

T&S Canal Co Letters Reporting Activities in 1815

Weekly letters from Brimscombe Agent J R Denyer to Company Treasurer J S Salt in London reporting on current issues, including:

Waters & Co sent two vessels with Forest coal on a trial trip to Oxford and Henley.

Clerk William Dicks died after a long illness.

Trade in the past financial year was better than the previous year.

Several yards of the tunnel side walls and arching bulged, and a stoppage was being arranged.

Lydney coal masters have permission to send coal to Bristol either duty free or for a trifling sum [for onward shipment via the K&A Canal].

Mr Waters has given up his trial to Oxford.

In November, the canal was partially impeded by ice.

7

3 January 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed.

Two vessels belonging to Messrs Waters & Co loaded with Forest Coal passed this place on Saturday last on their trial voyage to Oxford and Henley. I understood from the person who accompanied them that they fully expected the Sea Duty to be taken off Forest coal going to Bristol in about 2 months, by an order in Council. If this is done it will materially affect the Thames trade through this canal as they will be enabled to send by the Kennet & Avon Canal. Bilston Coal last week was again raised 1s 6d per ton at Stourport.

11 January 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed. Annexed you have the particulars of a bill drawn. Mr Procter informs me he has sent the particulars of the water taken from the River Churn during last summer. I shall be obliged by receiving the usual order authorising the payment to the millers, many of them being very much in want of it to satisfy their landlords demands. Having many payments to make which I daily expect will be called for, I shall have to draw upon you at a short date to put Mr Procter in cash for the purpose.

I last week appealed against the charge made on the Company for property tax £230 and got it reduced to £141 5 5d agreeable to the net proceeds of the last year namely £1412 13 11d.

9 January 1815. To James Hill or order 2 months £50.

17 January 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed. Annexed is particulars of drafts drawn. I hope to see the stock of coal at Lechlade considerably improved during the present week, (unless the frost prevents the boats navigating) having 219 tons on its way thither and a further quantity loading.

13 January 1815. To Richard Haynes & Wick Iron Co or order 2 months for iron £16 3 11.

16 January 1815. To Thomas Ball or order for coal two months £60.

24 January 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed.

I beg leave to remind the Committee respecting an order being made for the payment of the Churn Millers claims.

The canal must at length yield to the inclemency of the season.

I shall be obliged to Mr Lane for a card of the Committee meetings.

31 January 1815

The weekly papers are enclosed.

Mr Chambers' shares are transferred and will appear in the list of proprietors in the way he wishes.

8 February 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed.

The canal I hope may be considered out of danger of being stopped any more this season by Frost, and I trust the rivers with which it is connected will not be impeded by floods.

21 February 1815

Herewith you will receive the cash accounts, weekly returns etc for the two last weeks. I have attended at Stroud with the probates of the wills received from Mr Chambers but cannot get them registered and the shares transferred until 29th March, when there will be a Committee meeting (which is required under the Act), unless Mr Chambers is particularly desirous of having it done before, in which case a meeting must be called on purpose.

On the other side you have the particulars of a draft drawn to pay for coal.

William Dicks died yesterday morning of a mortification in his bowels. He had been absent from business about 10 days, but he had been unwell the greater part of the winter. It is an unfortunate circumstance, more particularly at this period, as the 5th April is fast approaching.

10 February 1815. To Thomas Hughes & Co or order 2 months £77 0 6d.

8 March 1815

The cash accounts, weekly returns etc for the last two weeks are enclosed, and annexed are particulars of bills drawn upon you to pay for coal. The vacancy occasioned by the death of William Dicks I beg to state should be filled up as soon as possible. I have taken his department upon myself for the present in order that, if possible, the accounts to 5 April may be got ready in time for the meeting. It however totally precludes me looking after the Company's interest elsewhere.

24 February 1815. To William Addis or order 2 months £40.

7 March 1815. To T Hughes & Co or order 2 months £77 0 6d.

14 March 1815

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return.

Annexed are particulars of drafts drawn upon you to pay for coal. With the banking book on 4th April, I shall be obliged by receiving a few 4s and one or two 5s Bill stamps.

11 March 1815. To John Trotter & Co or order 2 months £140 11 4d.

15 March 1815. To Parkend Coal Co or order 2 months £300.

18 March 1815. To Thomas Ball or order 2 months £50.

NB. The draft to Parkend Coal Co is not drawn upon one of the printed forms.

23 March 1815

Herewith you will receive the usual weekly papers. Below are particulars of a draft drawn to pay for coal.

