foregoing is submitted for your information.

E. Mitchell E Mitchell.

S

FOLDER No. 99-13

CANADA CREOSOTING COMPANY, Limited
North Vancouver
Canada

August 3rd, 1940.

Mr. E.C. Manning,
Assistant to Timber Controller,
Marine Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly instruct all mills shipping hangar timbers by car to any framing plant that timbers must be loaded on the flat and not on edge, this to prevent wide faces being exposed to the sun while enroute, and checking. It will also be necessary that cover boards be used on the tops of loads for the same reason. Ends of loads should be protected wither either Murray-Made "fibreen" paper or with boards.

Attached is a photograph showing how we load out framed untreated hangar material, and I noticed at New Westminster yesterday the first car shipped into that plant by Canadian White Pine and it was exceptionally well protected against the sun.

For scow deliveries to North Vancouver plant, cover boards should be used on all exposed flat surfaces and the scows loaded in such manner as to afford best protection against checking.

Yours very truly,

CANADA CREOSOTING COMPANY LIMITED.

"GEO. E. HERRMANN"
General Manager-Western Region.

C O P Y

W. WWII — TBR. CON.: E. C. Manning, 1940

FOLDER No. 99-13

Memorandum No. 34.
August 7th, 1940.

To:

E.C. Manning
Asst. Timber Controller for B.C.

From:
Loren L. Brown.

I have a copy of Mr. Herrmann's letter to you dated August 3rd, and I would like to reinforce what he says.

It is very important that special care be taken of lumber while enroute to the various treating plants during the next couple of months. Please instruct the mills to pile all timber on their flat so that the side of the timber is no exposed to the direct rays of the sun, and cover all cars with thin Cull covers.

I note from the last paragraph of the letter mentioned above that you were not able to keep North Vancouver fully supplied with lumber. I hope that this was only a temporary condition and that you will be able to keep all the plants fully occupied. If, at any time, you have an opening and no instructions from here to cover it you can ship a short single to any of the various plants which may require it. We will very shortly send you further instructions to cover shipments for thirty days or so to all of the treating plants.

"LOREN L. BROWN"
Deputy Timber Controller.

COPY

W. WWII — TBR. CON.: E. C. Manning, 1940

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W. WWII — TBR. Con.: E. C. Manning, 1940

DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

VANCOUVER, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE TIMBER CONTROLLER

601 Marine Building.
August 10, 1940.

30

Personal

Dear H.R.:

I am not writing this letter for the purpose of being criticial, as I can imagine the overload of work you have in Ottawa.

Wires and letters from your office indicate a failure to take sufficient time to read our communications carefully and to refer to previous correspondence. My files contain ample evidence of this. Finally, your Wire No. 40, in respect to my No. 15, simply forced me to phone you yesterday. Apparently things got your personal attention at once, because I have received satisfaction from your resulting wires, Nos. 45 and 51.

Take a look at the attached letter from Loren Brown and tell me where in Herrmann's letter he finds that we left the North Vancouver plant short of timber. On receipt of Brown's letter I immediately phoned Herrmann and he says that since we have been involved in the hangar business we have not left him short.

I know nothing about this Purchasing Agent's job and I shall undoubtedly make some mistakes--maybe serious ones--before I am through, but I trust they will be due to an overload of work and inexperience rather than stupidity.

You have surrounded yourself with some men of outstanding ability in Ottawa, but I wonder if you don't need a junior executive to keep track of the continuity of things and to read our wires carefully. I am using the personnel that others can spare me, not selected for me on the basis of experience for this particular job. At that I am of course getting the loyal help of everyone working for me.

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M. WWII — TBR. Con. : E. C. Manning, 1940

I think that even you would be astonished at the amount of work that has been stirred up for this office. Some of the important things I am not attending to at all. I shall get out from under detail as fast as I can. There are important policy matters ahead. I believe some firms are already beginning to get increases over the June prices.

If you or any of your staff get too critical I am going to go right back at you if any useful purpose is to be served. You are a little inclined to expect the impossible but I shall do my utmost to deliver you the maximum possible. I shall do my best to keep on top of things.

Kind regards.

Yours very truly,

E. C. Manning

KR
Encl.

