

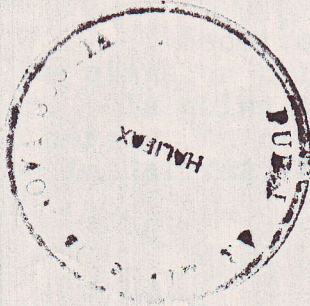
FREDERICK L. BLAIR

GENERAL INSURANCE

OFFICE COURT HOUSE

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA

December 16, 1940.



Mr. Reginald V. Harris,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thanks very much for your letter of the 14th with enclosures. The only satisfaction I get out of Hedden's letter, is that it confirms what I have repeated over and over again, to him and to others.

The Halifax and the Fraser tunnels are one and the same. There are several of them running in various directions. That found in 1937 was a circular tunnel driven around the original pit by Fraser while working for the Halifax Company, after they had tunnelled to the pit from their own shaft nearer the shore. It is evident that Hamilton has now located both ends of that tunnel, and he should thereby, with the assistance of sketch made showing position of circular tunnel passing through Hedden's shaft, be able to fairly well place the original pit.

I have always known that the Chappell shaft was not properly located and told him so on my arrival at the island in 1931, when he was not more than 10 feet down. We talked of shifting at the time, but he concluded it was near enough, and in that decision, made one great big mistake.

The branch tunnel at the "sink hole" as Hedden calls it, was because the tunnel being driven in search of the pirate tunnel, came to soft ground. The men went back a short distance and branched off in the same general direction, but so as to escape the soft spot. That spot was doubtless the so called "cave in pit", and had they gone down in it, I believe they would have discovered another pit and perhaps solved the problem. There was no indication of it at the surface at that time.

With respect to agreements I confess I hardly know how we stand after so many changes, extensions etc.

The extension with Hedden expires the end of this year, and I presume that his with Hamilton expires at the same time.

Received a letter from the latter a few days ago. He plans on being in Nova Scotia the last week in December. Is going to Sydney, and will arrange, if possible, to stop here. As he plans on being in Chester, he will no doubt be in Halifax and should see you.

Your very truly.

H. Bean



Blair

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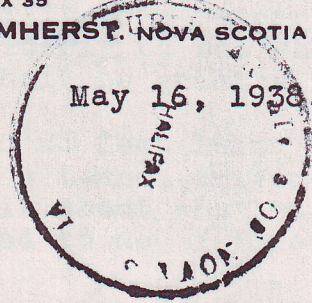
PHONE 116

FRED L. BLAIR

GENERAL INSURANCE

P. O. BOX 35

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA



Mr. Reginald V. Harris,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Replying to your letter of the 7th instant, I would be glad, indeed, if you could persuade Mr. Hedden to finish the job he undertook, and carry out the agreement he entered into with such infinite care.

In spite of the fact that I had and still have in many ways, a high regard for that gentleman, I am quite unable to overlook the fact that he did not request an extension of the agreement, says it is now off, but that anything done there in the future will be subject to his, or rather under his control.

His failure to request an extension was not any neglect of duty, he is not built that way. Everything done by him since I first heard from him, up to last fall, has been done with extreme care and attention to detail.

Work stopped about September 18, at least one month earlier than necessary, and he had approximately three and one half months to think about renewal. He left for England expecting to return shortly before Christmas, giving him very little time after return, to make sure of an extension. I wondered then, but as already stated, could hardly believe.

It is doubtless true that he has extended the business into which he ventured subsequent to signing up with me, and it would be interesting to know whether the "combination of unusual circumstances" he mentions, occurred prior to his departure for England, or after his return. He does not say in his letter, but the inference is that his letter dated March 25, was written not long after the developments to which he refers, took place.

I believe with him, that he was very close to solving the mystery when they closed down last September, in fact I would not be surprised if he is very confident of the results, but he can afford to wait much better than I can.

Matters are not good in the United States, and by closing down and throwing up the "sponge" ostensibly, he can deduct his loss from income and materially reduce his income tax. They can deduct their speculative losses from income in that country, but profits so obtained, must be added thereto.

However, I feel that if it was anything of that nature, he would have confided to us in some manner.

You are at perfect liberty to see what you can do with him and I wish you luck. I shall be greatly interested to learn what further he has to say.

That wood you mention 25 feet below the bottom of the new pit, is I think, timbers of a tunnel driven by Chappells from their pit. They encountered it about the 1st of September as I understand it, and when reported to me, I immediately replied stating what I believed it to be.

Yours very truly,

J. Bean

