

Ottawa, Ontario,
February 5, 1941.

The Honourable Mr. C. D. Howe,
Minister of Munitions and Supply,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—

We have before us your letter of January 31 and before answering the three questions which you have laid before us we would like to recall the circumstances under which these recommendations were made, namely that we were invited by the acting Minister of Munitions and Supply to go to Ottawa to discuss certain matters in connection with Anson aircraft. After these interviews with the acting minister we were requested to hold a meeting of the manufacturers of Ansons, and the recommendations which you refer to were the result of this meeting. Your letter refers in Question 3 to a group and we have therefore again met as quickly as possible in Ottawa and have prepared the following answers:

(1) Will the taking of the steps recommended, in your opinion, accelerate the production of Ansons in Canada, and, if so, to what extent?

Our opinion is as expressed in our recommendations of January 7, that the Anson project can be expedited in the manner outlined. As to the degree of acceleration which could take place, we have not sufficient information before us to answer this question with a proper degree of accuracy. A further complete study of the present production plans of the Federal Aircraft Limited and the de Havilland Aircraft of Canada, Limited, would be necessary before the tempo of this acceleration could be ascertained.

(2) On what facts do you base your opinion in this regard?

The fact that the principal contractors of the Anson programme believe a change would be beneficial.

(3) As one of the contractors holding a sub-contract for this production, what guarantee can you and your group give as to a date when substantial deliveries of Anson planes will be made, provided your recommendations are adopted?

No guarantee of delivery dates can be given by the contractors as no schedule has been supplied by Federal Aircraft Limited, showing when the:

Raw materials
A.G.S. parts
Proprietary articles
Castings
Forgings
Finished parts

which are to be supplied by Federal will be available.

In closing we would like to say that we have no interest or preference in this matter other than to see the work in which we are engaged progressing as satisfactorily and as rapidly as possible, and that whatever your decision may be you will find our companies ready as always to cooperate to the maximum of our ability.

Yours very truly,

Canadian Car & Foundry, Limited,
V. M. Drury,
President.

National Steel Car Corporation, Ltd.,
R. J. Magor,
President.

Ottawa Car & Aircraft, Ltd.,
Redmond Quain,
President and Managing Director.
de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited,
P. C. Garratt,
Managing Director.
Massey Harris Limited,
M. F. Verity,
Superintendent.

January 31, 1941.

Dear Sir,—

On my return from the United Kingdom my attention has been called to the document signed by yourself and several others, dated January 7, with reference to Federal Aircraft, Limited, with which firm you are, I believe, a sub-contractor.

Recommendations signed by six firms with some experience in the manufacture of aircraft or components, must, of course, receive careful consideration, and I am having a thorough study of the situation made at once.

I am sure that you would not make recommendations without being exceedingly sure of your ground, and I would, therefore, like your prompt written reply to the following questions:

(1) Will the taking of the steps recommended, in your opinion, accelerate the production of Ansons in Canada, and, if so, to what extent?

(2) On what facts do you base your opinion in this regard?

(3) As one of the contractors holding a sub-contract for this production, what guarantee can you and your group give as to a date when substantial deliveries of Anson planes will be made, provided your recommendations are adopted?

Your prompt reply will greatly assist my investigation.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) C. D. Howe.

This letter was sent to the following:

V. M. Drury, Esq.,
President,
Canadian Car & Foundry Ltd.,
Montreal, Que.

M. F. Verity, Esq.,
Superintendent,
Massey Harris Ltd.,
Toronto, Ont.

S. Burke, Esq.,
President,
Boeing Aircraft of Canada Ltd.,
Vancouver, B.C.

P. C. Garratt, Esq.,
Managing Director,
de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd.,
Toronto, Ont.

R. J. Magor, Esq.,
President,
National Steel Car Co.,
Montreal, Que.

Redmond Quain, Esq.,
President and Managing Director,
Ottawa Car & Aircraft Ltd.,
Ottawa.