

25. 6. 24

Before closing, I just get your last letter, and hope that the bird you tell me was caught by a falcon is doing better now.

We have had the poorest possible weather ever since the races began and a fortnight ago we had a horrible disaster, losing 70 to 80% of the birds.

Out of 17, I had the good fortune to see 10 back, and the best of the lot, and was happy enough to get out of it at that cost.

This last Sunday we had some real weather, bright and hot with strong head wind; I had sent birds to four races and I send you the papers with the results by same mail; you will see that, given proper weather, my birds can make some show:

Chimay: 125 kilos: 4 birds sent; 3 prizes

Compiègne: 260 kilos: 2 birds sent: 2 prizes, first with 3 minutes advance on the second.

Dourdan: 365 kilos. second prize, winning about frs. 6000-; my other birds came in one minute too late.

Limoges: 620 kilos. 2 birds sent: win first prize with an advance of 13 minutes. As you will see by the prize-list,

that bird winning the race is my Fred, father of your Vierzon.

Coming back to that Heuvelmans affair, I cannot really imagine how he has had the cheek to invent what he has said. Since 1904, I have been champion, and I could ship you a load of diplomas; yet I have thrown scores and scores away. How then could I have been put out of the fancy, if I have won the championship each year?

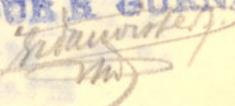
At my own expenses, you must make him retract what he has said or sue him and make him pay damages for his slander. He has got to explain himself fully and publicly, so as to undo what he has done, else pay the penalty.

As for Mr. Howlett, do not worry on account of what he may say or think; if it be beyond his intellect to understand that birds paid such prices as you have paid yours are not better than cheaper birds, even of the same strain, and absolutely pure, leave him alone: he will never understand anything. What I can clearly see at the distance is that he likes to make mischief, and I cannot be bothered with such people. At any rate, I would not bother with him for competing against Curtis's Bastin birds, for he is not serious enough to my mind.

Wishing you the very best luck in the races, and with kindest regards, believe me, dear Friend,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ROBERT GURNAY



Charles F. Hoser, President,
Norristown, Pa.

Clarence R. Edwards, Vice-Pres.,
Westwood, Mass.

THE AMERICAN RACING PIGEON CLUB

Robert W. Howlett, Secy-Treas.
Melrose, Mass.

Samuel P. Gibson, Race Secretary,
197 Lakeview Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

Melrose, Mass. June 26, 1924.

Mr. Lee M. Ford,
Great Falls, Montana.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Yours of the 16 th. received and was glad to received a line from Le Martinet which fully satisfys you. As I have before stated the only way one could be sure was to write as you did and there is no harm done to Gurnay or anyone else.

I have heard from others about Bastien, but it seems funny with a man who had the name he has in the fancy as they say his birds are as good as Gurnays. Why one should be jealous is beyond me, but that seems to run in the homing pigeon game.

Thanking you for your letter.

Very truly yours,

R. Howlett

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE July 4th. 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

My dear Friend,

Very many thanks for your kind letters of the 16. 19 and 20. ult. which I receive all together.

I beg of you to excuse overlooking the copy of Adriaensens's letter in my previous letter; here it is, along with the copy of another letter which I send to-day to that Heuvelmans, in reply to his of the 16th. in which he grumbles about what he calls my insults and also says that all he has circulated was told him by Adriaensens.

After all, I do not know the latter either, and he may possibly be as much to blame as Heuvelmans. We are not short of nasty men of that sort here not any more than elsewhere, but all the same, Adriaensens was care-ful enough to tell his story to a man living abroad, for he dares not recount it to a Belgian, of course. But Heuvelmans had no right to circulate those rumours before making sure. Adriaensens is certainly a double-faced fellow, and Dujardin who just came to spend a few days with us this week, has made a note of what Heuvelmans has to say and is going to see Adriaensens about it and try to thrash it all out. However, with such people, what can one do? They tell lies just as easily as they eat or drink, and most time if you wish to bring an action against them for slander they have not got any money, or hardly any, to pay the damages, and there you are landed with all the costs to bear.

In all that, there is but jealousy and competition for the sale of birds; I suppose you have had plenty of similar cases brought to your notice ere this one. It is not the first time that it happens, and I was very sorry for you, as you had had faith in me, but for myself I did not care a straw about what they may have to say.

Without the slightest advert. I have been known the whole world over, all through those who have had faith in me and for whom my birds, when properly handled, have done their work. Herein a letter received this week from that man in Buenos-Aires who, I think, wrote you for particulars about my strain; you will see that he has started doing something with my strain, again in a very different climate to yours and ours.

It is quite natural that a fancier who pays a big price has to be better served than another who does not pay so well; yet the latter can not complain, for not a bird leaves here that is not my strain pure. In a loft, whatever you do, and however careful you be, you cannot breed all AI birds; sometime you mate the two best birds you have got and their youngsters are no good. Yet they are sure in time to produce something that is good, for the strain is in them. One tries to breed as many perfect birds as possible, but that does not mean that one succeeds.

