

Chester, N.S.
June 30th, 1936

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Hedden
Mr. Reginald Harris
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr Harris:

It seems strange in a way yet very natural that I should be back here and now actively engaged in this rather wild and foolish enterprise but here I am and having a grand time. I arrived just the other day and have been too busy to find any time at all to write until today when I have consumed most of the day in just that, this being the seventh letter up to now. Krupp is established on the island and while he is not going as rapidly as we had hoped, the progress is very satisfactory to me as long as it is safe. We are now down to 90 feet and have cleared and reinforced the old shaft to there though we did find it in far worse condition than we had expected. The wood is in a fairly good state of preservation but in several places the walls have settled or cracked, making quite a bulge into the shaft itself, which we have to shore and build in very carefully. The best estimate that I can get would indicate that we will not be able to begin drilling until the latter part of July but when we do begin that work will be the easiest part of our job. I have no further opinion than I had before of the plausibility of any part of the story and I am proceeding with the thought in mind that I have a certain job to do and when it is done then I can sit down to consider what to do next if anything. I found that I needed several prints of the survey of the property made by March in 1934 and on calling him at Bridgewater I found him to be very cautious about giving any information. As suggested by phone I guess you can straighten him out by letter and see that he mails the required prints to me here, General Delivery or direct to the Lovett House. Mrs Hedden is sailing on the 6th and will join me in Yarmouth the next day from where we are going to drive around the Province for a week or ten days stopping at various interesting places, returning here about the 18th. I will be camping on the island after that with some friends from the States and will arrange to stay here in the vicinity as long as necessary or desirable. The local publicity and interest had largely disappeared by the time I reached here but has been roused again by my arrival and obvious interest. I cannot see any harm to my name being connected with it now anyway. My main interest was to keep from being bothered at home last year and that need has passed. As it is, if we find anything they will connect me with it without any difficulty and if we do not they will have no interest anyway. We are forced however to keep most visitors off of the Island during working hours for their presence distracts the men. We are however permitting various ones to come on if they behave such as the local banker etc. I have left orders there that if you or the Chappells or Blair should appear you are to be given immediate welcome and all the privileges available. I shall be in touch with you from time to time and will keep you informed as to our progress. The work at present, however is purely routine and not very interesting or exciting. Please extend my best wishes to Mrs Harris and the family. If I do not see you before you leave I hope you have a very pleasant and profitable trip.

Sincerely

Gilbert D. Hedden

Gilbert D. Hedden

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