FOLDER No. 99-13

HRM DD

October 26,1940.

PERSONAL

Dear Manning:

You may wonder why I am telegraphing you about the Nanaimo job - perhaps it is because I have not expressed myself clearly that you still seem to have missed the point.

This is a war. The Army wants this job done. The Army has the idea that we are not giving them lumber fast enough. I telegraphed asking certain questions on which I wanted immediate definite answers, which would show me the local army officer's own statement of how many carpenters he had, how many he wanted, and then put it up to your office and this office what we had to do to meet with the Army's statement of requirements, which, as you know, are always paramount.

It is not a commercial matter. It is not a matter that we desire to argue about. There is no point in arguing how "the stable should be locked after the horse is gone". The time to argue about this job is before the job is done so that any decisions will become effective before the buildings are built.

I still don't know why you don't answer the questions. It is now four days since the Director General of Purchases, after conversing with the D.O.C., in Victoria, telephoned me that the work was being held up for lack of lumber. That was an official complaint. I sent you immediately official instructions, and I am still without any knowledge of what should be done or how you are coping with the situation. To tell me that you are sending 100,000 feet of lumber means nothing. What I have to know is: how many men would they put on if they were not held up by lumber; how much lumber it would take to keep these men going? Then I would want to know that we were doing it, after which there could be no recriminations.

If you were not in British Columbia, I would get the answers myself from army officials in that area, and I would have the answers in three hours, but working through you, I have not got them in four days, which makes me think that I have failed to make myself clear; therefore, I am telegraphing you again today asking for the answers. This is what makes these government files a foot thick.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. E.C.Manning,
Vancouver, B.C.

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M. WWII — TBR. con. : E. C. Manning, 1940

September 17,1940.

UNOFFICIAL

Mr. E.C.Manning,
Assistant Timber Controller for B.C.,
601 Marine Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Manning:

You will remember the letterheads and envelopes which we "worked out" together, which were printed by the Mitchell Printing & Publishing Company, and which doubtless you are still using.

I thought Mr.MacMillan was going to pay for these and charge them to his expense account. However, he has decided that it would be better if you paid the Mitchell Printing & Publishing Company's account, amounting to $38.61, and charged it to your office expense account.

Therefore, I have today written to the Mitchell Printing Company asking them to submit their account to you for payment.

Unless you have already sent over for them, there are more envelopes and letterheads at the office of the H.R. MacMillan Export Company. If you need these will you please ask for them. The office boys there know where they are.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Mr.MacMillan.

FOLDER No. 99-13

September 17,1940.

UNOFFICIAL

Mr. E.C.Manning,
Assistant Timber Controller for B.C.,
601 Marine Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

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Yours very truly,

Secretary to Mr.MacMillan.

M. WWII — TBR. Con. : E. C. Manning, 1940
FOLDER No. 99-13

PERSONAL

OTTAWA, CANADA.

September 16,1940.

Miss E.M. Stewart,

D.E.Dee

I was glad to receive your note of September 10th, because I had been intending to write you respecting wire #163, but have been so busy that I kept putting it off.

Number 163 was used in error on a memorandum, namely Mr. MacMillan's to Mr. Manning of September 4th. We here have re-numbered this memorandum #136-A. Will you please do likewise, and then our records will be in accord.

There will, of course, not now be any wire #163.

Referring to the second paragraph of your note. I spoke to Mr. K.M.Brown, our office manager, and he again instructed all stenographers to send all memoranda to the Vancouver office in duplicate. If these instructions are not carried out in every direction, please drop me another note and let me know. It is no trouble for us here to make you an extra copy, but it does waste your time at that end to have to make it.

In case you have not a copy of the sheet showing the personnel of this office, and also the names of Mr. Manning and Mr. Plant at Vancouver, I am enclosing one herewith. This may be useful.

Will you please remember me kindly to Mr. Manning and tell him that I don't have to stretch my imagination to know how very hard he must be working.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary to Mr.MacMillan.

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M. WWII — TBR. CON.: E. C. Manning, 1940

September 8,1940.
(Dictated September 7,1940)

Dear Manning:

I have your personal letter of September 5th with enclosure from Ralph Plant.