The one thing that matters most is to have the strain; and that you have.

Re Bastin birds, I do not wonder at what you tell me; Bastin would cross-breed with all kinds of birds, always trying to get something good or better, with the result that he has spoilt what good he formerly had.

That bird sold to Curtis which won 1st. prize Limoges cannot compare with my old Fred that has won the same race this year. When Bastin won

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

it was an easy day, the birds being timed in at about 2 p.m. and there were that day six birds competing for the first prize and which had been timed in at the same time; this year when my Fred won it, it was after 6 p.m. a hard day with a strong head wind and very hot, and my bird came alone, fifteen minutes before any other in the race. That is the way to win a prize, and with such hard weather you may be sure that you also will see what my strain can do, given bright weather of course.

I still am without news, and without money, from Gibson, and you will understand that I have lost all confidence in that man. I paid off Mr. Dujardin yesterday, as that deal had been done through me, but he will be the one who will suffer through this, for, even against money in advance, he shall never again get one single bird from any of my friends, Body, Dardenne and Dujardin.

I have given him till the end of this month to pay off his debt, but I somehow doubt that he will pay by that date.

As for Heuvelmans, I shall await what you say you will submit to me and see what can be done with your suggestion should he refuse to apologize through the Press as I invite him to do.

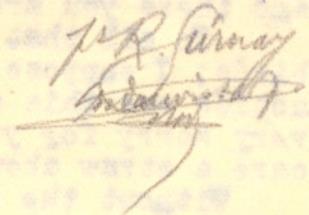
So glad to hear that my strain is doing well for you and your friend Coppens.

Last Sunday I again score 1st. prize with an advance at Noyon, but it was an easy day and it does not become me to boast of so easy a success.

So sorry to hear that you cannot expect to be able to come with Mrs. Ford and your young lady; it would have been so nice indeed you talk all matters over and show you all about the birds, and above all to make your acquaintance. Yet, it still is time to make an effort, is it not ?

With all best wishes, and kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Gurnay', with a flourish underneath.

4th. July 1924

Mr. A. Heuvelmans

Brooklyn

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of June 16th. in answer to mine dated June 2nd. and 4th.

Do not believe for one instant that the letter was written by a man who was out of his mind, for I very well knew what I was doing, and it seems rather strong to me that you should request me to apologize after what you have done to harm me without the slightest reason for so doing.

I shall certainly never apologize before you have done what is absolutely necessary in order to right to wrong you have done; and it seems rather funny, that you should want apologies when you have intentionally circulated rumours absolutely unfounded, knowing but too well that it could not fail to do me any amount of harm.

In the States, not any more than in Belgium, it is not allowed to circulate rumours intended to damage anybody's reputation without proofs, and of these you had none, barring perhaps what a man might have told you without offering to supply you with any proofs. Your bounden duty, if you so wanted to protect the American fanciers, was to make sure that what had been told you was true, before starting damaging my reputation.

So far, Mr. Adriaensens denies your report, as you know, and it will probably be hard to make out who is right and who is wrong between you and him, but it was none the less the duty of any honest man to make sure that such grave reports were absolutely true and correct before starting such a campaign as you have started.

You say that you have no interest in damaging my strain of birds: but was not that done on purpose to enhance the value of the Delmotte birds which you purchased and have now to sell? Advertise that strain, that is your right, but do not do it by running down mine, which, whether you like it or not, is the first in the world.

I have had these last few days Mr. Dujardin as a guest, and having shown him the whole matter, he absolutely fails to understand how anyone may be so badly-minded as to spread such rumours without proofs, whether he were or were not told all he has circulated. He is going to see Mr. Adriaensens on his return to Antwerp and try to thrash the whole matter out, as he has read your aforesaid letter most carefully and made a note of what you have to say about that man and your acquaintanceship.

I must own that, after having read your letter, I really believe he has told you something, trying to do business with you, but in that case he is going to be exposed to the fancy here, I can assure you.

Yet, I cannot but tell you again that, at any price, were you to circulate these sayings before having the proofs of them; it is easy enough to damage somebody's reputation, and not as easy to mend it, the more so as I am far away and unknown personally to all concerned on your side.

Herewith copy of a letter written to a friend in the States by the Martinet, and I should like to know what Mr. Osman, of the London R.P. replied to your enquiries.

At any rate, if you want particulars about me and my dealings, I can

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

supply you with as many references in this and other countries as you might wish to have, both individuals and clubs.

I am perfectly aware that people in your country, and elsewhere too, have sold birds as pure Gurnays, making money out of my name, but however am I to prevent that, I ask you? It is certainly most to be regretted, but those who buy the birds ought to make sure that they buy the real stuff, and that is easy enough with the rings that are registered with the Fédération Colombophile belge.

In the last issue of the London R.P. there is again a fellow who offers pure Gurnays on sale, a Belgian mind you. He never had a bird of my strain in his loft, and as far as it goes, I never heard the name of that man before, let alone knowing him.

