

Copy sent to Mr. Down - May 20/38

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All communications should be addressed to the
SECRETARY GENERAL

Telegrams
AVEUGLES WESDO LONDON

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

PATRONS
HIS MAJESTY THE KING
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

INCORPORATED 1902,
REGISTERED UNDER THE BLIND PERSONS ACT 1920.

224-6-8 GREAT PORTLAND STREET
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Please quote WE/JB

*Dr. Swift
Please also see...*

SOUND RECORDING COMMITTEE

30th April, 1938.

Captain E.A. Baker,
Managing Director,
Canadian National Institute for the Blind,
186 Beverley Street,
Toronto 2, Ontario,
Canada.

RECEIVED
APR 30 1938
ANSWERED

Dear Captain Baker,

I have been in correspondence with Dr. Swift on the breakages of our Talking Books. We recognise the disadvantages of the rather heavy and rather fragile records which have been produced now in such large quantities for our English Talking Books. I would like to say for the credit of our English postal service that your ratio of breakages to loans was higher than ours but I am afraid it would not be true. Our ratio is also disquieteningly high and we are hoping to meet the difficulty by using a much improved type of container and by recording books henceforward on a lighter and more flexible i.e. less fragile record material. We sent 100 of the new type of container to Dr. Swift on the 14th April. I hope he now has them in use. Books on the more flexible material are now appearing and I hope very much that the combination of better containers and flexible records will very largely reduce the incidence of breakage. My own opinion from the earliest days of gaining our first experience has been that a Talking Book for distribution by post must have qualities of lightness and non-fragility which are not to be found in any gramophone record and it is for that reason in particular that I am continuing to pin my hopes on a film recording device which will give effective and agreeable reading at a reasonably low cost. That practicable film device is not yet within sight but I feel pretty sure it is coming.

Will you let us have a list of the records that have been broken and which you wish to replace. I will speak to Fraser with a view to seeing whether we can meet you in any way with the cost.

Yours sincerely,

W. M. C. Eagar

Secretary-General.

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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OBJECTS:
TO AMELIORATE THE CONDITION OF
THE BLIND OF CANADA AND
TO PREVENT BLINDNESS

16 May 1938.

COLONEL BAKER:

Re Talking Books.

Noted. Rab/6

Dear Colonel Baker:

I have read with pleasure Mr. Eagar's letter on the above subject. It is encouraging to note that records are now being produced of lighter weight and with a better composition than the old ones, and I hope that our difficulties with the British discs will soon be a thing of history. For your information I would say that, from April 1st to May 14th, nineteen British records were broken. It does not look as though the recommendations of the Post Office are having much effect.

I was interested to note Mr. Eagar's reference to the film as the solution of our talking book problems. It is to be hoped the solution will soon be reached, though it will, in a sense, put our organizations on the spot for causing so many blind people to invest in phonographic appliances. But of course the disc will still be employed to some extent.

D. E. S.