

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 24, 1918, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Parker House, Boston. May 24th, 1918. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Dear Mabel:

You can see from the handwriting of this letter that I have secured the services of a Sec. pro. tem. to send you a dictated letter. I was glad to receive your Northampton telegram.

I propose to leave for B.B. this evening by the St. John Express and hope I may get through as far as Grand Narrows by Sunday morning.

Casey has shown me your telegram, May 22, stating that Kathleen has telegraphed "account overdrawn fifty five hundred and that you have mailed her \$3000.

I have been having a full talk with Casey and find that it will be necessary for us to provide at once a large amount of money to pay for materials & stock already ordered and which may arrive at any time. It is no use sending a \$3000 cheque. Casey estimates that we will require in round figures about \$15000 more than we have on hand to meet the orders already given and I would say that we should provide at once the sum of \$20,000 for the laboratory account. I don't know what arrangements you have made with the American Security and Trust Company, but I should think that this is a poor time for borrowing money and that it is poor policy anyway to borrow money to pay for what is really an investment. Please consult with Charlie at once upon the matter 2 and say that my idea would be to sell some stock to raise the amount required. This should be done at once so as to relieve Casey of the anxiety and responsibility of giving large orders without the wherewithall in hand to meet the expenses.

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In June we will begin to receive income from our boats at the rate of \$1000 per week up to \$19000 in all. This will be the payment for the 38 lifeboats ordered by the Imperial Munitions Board and as we are building 50 boats this will leave us 12 lifeboats in hand as stock boats to be sold with immediate delivery.

It is very difficult to get lifeboat materials at the present time. We have to pay high prices and the prices are rising. We therefore formed the policy of ordering materials in excess of our immediate requirements. The excess material will always be worth at least what we paid for it probably a great deal more.

Our expenditures not only represent an investment which may result in the establishment of a permanent boat-building industry in the neighborhood of Baddeck but also represent our attempt to help the country. Having made up our mind to "doing our bit" it is no use nibbling at the matter. See Charlie and arrange for \$20,000 at once.

Your loving husband, Alec. P. S. When I reach Baddeck I will go over Laboratory accounts with Miss Campbell to see that your cheques were properly credited etc., Think everything O.K. AGB.