I sell my birds honestly, and request the buyers to pay what I consider a fair price, knowing full well that they get their money worth, but you will certainly admit that my responsibility does not go any further. Would you imagine me being responsible when a buyer of even most excellent birds, for which he has paid a big price, does not know how to handle them or their offspring???? Do not forget that I am in Belgium and that those who complain are in America.

Mr. Ford has had birds from me (that is the gentleman who wrote to the Martinet for informations about your rumours) and you may ask him what he has done with the strain.

Now it is up to you to see whether it be not absolutely necessary to have a retraction of your rumours published in the fancy press in your country, in order to undo the harm you have done me. Short of the most express rectification, I cannot be satisfied for you had no right to damage my reputation, whatever your purposes were.

It is the duty of an honest man, and we shall see if you can do it.
Yours truly,

COPY

July 7th 1924

Mr. Samuel Gibson.
197 Lakeview Ave.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir.

Just received one more of those nasty and noisy letters of Mr Gurnay. of which I suppose you have received a copy in order to make his meanness complete. as I do not believe that there has ever been a man that was his equal in writing letters as disgusting as him.

If you consider that he writes me on June 2nd congratulating me on my stand with the fancy. and with regards to the sale of birds. and in an other paragraph states that was going to force Mr Adriaensens to explain him self, so as to obtain full satisfaction, on June 4th he writes me again. telling me that Mr. Adriaensens has denied having spoken to me about the strain of his birds, and right away explodes in a shower of accusations against me. Do you think that a man can get the bottom of this matter by just asking Mr Adriaensens. if he has made those statements yes or no? I say no. as many a man is willing to tell you something, but ask them to put it on paper, and it will be a different story.

I have explained the entire matter in my letter to Mr. Gurnay of which I have sent you copy. and he can use my name. there is not one word in it that is not so, or do you think me capable of using the name of the publisher of a paper if I was not sure of what I said, it is only on account of me thinking that the information given me by a man that is in a position to know, that I gave you the information, for you to find out what it was worth. you were the first man I spoke about it.

Now in an other paragraph he tells me that I have invented all these myself, in order to enhance the value of my Delmott's which I want to sell. Mr. Gurnay would not know that I have a few Delmatts, and I have my reasons to believe that you have told him, if so. I must say that you have given him some very false information, which would only tend to throw oil in the fire, as I have never been engaged in the business of selling pigeons, and have no intention of doing it now, I have had opportunity to sell my pair # 1 Delmotts. in Boston to your friends, but refused, never have I advertised birds for sale as my surplus birds as a rule find their way to the kitchen, or give them to some beginner, my birds are all over the country and the money I have collected for them, would not pay your fee bill for one month, to my friends I have all ways given them some birds, if I received letters from fanciers that wanted to buy some of my birds, I very seldom answered them My aim has always been to make some one happy by given him a good bird, and may say that I am a sport of the kind that we need very badly in this country. and you know it. but I refuse to be a pigeon dealer. So why misrepresent the facts to Mr. Gurnay do you take pleasure in making matters worse than what it is, if I was in the habit of writing letters of the Gurnay kind, I should then have a few nice words for you, as you can not prove that I have ever offered one pigeon for sale. as long as you know me. and I want you to know that I do not intend to sell the Delmott. You need not be afraid that I will become a competitor of you in selling Pigeons.

"(20) Mr Gibson.

We have to many washwomen pigeon men, and you certainly belong to that class if you have told Mr Gurnay that I want to sell my Delmott's and that I for that reason invented some slander against that man. I repeat that the information I gave you originated in Belgium, and that I have given it to you the way I received it, you are to blame more than any one else, as I gave it to you the first crack out the box. for you to investigate and you allowed it to drag on for a year. why did you not take the necessary steps right after I told you where you afraid to tackle such delicate question?? I still stand by the information I have received, and am willing to repeat it before any and every judge. Mr Gurnay can not make me believe anything else, until such a time that he can prove to me that he has never been in trouble about the sale of birds before Jan 1st 1923. if my informant does back out that does not alter the case the men that told me I believed them. if Mr. Gurnay can prove that the things said against him are not so, than of course there will be nothing left to do than to act as a gentleman, and will certainly condemn those that gave me the false information.

Mr. Gibson. I believe that we can make a short cut in obtaining the truth, in this matter. and that is the following. if Mr. Gurnay can supply me with a certificate or a statement indorsed by the Belgian Federation, that he has not been in trouble about the sale of birds before Jan 1st 1923 I will then have same published in the papers. in justice to Mr Gurnay. this would I believe save a lot of trouble, and give us some information where we can depend on, I for my part want to know nothing but the truth, and it makes absolutely no difference to me what Mr. Gurnay has to say about me my standing is every bit as good as yours and Mr Gurnay combined. and want to tell you that I will do all I can to prevent any fancier from being stripped of his money, by account of blue blooded advertizement nets, as I am working out a system by which every pedigree will have to be investigated, and each pedigree to have the indorsement of the Belgian Federation, instead of the certification of the pigeon dealer which in my opinion has no value, it is the same as a man certifying his own check it will protect that buys expensive birds as well as the man that sells them as all suspicion will be eliminated, and do away with slander, if the man that sell the birds is really above suspicion, had this method existed the talk about Mr Gurnay would never have come up.