21 March 1815. To Henry Lewis or order 2 months £37 13s.

29 March 1815

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly returns. I shall attend the meeting of the Stroudwater Committee this day and have Mr Chambers' shares properly registered. The probates I will return per coach tomorrow.

Mr Dick's widow having applied for his salary due, I have requested her to apply again, and in the meantime shall be obliged by being informed whether I am to pay the full quarter's

salary or only up to the period of his death, which was 20th February, as I do not think myself warranted in paying the whole without the Committee's directions.

11 April 1815

The cash accounts, weekly returns etc for the two last weeks are enclosed. On the other side are particulars of drafts drawn to pay for coal.

7 April 1815. To Thomas Ball or order 2 months £55.

8 April 1815. To Thomas Ball or order 2 months £100.

10 April 1815. To Thomas Ball or order 2 months £100.

20 April 1815

Herewith you will receive the cash account, weekly return and half yearly statement of receipts and payments to the 4th inst which I am glad to say far exceeds last year's, and will give (for the year) 30 shillings per share on the Red and 14 shillings per share on the Black shares. The Balance sheet and list of proprietors I will bring with me.

The annexed bill has been drawn upon you to pay for coal

The Bankers Book accompanies this.

12 April 1815. To Thomas Hughes & Co or order 2 months £77 0 6d.

9 May 1815

Enclosed you have the cash accounts and weekly returns to the 6th inst. I have directed Messrs Pitt & Co to pay £100 (part of the balance in their hands) to you in the course of the present week.

I have also written to Mr Hipsley desiring him to collect in his outstanding debts and remit you. Annexed are particulars of a draft drawn to pay for coal.

6 May 1815. To Thomas Hughes & Co or order 2 months £77 0 6d.

23 May 1815

The cash accounts and weekly returns for the two last weeks are enclosed together with the Oxford papers.

I have arranged for the water to be let out of the summit level on Saturday next for 14 days for the purpose of repairs.

6 June 1815

The cash accounts, weekly returns etc for the two last weeks are enclosed.

The canal will be navigable throughout on Monday next. I am taking advantage of the stoppage on the summit, to cleanse some of the ponds of mud etc.

20 June 1815

Enclosed you have the returns for the two last weeks, and annexed are particulars of bills drawn upon you since last advice to pay for coal imported last quarter.

In consequence of several yards of the sidewall and arching of the tunnel having bulged near the Sapperton end, we shall be under the necessity of stopping the canal for a week to repair the same, and I have arranged for that it to take place immediately after the Committee have passed along the line of the canal.

14 June 1815 To Thomas Hughes & Co or order at 2 months £77 0 6d.

16 June 1815 To Parkend Coal Co. or order 2 months £245 11 3d.

20 June 1815 To Thomas Ball or order 2 months £100.

27 June 1815

The cash account, weekly return and Oxford Journal are enclosed. I have directed Messrs Pitt & Co to pay you £200 during the present week. I shall be obliged by your informing me to

what account £300 entered "T&S Committee for Agreement and Account per order of Committee 25 May last" belongs.

11 July 1815

The cash accounts and weekly returns for the two last weeks are enclosed and at foot you have particulars of bills drawn to pay for coal.

10 July 1815 To Thomas Ball or order two months £30.

30 June 1815 To John Prewett or order one month £50.

10 July 1815 To Thomas Hughes & Co. 2 months £77 0 6d.

25 July 1815

The cash accounts, weekly returns etc are enclosed.

Annexed are particulars of a bill drawn since my last advice.

I understand the Lydney coal masters have succeeded in obtaining permission to send Forest coal to Bristol either duty-free or upon payment of a trifling sum, and they are in consequence very busy in shipping for that port. Mr Waters is going to try to send coal to Reading by way of the Kennet & Avon Canal, but I am inclined to think he must either make a greater sacrifice in price than he was ever disposed to do upon what went by the T&S Canal or the proprietors of the K&A Canal must allow it to pass so low in tonnage that it will not be equal to the wear and tear of their property and consequently cannot be permanent. I understand from Mr Oakey, his manager, that he has completely abandoned all idea of sending his coal to Oxford, as impracticable, notwithstanding in his letter, received during the period the Committee were at this place, he endeavoured to point out to them a plan for their selling 20,000 tons annually in that neighbourhood at a clear profit of 1s 9d per ton.

The Bankers book is returned with this.

21 July 1815. To John Dimock or order 2 months £58 15 6dS.

15 August 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed. I shall be obliged by your paying £3 8 6 to Mr William Kay (on account of the Company) when he shall apply for the same.

