

"... I have learned indirectly that you have advised Mr. Brian Cannon of Winnipeg to the effect you are satisfied there is nothing unusual about the metal and that in your opinion it is manganese steel, apparently being ladle residue from the Sorel Foundry which inserts a pipe into their waste molten material for lifting purposes and the pipe leaves a hole after solidification. Again, it would be appreciated if you could confirm that this statement is correct. If it is, then this information is, of course, of interest to us although it still leaves a number of unanswered questions. For example, the *lipped* protuberance in the mass can hardly be described as a "hole" left behind by a pipe, and according to one of the original CARDE reports on our files "a small electronic potting can was embedded near one of the outer edges. By scratching away the potting plastic, it was possible to identify an electronic component which appeared to be a transistor. Then there is the matter of the inclusions on the outer surface of the metal. Did the Sorel Foundry have any explanation to offer with regard to the inclusions? As you know, photographs taken with the aid of microphotography, led the late Wilbert B. Smith to believe that these inclusions might be micrometeorites, and according to our records, you carried out some investigative work with him in this regard, estimating that micrometeorites of this size would occur through a sq. cm. section at about 10-6 second, so that it would take about a year in space to accumulate such a density. We would also be interested to know how the metal mass was traced to the Sorel Foundry, how they were able after over 9 years to identify it as being their own ladle residue, and particularly their explanation as to how and why this 3000-lb. chunk of metal and its companion mass of 800 lbs. were transported some 50-60 miles up river from the Sorel Foundry to the location where it was found on the shore of the St. Lawrence River near Les Ecuirels, Quebec. The finding of the metal in these strange circumstances has, of course, always been the biggest mystery of all and we would welcome any explanation you may have to offer as a result of your investigation.

I am sure that you are just as anxious as we are to clear up some of the mystery which has surrounded the metal for so long and as, if your statement to Brian Cannon is correct that there is "nothing unusual about the metal," this matter can hardly be a classified or confidential one, I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me a full scientific report of your investigation, including any explanations you can offer for the questions raised in the foregoing paragraph, which of course, would clear up this matter once and for all. You will appreciate that a large number of people have become interested in this metal and therefore you would be performing a public service in supplying the requested information. We only want to get at the truth of this matter, but as a scientist, you will understand that in order to get any statement fully accepted, it must be supported by a scientific report from an authoritative source. Your kind co-operation will be very much appreciated."

To date, two months later, no reply has been received to this letter, which was not entirely unexpected. Did Dr. Millman find our questions too sticky to answer or was he adopting the safer course of the old adage that says Silence is Golden? We are not blaming him personally for this somewhat cavalier attitude towards a

public request for information — in fact, we have some sympathy for the embarrassing position he now finds himself in. Even as a senior civil servant, he still has to take his orders from a higher authority and as long as governmental silence policy exists on such matters, this situation will continue although we believe the day will finally dawn when governments will recognize their moral responsibilities and give the public the true facts. However, the fact remains that Dr. Millman's silence has only added further to the mystery of the chunk of hardware.

Meanwhile, Arthur Bray (whose UFO submission to the Senate's science policy committee is reported in this issue) has finally received a letter from Dr. Millman in which he states that the results of Dr. Smith's (Dr. Eric Smith of the Federal Mines Branch) study of the metal samples show no evidence of extraterrestrial origin and therefore he feels there is no justification of further tests such as the neutron activation analysis suggested by Arthur. He said Dr. Smith hopes to complete his report shortly, that it will include some evidence of how and why the mass came to be located where it was found and that when available, a copy of the report will be sent. It was somewhat amusing to us that in referring to the questions raised in our letter, which we considered to be *vital issues* in the solution of the mystery, Dr. Millman casually dismisses them as "minor points" of no particular value! Understandably, the failure to answer these questions and to carry out the full tests suggested is not very satisfactory to us. Dr. Millman stated that competent scientists experienced no difficulty in recognizing the non-terrestrial nature of certain space material. He also deplored the mystery which had been built up around the chunk. These two latter statements we regard as the biggest enigmas of all. If it is such an easy matter for scientists to determine the extra-terrestrial nature or otherwise of material tested, why has it taken the government over nine years to produce a simple statement of the facts of the case, thereby itself creating much of the mystery that has surrounded the metal?

And so, with this sort of persistence, the classic case of Ottawa's "chunk" continues to take shape. Right now it seems to be a case where the chances of further mystery or a mundane final answer are about equal. But if the same continuing effort were shown elsewhere in probing UFO incidents, there is no doubt the aspects of a true mystery would often overwhelm any other conclusion.

*One of the earliest UFO sightings recorded in Canada occurred on the night of Feb. 9, 1913. First seen near Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, several lights moving with geometrical precision appeared out of the northwest sky. Later tracked over Ontario by many observers, including Professor C. A. Chant of the University of Toronto, the lights moved on over New England and were later seen by ships far out in the South Atlantic where they vanished. Travelling "like express trains," to quote one observer, the objects were divided into formations of four lights, followed by three lights and by another two lights. As one group disappeared into the southeast another, following the same path, appeared in the northwest.*