I also want to tell you that I have never mentioned that Mr Gurnay has bought birds on the market. to sell them here, and I am wondering if you also told Mr Gurnay. that I said so. have I told you that? please say yes or no.

There is but one thing that hurts me in this matter, and that is that Mr Gurnay is of the idea that I invented those rumors for my own benefit, if he would only stop and think he would see that I really got the information while I was actually decided to get some of his birds, and that it was only after that I had the information that I bought the Delmotts. He seem to be a very exidible fellow that spits out everything he thinks, without considering. You may tell Mr. Gurnay in my name that the first opportunity I have to come to Belgium that I will not neglect to make one of my first stops at his place, and am absolutely convinced that this man will have an entirely different idea about me when we part than what he has now, unless he is a man where you can not talk to.

In closing I want to advise you, to keep out of this trouble now, since you were not willing to enter at the very start, and above all to tell Mr Gurnay only those things which you absolutely know, but no suppositions of you.

Your very truly.

(2) Mr Gurnay June 16th

Mr Adriaensens seem to have but very statement to make, ~~which~~ which was entirely different on the 1st day of January, he did not seem to have any intention of stopping to talk.

Well Mr Gurnay .it is entirely up to you to believe me or not, but have you asked yourself this question? Why should Mr Heuvelmans try to hurt my reputation? What can he gain by it? on the other hand have you not as every successful pigeon man your enemies? in Belgium. that would do and say anything imaginable for their own profit? would I do such a thing to hurt Mr Gibson? I may say no, for reason that I have always been on the best of terms with him, and that I have never been in the business of selling pigeons, not of my own, or of someone else's, you should realize that I have no other interest in this matter than to protect my brother fanciers, from men that have nothing in mind than to get the American dollars.

In reading my letter you will notice that something s that have happened in the past would be unknown to me, had not some one told me, and that some one is Mr Adriaensens, it was 12 years since I had been in Belgium and the relation between you and Mr. Dujardin is none of my business, but Mr Adriaensens seem to be very much interested in it, you do not know me from Adam, and upon receipt of a letter in which Mr Adriaensens tells you that he never spoke to me about your strain you jump in the air, and accuse a man that is just as honest and honorable as you would like to be, I am not running away, and trying to get out of this, as it would be a pleasure for me to go with you to the men that told me all these and make them repeat it, if you are unjustly been accused, I would like to know it, and if you are justly been accused, than I will help to condemn you, should the report been false. I would then be man enough to write you a letter in which I would offer you my appologie, that is the American way of settling disputes instead of insulting each other by mail. let that be a lesson to you.

Talk with Mr. Gibson. This gentleman being your representative here, I had decided to tell him what I had heard, while on the other side, and told him what I knew, so that he could find out or write you, this was on the convention in Boston, the following day we went to visit his loft? Mr. Gibson was in the loft I was standing in front of it, he had a man in the loft with him? I presume a prospective buyer of pigeons, he at once told me, you said that Gurnay had been put out the fancy, and I told him, or at least gave him to understand to drop that point while he was talking to someone that may buy birds, and that we would have time enough later to talk about that? but had no intention to drop the matter entirely. as I repeat it I want to know all about it. letters are on the way to Belgium, and only hope that these men will tell me right off the shoulders, Yes or No, and that they are not made of the same stuff as Mr Adriaensens

I wrote Mr. Adriaensens on May ~~22nd~~ 31st. asking him in a mild way to repeat what he had said on Jan 1st 1924, had you waited a few days longer before writing him, there would have been a chance for me to show you black on white what he had to say, all these chances you have destroyed as he will now not confirm to me what he has denied you. Mr Adriaensens, is not your friend, and not a friend of Mr. Dujardin, and would advice you to have some one to talk to him about your strain of birds, and I feel sure that, that man will have the same experience I had as he was very liberal with his statements.

If the translation of Mr Adriaenssens letter is incorrect, then I can not help saying that it is the work of a double faced man, a flatterer in your presence, and the opposite behind your back. I give you my word that his conversation with me was entirely contrary to his letter of June 3rd. to you. such men are dangerous to talk to, and I will certainly let him know what I think about him. The all matter as I can see it, is that he has told me something that he does not dare to tell you, and believes that it is the best way for him to deny the all matter, so as to shift the blame on me, as I am a good distance away. Up to this matter came up I always thought him to be a man whose word I could depend, and I have known him since I was a boy, as we are neighbors for many years, yes for 30 years have I known him and he has known me until I came to America in 1911, and according to his letter it would seem as if he had met me for the first time at a pigeon exhibition?

I also have a number of letters of fanciers that have paid big money for Gurnay birds, and that are absolutely dissatisfied. with them one ask me .Do you know Mr Gurnay personally? and does he know that his birds are not given satisfaction in this country? is he aware that the fanciers are losing them as fast as they breed them.

Mons Gurnay seem to win plenty every year, but the Gurnays certainly are not doing anything remarkable in this country, that is the Gurnays sent out by Gibson to fanciers whom I know, and which are supposed to be the real stuff direct from Gurnay loft.