I have no time to spend over"dead or dying horses", but I think it is only fair to point out -

(a) The price at which we bought boards was reported to be the June price, although it has developed that the price was some $2.00 above the June price.

(b) To help the mills,and not because everyone here was ignorant of the lumber business, we agreed to accept 25% #2 instead of 15% as provided by List 40-2, which was the basis of negotiations.

(c) The net result is that the Controller paid a premium over the agreed price at the time of purchase, granted a concession in the matter of #2 boards without asking for any quid pro quo, and then when a further quantity of lumber was ordered was put in the position of being forced to certify a higher cost for lumber than the price at which any private individual could have purchased it.

(d) If one can judge from the telegrams instructions respecting delivering specified length dimensions on the Controller's order are being interpretated quite differently from the treatment customarily given to lineyards when buying specified length dimension.

In this again I do not understand the meaning of the first paragraph under the heading "Dimension" in Ralph's memorandum, wherein it states that the Controller's purchase was to be shipped in assorted specified lengths and that the Controller's purchase is completely piled in random lengths. The facts are that the Controller's purchase was made on the basis of List 40-2, and there never was any arrangement that the Controller should receive any different treatment from the sellers than the ordinary prairie lineyards, and there never was any intimation given that the Controller's purchase was to be piled completely in random lengths.

This question has been discussed at length with persons who

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have speny many years in the rail lumber business and whose opinion it is that special interpretations are being made at the Coast the results of which are to penalize the Controller's purchase.

It is a matter of great regret to me that this should be the case. I do not feel inclined at the present time to take measures under the authority given me to protect the government's interest, but if it becomes necessary to resort to the authority of the Order-in-Council appointing the Controller, it will be because individuals insist upon exploiting situations, and it was to prevent such exploitations that the goverrment passed the Order-in-Council.

With kind personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

TIMBER CONTROLLER.

Mr. E.C.Manning,
Assistant Timber Controller for B.C.,
601 Marine Building,
Vancouver,B.C.

M. WWII — TBR. CON.: E. C. Manning, 1940

FOLDER No. 99-13

HRM DD

August 13, 1940.
(Dictated August 12,1940.)

PERSONAL

Dear Manning:

I have your personal letter of August 10th, concerning which I have telegraphed you today.

You are quite correct in spotting the difficulty here, which is that we are forced to give a section of the work to a new man which swamps him before he has mastered the detail. It is very difficult to arrange clear and prompt replies to communications. Without being too optimistic I think I may claim that most things have been dealt with promptly and without ambiguity or oversight.

I am apprehensive respecting the next four weeks because I know the volume of work is going to be increased five, ten or twenty fold as a great number of projects, which are now in the blueprint stage, pass into the building stage, the start of which will be this week.

I am trying to make adequate provision to meet the situation, but am prepared for considérable confusion and some disappointments. The work is not difficult nor are the decisions onerous, but the rapid multiplication of detail, and the very large amount of figuring in keeping lumber records are the features that will be troublesome.

I wish to express my very high appreciation of the way you have kept me out of trouble in British Columbia and of the way you have mastered the difficulties and kept " on top of the job". My chief claim to credit - if there is any to come in this business - is going to be that I have been able to select good men.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. E.C.Manning,
601 Marine Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

M. WWII — TBR. CON. : E. C. Manning, 1940
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W. D. NEIL, General Manager of Communications, Montreal

Send the following message, subject to the conditions on the back thereof, which are hereby agreed to.

AUGUST 12 1940

E C MANNING
ASSISTANT TIMBER CONTROLLER FOR B C
601 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER B C

HAVE ENJOYED AND BENEFITTED BY READING YOUR PERSONAL LETTER OF AUGUST TENTH STOP IT WILL HELP US IF YOU KEEP POUNDING AT THIS END AS WELL

AS THAT END STOP I KNOW YOU ARE DOING FINE AND I CAN ASSURE YOU I WILL CONTINUE TO EXPECT THE IMPOSSIBLE AND I REALLY BELIEVE I WILL

GET IT

MacMILLAN

HRM DD
DAYLETTER
4 30 PM DST
CHARGE DEPT MUN & SUPPLY

M. WWII — TBR. CON. : E. C. Manning, 1940

FOLDER No. 90-13