

of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A visit was made to Newfoundland and Bell Island by Col. Macdonald and Major Haultain on October 9th and 10th, 1939, and the conclusions finally reached were that the nature of the population on the island reduced to a minimum the danger of sabotage, and that as the avenues of approach to the island were so well controlled the addition of four to the company's police force would be an adequate safeguard.

The real danger is that of damage to the loading piers and other properties by attacks from the sea by submarines or other enemy craft, and the company is not competent to provide protection from this danger.

The importance to Canada and the Empire at this time of the Bell Island iron ore mines, and loading and shipping facilities cannot be too urgently emphasized, as we consider that provision of adequate protection from external attack from the sea is most necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A. CROSS

62.

1156-D-39

*Le haut commissariat de Grande-Bretagne
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commission of Great Britain
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

516 K/17

Ottawa, February 6, 1940

SECRET

My dear Dr. Skelton,

I hope that you will forgive me for reminding you once again about the problem of the defence of Bell Island in Conception Bay, Newfoundland, on which I wrote to you on the 22nd November. The High Commissioner would like to be able to send an answer to the Commission of Government of Newfoundland as early as may be practicable.

Yours sincerely,

W. C. HANKINSON

63.

King Papers C253683

*Le conseiller juridique au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Legal Adviser to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

Ottawa, February 29, 1940

DEFENCE OF BELL ISLAND, CONCEPTION BAY, NEWFOUNDLAND

1. Mr. Emerson, Minister of Justice of Newfoundland, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Macdonald, D.S.O., of Sydney, N.S., called to