Now Mr Gurnay that is what some of the fanciers think of your birds, and if you ever want to writ me again be carefull with the language you are using, as all the brutality used in your letter of June 4th can only bring to you what you are looking for, I have explained to you the all matter, right off the shoulders, have absolutely no interest to hurt your or any one elses reputation, and will not back out from what I told you in this letter, if others that are the originators of these, are not men enough to stand by what they told me, then I loss all confidence in the Belgian pigeon men, as they are only good to bring others into trouble.

Your truly.

This is what I wrote East asking for any information available regarding Gibson:

""""What I am writing for principally is to find out about Gibson's bank roll and financial standing as Monw. Gurnay writes he has not heard from him since October 23d and he has sent him baskets and clocks and received no money, and that he will no longer represent him here in any way. Just wondering if it is another case of Charley Sachs. Get the money and let the seller wait or whistle for it.

I remember you told me he has not worked steady since the N.Y.N.H.R.R. and he parted company, and felt you might know what was what.

Answer received from above request:::::

"""""" Confidentially speaking it is no news that I had not expected about G. The poor fellow is down and out, and recently had his telephone disconnected. If I get the chance I will see him and touch him up on ~~same~~ without mentioning any names and then write you and you can pass ~~it~~ information along to Gurnay.

Now that party you ask me about means to be honest, but things are so hard maybe he slipped up for the time being. Do not think there is a dishonest bone in his body, but that may be I am easily fooled, & but doubt it as my dealings with him have always been O.K. """"

As soon as any other information is obtained regarding the status of the above mentioned, it will be sent to you immediately.

July 8th 1924.

Mr. R. Gurnay,
61 rue aux Laines,
Verviers.

Dear Sir,

Have yours of June 24th and in reply beg to say, that due to the improper language and insults contained in your various letters, that I will in the future and from now on, only reply to letters which are written in a language fit for gentlemen.

Should I receive another one written in the same way as those previously accepted I will consider it as "non avenue" and hand it over to the Postal Authorities.

Enclosed find letter adressed to Mr. Gibson.

Yours very truly,

Enclosure.

July 16th 1924.

Gurnay.
aux Laines

Dear Sir.

Thanking me for details about the reports and also your most insulting letter of June 4th, which I believe would act as a gentleman.

Under ordinary circumstances I would not even waste the time of answering you, but as I believe that you have acted without thinking, I will explain the entire matter to you, so that you can find out in Belgium who the cause is of this mix-up, and then judge for your self if you were justified in writing me such infamous letter.

On or about Dec. 28th I went to Ghent to see Mr Plasschaert, I arrived at his home about 2 pm, and was informed that he would not be in before 5PM. I then decided to go to the Grand Hotel en face de la Gare du Paye de Waes, the place where Vercreusen used to be, and talk pigeons for an hour in order to kill the time, it did not take long before a man from Kiel by Antwerp joined me at the same table, also the man behind the barr, I believe the proprietor of the place, I explained to them that I came from America, and that I had heard so much about the Gurnay birds, that I had the intention of going to Verviers the following day, and try to get some of those birds, the two men looked at each other, and it was only after I had questioned them several times that they told me that I should keep away from there, and that you had been in trouble about the sale of birds, but as I asked me to come to Ghent the following Sunday, as there was going to be a sale of a famous flyer of the Flanders, the man which I think to be the proprietor of the Hotel was a man about 30 to 35 years of age, blond.

On New Years day I went to Borgerhout together with my wife, to my old friend Max Hermans, who had his birds on exhibition in the Nieuwe Docktor, after all was over, we went to the Leeuw, it was there that we met Mr Adriaensens, him being the Editor of a pigeon paper, thought that if there was anything in the report circulated that he should know about it, he confirmed most of it, and added that most of your birds came from Mr. Dujardin that you had been exchanging birds for a number of years, Yes that every time Mr. Dujardin had a good bird, that you knew how to get it, and returned to him worthless Gurnays, to the extent that Mr. Dujardin held a sale some time in 1922 and that the Gurnays had been advertised very extensively, but that they could hardly get a bid on them, I have repeatedly asked him if he knew what he was saying and answered me that he would make good for what he said, I do not understand him denying his words which have been said in my presence, and the presence of Mrs Heuvelmans, from his letter it would appear as he does not know me, why then did he come to me on Jan 3rd to the home of my parents in law at 44 Rotterdamsche street Antwerp trying to do business with me., in America, he offered me to buy birds for me and to ship them to me. My wife and myself are ready to make a sworn affidavit whenever you think it may be of help to you, BUT not before you write me a letter of appologie for the rotten language, used in your letters of June 4th Instead of insulting me, I believe that you should have awaited the reply on your letter of June 2nd, as it is simple enough for Mr Adriaensens to tell you that he never said that, if I am not at the spot to tell him to his face that he did.

bf

(2) MR. Lee.Ford.

I donot believe that any man could have acted fairer in the matter than I did,by bringing these reports right to the man connected with Mr, Gurnay.

