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M. WWII ——— TBR. CON. : Dr. W. A. Mackintosh

FOLDER No.

99-12

MacMillan, H.R.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PLEASE RETAIN  
ORIGINAL ORDER



HRM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
November 5, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:

I learn that those persons who import American hardwoods for use in their factories are stocking up in order to benefit should there be any restrictions affecting imports.

Yours very truly,

TIMBER CONTROLLER.

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister,  
Department of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.



HRM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
October 30, 1940.

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh:

I wrote you on October 22nd respecting the possible saving of American funds by reducing the import of hardwoods into Canada.

I notice that amongst the various items of wood imports are railways ties from the United States of which \$191,331.00 worth were imported in the seven months ended July, 1940.

Railway ties are a commodity of which Canada always has a surplus, and I believe that there would be no hardship to anyone if such imports were prevented as a war policy.

These ties are probably all hardwood, but it is possible that they are mixed woods, including softwoods as well as hardwoods; therefore, I write to mention them specifically to you.

I observe many items in the list of imports which I believe should be discussed with you should you reach the point when you are considering the making of regulations.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant  
to the Deputy Minister of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.

TIMBER CONTROLLER.



HRM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
October 26, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:

Queries and complaints have been passed along to me from British Columbia to the effect that, although an important proportion of the Okanagan apple crop is not being picked because of lack of markets, there is evidence to the effect that distributors of Japanese oranges are preparing to ship several hundred cases of these oranges to Western Canada within the next week, and arrangements to that end are now being made.

Without professing to be an expert on the considerations involved in dealing with the importation of Japanese oranges, I feel no hesitation in saying that the importation of these oranges under present conditions would appear to me to be a loss of economic strength, a loss of morale, and a waste of American funds.

Yours sincerely,

TIMBER CONTROLLER.

Mr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister,  
Department of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.



HRM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
October 23, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:

I thank you for your note enclosing copy of Industrial Relations Circular, published by Queen's University.

I am glad to see that the University is adopting a positive attitude in collecting and disseminating information of this nature.

I realize that a university probably has not the funds to spend sending publications of this nature to a very large mailing list. The benefits resulting from such publications are to a certain extent dependent upon the size and character of the mailing list. I hope that this publication reaches a large proportion of those who will pay serious attention to it.

I would suggest that the number of lumber firms covered by this circular is too limited to be a basis for any generalizations respecting any labour or wage conditions in the lumber industry. I am inclined to emphasize this when I note that "LUMBERING" includes "lumbering, pulpwood contractors, lumber manufacturers, sawmilling, and chemical preservation of timber".

There are 3,500 sawmill operators in Canada of whom I think several hundred would employ 100 or more men, and consequently I believe this circular should be based upon reports from at least 40 or 50 well-selected lumber manufacturers.

The suggestion I raised respecting the activities of economists in universities referred more particularly to the publicizing of conclusions and studies that would be of help in creating an informed public opinion in Canada respecting conditions arising in Canada from the various war activities. A good example of what I had in mind is given in the enclosed clipping from THE MONTREAL GAZETTE of today's date.

I think it is very important that well-informed, thoughtful, persons should have an opportunity of studying these conditions and presenting their opinions before the public repeatedly and in various manners, in order that public opinion may be prepared for the policies which the Government may find it wise or necessary to adopt.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister,  
Department of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.

TIMBER CONTROLLER.



HRM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
October 22, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:

There is a further argument in favour of reducing hardwood lumber imports at an early date.

The maintenance of aeroplane output in Great Britain requires the manufacturing of a large quantity of birch aircraft plywood, which in turn requires the importation of 50,000 to 75,000 tons of birch veneer logs from Canada to Great Britain.

The high cost of ocean shipping has led British buyers to accept only perfect logs, constituting possibly 5% of the volume of trees cut down.

It is becoming difficult to market the balance of the logs from these trees.

If hardwood lumber is imported only under licence where its use is essential, a wider market would be provided in Canada for logs which are the by-product of the manufacture of aircraft plywood in the United Kingdom and Canada.

