

LETTER 86

Sept. 23rd. 1909

A.E. Dewar Esq.,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

Dear Dewar,

Yours of 13th to hand, with rough sketches from which I understand you have quoted £100 for altering the present clock to motor wind, although you say for supplying a complete movement installed.

If you could have given me the diameter and number of teeth of wheels on each winding drum, and also the next pinions and wheels above that, I might have been able to get the necessary wheels to fix it up over there, but am afraid we should have to bring the works here to be altered as special wheels would have to be cut. We could leave a clock working the dials in the meantime which I could bring over with me. I fully expect to go to Sydney and Melbourne this next month and will go over to New Zealand, keep me in touch where you are and would wire, am only waiting to finish off an Electric Lighting job we have been on and get in the money, so that I can get back in time to go on with another Turret Clock for the Asylum in Toowoomba.

The Post Office is a great success and the motor action works splendidly, and requires no attention at all. We are just sending another lot of 2 ft. dials to be added to the Toowoomba installation and the extra ones for the new post office.

We are not restricted in any way as to sale of patents they are all my own, but Atthow says that the clause has to go in because if by any unforeseen circumstance (which is not likely) the patent was proved invalid the buying party could come on us for damages.

Re the cost of plant for manufacture, about £250 only would be necessary even for manufacturing the Turret clocks this would include a wheel cutting lathe which alone would cost about £100, the other requirements would be small. In selling, the price to me had better allow for giving tuition and designs and patterns, £500 would be little enough for this and including all patents and improvements. The profit to be obtained on the large clocks would never be less than 50% and in some cases 75%. We can turn out a Turret movement for dials 6 ft. diameter for £20. The total cost all depends on the traveling and fitting and facilities for doing the job.

I cannot understand the trouble at Timaru, if you can, get them to wait until I come over we would fix it up. There must be something very much out of adjustment to require all that current, even eight leclanche cells would be nothing much if they had only to be charged once a year, the cost then would be 1/6 to do so. The reason of the dial going out is the erratic working of the controller which probably made intermittent contacts.

I could not possibly go into the prices of different size dials &c. you know that, but take our standard 12" dials we can now land the frame, dial, movement, hands &c. all from different works at a cost of about 10/- the lot, after assembling we sell this at £2/7/6 the cost of assembling when doing a quantity I estimate at 7/6. Of course some of the other dials do not show quite this profit.

You ask for price of double 3ft. dial with Turret movement, this is a waste of money as the step by step movement would be far the cheapest, the turret movement for 3 ft. would be the same as for 6 ft. Did not find letter from Mullions enclosed.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
Alf Geo Jackson