In my letter of June 16th to Mr,Gurnay I have explained the entiere matter giving him names,addresses and dates,when and were those things had been said.in his letter to me of July 4th he only referse to Mr.Adriaensens and not at all to Ghent were I got the information first why not??? he does not speak about ghent at aal,

As to you writting to the Martienez,I never mentioned that the Martinez atold me.I have only sujested to writ to them as I believed that if there was some thruth in the rumors thaa they should know about it.

Mr.Ford I am not the liar,or the swine which Mr Gurnay writes me,in his letters of which you have copys,every word I have sent him in explanation of this matter is absolutly as stated, I have offered him to send affidavits of Mrs. Heuvelmans,and myself if they could be of any help to him in the matter ,he has not even asked me for them, possibly because I told him that I would not do anything for him until he sends me a letter of appologie for the rotten language used in his letter. of June 4th and 24th.

I Have written to the Belgian Federation asking them to give me the facts,should my answer be favorable to Mr, Gurnay I would than be only to willing to co operate with you and find the best way to do justice to Mr Gurnay,as I have no intention whatever to hurt him,but the men that ~~shoud~~ gave me the information should be called on the carpet to explain,if the things said are not so.But I refuse to do anything for Mr, Gurnay aslong as he does not take his liars and swines back.

AS soon I receive the reply from the Federation,I will send you copy and I have no dought that withuot much effort that the entire matter could be arranged,as this rumors have not been broadcasted,ther are no more than four peolpe that have heard about it,and it would be very simple matter to send them a copy of the Federations report on the nmatter if it is favorable mush more good would that do,then to writ in the papers about it,as that wou ld only start people that have not made good with his birds ~~that ther must hex something to it~~.to think,that they may have been stuck,and there are a number.

Whyle writting for information concerning the Gurnay case, I have also asked the Federation,if it would not be possible to come to some arrangement with us,wereby the Belgian Fanciers that export pigeon would be compeled to have the pedigrees certified by the Federation,instead of having the certifi cation of the Fanciers on them.which in my opinion has no valeu,what would happen if the depositors of a bank ,were allowed to certify their own checks? that would be a great help th both,as well to the buyer.as to the pigeon dealer.

I would very much regret it if I had hurt,you or your reputation,as such is not my intention,my only aim was to tell gibson,for him to find out.but now that so much has been said about it,I will not depend on gibson anymore and want to find out for myself,and especialy for the protection of the Amer ican fanciers.who are allways ready to pay the dollar.and I believe that we have a right to know.Yes if I had my way every pedigree that was ever send to the U.S.A.since the end of the war should be investiated,not from one fancier but from all.and I do not say that such thing is not going to be done very soon.as it can be done,and why should it not be done,a pedigree is the same as the tittle to a house,and should be investigated.each time a bird is sold

Trusting that we may receive a favorable reply from the federation.

Yours very truly

A. Heuvelmans

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 23rd. July 1924

6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

Ever so many thanks for your kind letter of the 8th. inst. and I cannot hardly tell you how glad I am at the news of your successes with the birds.

It is a credit to you who have handled them and have brought the strain to such preeminence in your district, for however good the strain were, it wanted proper handling, and acclimatisation, and that you have done most successfully.

Last Sunday, we had again some decent weather, and I had sent 19 birds all told to 4 different races, long, medium and long distances, that is from 145 miles to 450 miles.

For the four races, I win every time the first prize, and score 18 prizes out of my 19 birds.

It will be a day of some 50 thousand francs for me at least.

I am also very glad indeed to hear that your youngsters are coming along nicely and I am sure those which you will send will be A. I. birds; the best proof of it is what you do with them when you race them.

I am really anxious to see them and feel certain they will make a nice addition to my loft.

Re Heuvelmans, I had a letter last week saying that he refused to answer to my letters as long as they be couched in what he calls insulting terms. That fellow has all the cheek of the world, and dares to mention insults when he has done his very best to injure my reputation, let alone the harm done to my strain of birds.

However he enclosed in it a copy of a letter to Gibson in which he (Gibson) is blamed also for having originated that controversy, and I suppose the man is annoyed now that I got to hear of it. However he says that he is ready to state in the papers that his statements were inaccurate, and to give me full satisfaction if I can provide him with a statement of the Fédération Colombophile Belge that I never experienced troubles on account of my dealings with pigeons. This I have requested the Fédération to send me, yet those people never do bother over what they call the fanciers' petty disputes, as they quite rightly say that all those disputes have their origin in jealousy. However I expect to receive that statement very shortly and shall send it to that fellow, and we shall see what he will do then. At all events, what you have already done is well done indeed, and I thank you very much for same.

With all best wishes for the future races, and kindest regards, I remain, my dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,



Melrose, Mass. July 26, 1924.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Yours of the 21 st. received and noted. Am enclosing you our 400 and 500 mile reports showing just how well I did in the races winning again the 600 mile race only three birds reported and second at 500 miles only three birds home same day, mine a brother to my "SILVER FLY" my old Messiaen blood. You cannot beat this on long races especially hard flies and it crosses well with the Gurnay blood.