Yours sincerely,

TIMBER CONTROLLER.

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant  
to the Deputy Minister of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.



HRM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
October 18, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:

I enclose copy of letter written by me today to Dr. George Hilton, Oils Administrator, on behalf of the British Columbia Peckers Limited, of Vancouver, B.C., in the final paragraph of which there may be something of interest to you bearing on foreign exchange.

Yours very truly,

TIMBER CONTROLLER.

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant to  
the Deputy Minister of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.



OTTAWA, Canada,  
October 16, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:-

I enclose copy of letter written  
by me today to Dr. George Hilton, Oils Administrator,  
on behalf of the British Columbia Packers Limited, in  
the final paragraph of which there may be something  
of interest to you bearing on foreign exchange.

Yours very truly,

WILHELM COTTRELLER.

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant to  
the Deputy Minister of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.



HRM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
October 9, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:

I recommend that the following steps be taken to improve Canada's foreign exchange position in directions in which timber is involved:

- (1) Restrict domestic use of lumber to non-exportable qualities and sizes.

This can be done by the Timber Controller

- (a) appealing to trade for support
- (b) being consulted by Government officials on specifications, purchasing, and inspections. (The Government is now the largest buyer).
- (c) making spot inspections of important timber consuming trades to ascertain and correct wasteful use.

- (2) Cooperation with Customs Department to institute prohibition of import of lumber except by permit from the Timber Controller. Convenience, habit, opportunities to buy cheaper, desire to secure new patterns, lead to imports - the prevention of which seems justifiable as a war measure. Suitable Canadian supplies exist in ample quantities for use in place of those now imported. It is my opinion that this policy would receive thorough public support.

- (3) Promote use of wood instead of steel for construction and furniture, where such use meets requirements sought.

This can be accomplished by -

- (a) prohibiting use of steel for furniture, office fittings, shelving and similar uses, except under permit from the Steel Controller.
- (b) prohibiting use of steel in building construction, except by permit from the Steel Controller. A large proportion of the buildings are built at government cost.

This would require -

- (1) notification of this policy to authorities and individuals interested in new building
- (4) licensing new construction



October 9, 1940.

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There have in recent years been immense improvements in the use of wood; modern engineering designs make it possible to build buildings of wood quicker and cheaper than of steel in wide spans free of posts, with high clearances, great strength, and fire resistant.

This has been amply demonstrated in the hangars built this season for the Joint Air Training Scheme and the Ordnance Storage Buildings at London.

Certain types of buildings under this policy would contain large quantities of wood - others, to conform with existing buildings or local ordinances, or to meet special requirements, would be chiefly or all steel or other materials. A similar policy to conserve imported goods has been followed for some months in Great Britain.

Wood is one of the great natural resources of Canada, produced, worked and erected throughout Canada by a class of workers who are not so likely as the steel workers to be absorbed in war industry or to establish higher wages and more numerous and restricted working conditions. A large proportion of them live outside the larger centres of population. The supply of raw material is ample. There is little or no foreign exchange content in the completed article. There is not likely to be difficulty in securing supplies for all export and domestic purposes. Unless costs get away from us in all directions in Canada, the price of wood is not so likely to rise as the price of other materials. The wider use of wood may act as a brake on the cost level of other materials.

Yours sincerely,

TIGER CUNNINGHAM.

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant  
to the Deputy Minister of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.



HMM DD

OTTAWA, CANADA,  
October 4, 1940.

Dear Dr. Mackintosh:

I have received today a memorandum from the Honourable C.D. Howe, Minister of Munitions & Supply, a copy of which is attached.

It occurs to me that there is such a necessity to conserve United States exchange that each person should be considering what possibilities lie within his particular scope, and I would therefore be pleased to have an opportunity to discuss this with you at some time convenient to yourself.

Yours sincerely,

TIMBER CONTROLLER.

Dr. W.A. Mackintosh,  
Special Assistant  
to the Deputy Minister of Finance,  
Ottawa, Canada.