22 August 1815

The cash account and weekly papers are enclosed.

The following draft has been drawn upon you since last advice to pay for coal.

17 August 1815. To Thomas Hughes & Co or order 2 months £38 10 3d.

29 August 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed and below are particulars of a bill drawn upon you to pay for timber.

23 August 1815. To George Ridler or order 2 months £63 3 6d.

19 September 1815

Account and weekly return are enclosed. I shall be obliged by receiving some stamps the first opportunity, as I expect to have occasion for them very soon.

3 October 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed, also the Bankers book. Should there be any more entries to come into the Books at this place prior to closing them, I shall be obliged by receiving the particulars per post as early as convenient. I have also enclosed a quantity of old stamps (which I found in the iron safe) presuming they can be exchanged for others. If so, be so good as let it be for stamps of 2s 6, but if not, I shall be obliged by having some of that value. Mr Lane, I doubt not, would be good enough to bring them with him.

17 October 1815

The cash accounts, weekly returns etc for the last two weeks are enclosed, together with a draft Mr Winn on Maitland & Coles London £20 to the credit of the Proprietors of the T&S Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge. I have also directed Messrs Pitt & Co to transfer £100, part of the balance in their hands to you.

The undermentioned bill has been drawn upon you to pay for coal.

16 October 1815. To Thomas Ball or order at 2 months £150 7 11d.

22 October 1815

Enclosed you will receive the usual weekly papers together with the half yearly statement of receipts and payments and balance sheet. The balance of the half yearly account, although not so good as that of the corresponding half-year, in consequence of some serious repairs which have been done, as well as from a small deficiency in the receipts, will, I have every reason to believe, with that of the present half year make the total fully equal to last year, as the expenses already incurred will tend to diminish those which are to succeed, particularly in repairs and the Churn River millers.

You will perceive by the cash account I have paid Mr J D Bidmead (otherwise J Driver) for the land taken into the canal with interest at £4 per cent agreeable to the Committee instructions, and I have drawn upon you for the amount at 14-days £256 19 5d, but which bill, if not already done, you will be pleased not to accept or pay when due, as I last evening in searching for some papers in the iron safe discovered a counterpart to the contract Mr Driver had, with a receipt on the back of it signed by Samuel Bidmead (the person with whom the contract was made) for the sum specified therein £113 in the year 1784, and who it appears, from a note which was folded in the contract, was paid by an order of the Committee upon giving a bond of indemnity to the Company. The error appears to me to have arisen from the neglect of the persons who paid him the money not taking from him the instrument given to him at the time the land was valued and agreed for. I shall see Mr Driver today respecting it and will write you again upon the subject. I must beg leave to observe that there can be no question but Mr Driver is perfectly ignorant of the money having been paid.

26 October 1815

I have seen Mr Driver as mentioned in my last and satisfied him as to the money having been paid before and he has in consequence stopped the draft I gave him, and I expect to finally settle the business in a day or two when it will be returned to me. Of course, should it be presented, you will not accept or pay it.

6 November 1815

The cash accounts and weekly returns for the 2 past weeks are enclosed.

I shall be much obliged by your paying Mr John Lane £11 10s when he applies for it and I have given you credit in the present week's cash account accordingly.

14 November 1815

The cash account and weekly papers are enclosed and below are particulars of a draft drawn to pay for coal. I have given you credit for £2 2s, which you will much oblige by paying Mr Lane for J Procter.

7 November 1815. To Hughes & Powell or order 2 months £38 10 3d.

21 November 1815

The cash account and weekly papers are enclosed.

The canal has been partially impeded by ice but I presume is again open. The stock of coal at Lechlade is already adequate to several weeks' demand, even supposing a general frost to commence, and I am pushing a further supply by every possible means.

28 November 1815

The cash account and weekly papers are enclosed.

The Navigation is again impeded by ice above Chalford, but I expect it will be passable again this day, the ice boat etc being there for that purpose.

19 December 1815

The cash accounts, weekly returns etc for the 2 last weeks are enclosed. Annexed are particulars of bills drawn to pay for coal since last advice.

7 December 1815. To Hughes & Powell or order at 2 months £115 10 9d.

9 December 1815. To Parkend Coal Co. or order 2 months £125 1 8d.

15 December 1815. To Thomas Ball or order 2 months £100.

26 December 1815

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed.

I shall be obliged by receiving certificates of the transfer of any shares which may have been sold or otherwise since 1st April last in order that the register at this place may be made to correspond, and I will thank you at the same time to enclose a few 3s 6d and three or four 5s bill stamps.