Now on Mr. Heuvelmans. I have heard from him and he says what was told him in Belgium was in front of his wife and a friend and he can get affidavits to this fact. I hardly think Gurnay or anyone could get him to back down, and think as he does if Gibson had investigated it when he first told him, - HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON (Gibson) that knew it, the matter would have been settled before this. If ~~as~~ Heuvelmans as he says, can prove it was told to him in front of witnesses, it would be hard to get any judgment against him. I have known Mr. Heuvelmans a number of years and his honesty etc. is unquestionable. I personally think he would be foolish to give Gurnay or anyone a letter saying he had told things that was not true, and knowing him as I do I know he would be glad to go to court and thrash it out, if it comes to that. As far as I am concerned what I said I said thru the mail to you and to no one else and as I have previously stated it was said for your protection and for you to investigate if you saw fit. I try to mind my own business and you will find if you inquire that my name in America is just as good as Gurnays or anyones else in their Country. A* Heuvelmans address is 221 Webster Ave, Brooklyn, NY. and you can reach him at that address.

When you first wrote me I remember you said at the time that you had information elsewhere something about this matter. Do you know where the party got his information that wrote to you.?. If I was Heuvelmans I would name the people that told him and then it is up to them and if they deny telling him his word is as ~~good~~ good as ~~theirs~~ theirs and he could then publish a suitable letter for Gurnay.

I am long on racing hens and if you are interested in my SILVER FLY blood you can have any or all of these named.

- # 7. hen flown 500 miles 1924.
- # 16. hen flown 500 miles 1924. my third bird.
- # 18. hen flown 500 miles 1924.
- # 19. hen flown 500 miles 1924.
- # 22. hen flown 500 miles 1924.

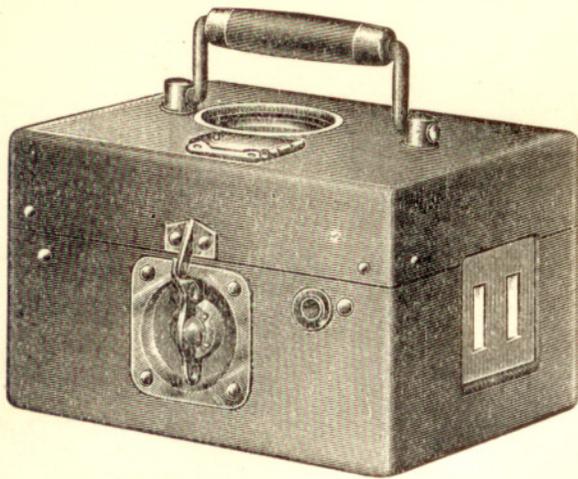
Will sell the five hens for \$ 50.00., and I do not care if it is Gurnay or anything else. There is no better as it has proved the seven years I have flown it.

If I can assist you in any way in straightening out the Gurnay-Heuvelmans matter let me know please and will be glad to do so.

J.M. Banks, Wakefield, Mass. expects to ship you three birds for liberation at noon on the third day after receiving. He wants to try for a Worlds Record of long distance. You countermark the birds there placing your marks on rubber bands I presume, so he can have you verify them if birds arrive home. *Let me know please & liberation date & time.*

Very truly yours,

Howlett



A. H. Plasschaert Bros.

BELGIAN, PIGEON TIMER AND ROUNDSMANS CLOCK

MODEL 1921 12 BIRD TIMER PRINTING SYSTEM

AGENT

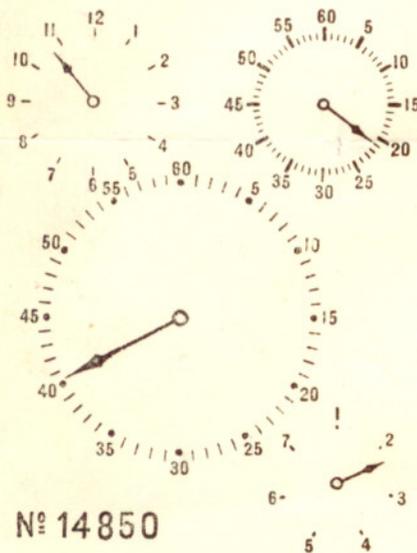
A. HEUVELMANS
221 WEBSTER AVE.
BROOKLYN, N. Y.
FLATBUSH 3121

RCOM L - M
PRODUCE EXCHANGE
NEW YORK
BOWLING GREEN 4836

IMPORTER OF

RUBBER COUNTERMARKS, SHIPPING BASKETS & RACE MATERIAL
July 30th 1924.

