

FINANCIAL

SERVICE

MONTREAL — LIMITED — TORONTO

OFFICES

MONTREAL—114 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER ST.
TORONTO—514 MCKINNON BUILDING

TELEPHONES

MONTREAL—MAIN 3031-3014
TORONTO—ELGIN 4860

P.O. BOX 630 MONTREAL, July 21st., 1926.

Sir A.W.Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Marshall House,
York Harbour, Me.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

Just a line to report to you on the subject of our interview of Monday afternoon.

I saw two of the C. P. R. officials, Mr.E.Moore, Commissioner of Insurance, and Mr.Armstrong, Assistant to J.M.R. Fairbairn, the Chief Engineer. I found them conversant with the Canavan systems as Mr.MacTier has been looking into its possibilities with reference to the C. P. R. elevators at West St.John and Port McNicoll.

Mr.Moore told me that he was very much impressed with Canavan and that from an insurance standpoint his invention, whether perfect or not, represented a step in the right direction as it helped to minimise the hazard from dust explosion and save human life. He expressed the opinion that if the insurance companies would bring out a schedule of reductions where the System was installed it would be the main factor towards successful merchandising of the systems. To use his own words, he "was absolutely sold on the possibilities of the invention".

Mr.Armstrong, whom I saw as Mr.Fairbairn was away, was more canny; being a professional man he did not wish to express a definite technical opinion until he knew more about the subject. He told me that, at present, dust-explosions were still a subject of much controversy and that he did not feel that he was competent to express an opinion thereon. He said, however, that from what study he had made of the question and the operation of the Canavan systems in conjunction with it that he was convinced that Mr.Canavan's principle was correct and that under proper conditions should prove of considerable value to those plants endangered by possible disasters from dust explosions. He was not prepared to give any idea on the commercial possibility; that, he felt depended entirely on the possible human and property loss to a plant whether or not the owners would go to the necessary expense of installing a protective device.

On the whole I was very well satisfied with my interview and I am sure that either of these gentlemen would answer enquiries, if not for publication, as I told them that I wanted a disinterested viewpoint as I was approaching some prominent Montrealers in the matter and wished to be sure of my ground.