ACTUAL SIZE OF MACHINE 8 1/2 - 6 3/4 - 5 1/4



TIME READS, 10-40-21 2DE, DAY

ACTUAL SIZE IMPRESSION

12 FIRST PRIZES

AWARDED IN CONTESTS OF TIMERS

Year	Location	Prize
1906	TOURCOING	FIRST PRIZE
1906	BULLY	" "
1907	AMIENS	" "
1907	LA HAYE	" "
1907	KAISERSLAUTERN	" "
1903	ESSEN	" "
1909	HANNOVRE	" "
1910	MUNICH	" "
1911	COLOGNE	" "
1911	ROTTERDAM	" "
1912	FRANCFORT	" "
1913	BOCHUM	" "

1912 - 13 ENGLAND 1912 - 13

"THE NATIONAL UNION"

DIPLOMA OF FIRST CLASS

Mr. Lee.M.Ford.
Great Falls.
Montana.

Dear Sir,

Have your favor of 7/24, and was glad to receive same, for reason that your letter tells me exactly what I suspected of Mr, Gibson, that is to mis represent the things that have been said about Mr Gurnay. and there can be no doubt that he has not made the matter worst than what it is, by telling you and Mr, Gurnay things which are absolutely unthru,

No one in Belgian has told me that Mr, Gurnay has purchased pigeon on the market to sell them here, and I have told no one here that he has, the story of buying birds on the market has never been connected with the name of Mr, Gurnay.

What I was told is the following, that Mr, Gurnay had been in trouble about the sale of birds, and that he had temporarily been suspended. this was told to me in the headquarters of one of the largest clubs in the city of Ghent, by the proprietor, and confirmed to me in the presence of Mrs Heuvelmans by Mr Adriaenses, in Antwerp. and I have no intention of disbelieving these men until the time that Mr, Gurnay will supply me with a certificate issued by the Belgian Federation, stating that he Mr, Gurnay has not been in trouble about the sale of pigeon before Jan 1st 1924,

These two men are in a position to know, and I do not know why they should tell me, I did not go to them to ask them to give me some slander about honest men,

I arrived back from Belgium on Jan 27th, and did not speak to any one about the matter, until October at the A.U. convention. there I called Mr, Gibson aside, and told him what I had heard, for him to investigate, he made a lot of noise but never made an attempt to find anything out, it was his duty to find that out not mine, I am not in the service of Mr. Gibson nor Mr, Burnay. and to be frank about it, it is on account of Mr Gibson not doing anything at all about the matter that I began to believe that ^{some thing} must have happened that was not entirely in order, Mr Gibson has undoubtedly neglected to take the steps necessary to protect the reputation of the man that he represents, after I had given him the information confidentially.

Charles F. Hoser, President,
Norristown, Pa.

Clarence R. Edwards, Vice-Pres.,
Westwood, Mass.

THE AMERICAN RACING PIGEON CLUB

Robert W. Howlett, Secy-Treas.
Melrose, Mass.

Samuel P. Gibson, Race Secretary,
197 Lakeview Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

Melrose, Mass. August 4, 1924.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Your letter of the 31 st. received and was glad to hear from you. I imagine that your course there is a hard one from what I have heard and at the same time think we have an extremely hard one here due to the fact that the days are very treacherous due to the heavy fog spells we have during our flying season and so many hawks in the hills and mountains of New England. My position as race secretary the past five years has been a hard one for me. We have had exactly two bad smashes during this time,- one at 150 miles in 1919 and the other at 80 miles this year. It might be interesting to you to know of the conditions I am up against as we used a convoyer at both races.

In 1919 our man called me up and said birds were ready to release. I told him we were having a N.E. gale here with heavy rain and to hold birds ~~for~~ an hour and call me back. He is a Belgium and misunderstood me he said and held birds ~~for~~ an hour and then released. Out of 4,000 birds only about 15 pulled through same day and I certainly caught a dressing down. Three weeks after when the committee had sifted the matter they found he had broke his instruction by cutting seals before I gave the word on this end. Some boys in taking eggs out of baskets let seven birds out and he did not know what to do, so he let them all go.

In 1924 at 80 miles the day there was clearing with sun shine. Wind was from North West in their favor. At 60 mile point conditions the same. At home we had had showers with light N.E. winds, but day look clearing and naturally thought the N.W. wind at start and at 60 mile point would blow it clear here. But we had a hard 800 yard race and the men especially Gibson found a lot of fault. In these races especially as I am a competitor many at times think I am, on the winds, looking for my own interest which would be West or any wind with south in. If the many lofts to the south (and I am one of the few farthest North,-) knew it was clear on liberation end and at 60 mile point and I held birds it would give them an opportunity to kick. Then again on the long races where our birds are up at daylight one cannot always determine the day. The men will get up at 7 A.M. where I have the birds up at 5 A.M. and the day may have changed during this time.

I like the system they have in Chicago and Buffalo, N.Y. The conveyer has full charge of the birds for liberation and does not use the telephone til birds are liberated. He will consider the day on his end and regardless of wind liberate if conditions are half right. That is what I call pigeon flying.

Now on the Heuvelmans matter. I have suggested to Mr. Heuvelmans that he write those men in Belgium where he received his information and if it is proved they gave him false advice, he will write a suitable letter for the pigeon papers explaining the matter fully to clear Gurnay. He has already sent to Belgium for this. With me if I can assist in straightening this out I will gladly do so. I have personally given the Gurnay strain a lot of boosting through the mail and my ads and have yet to knock them to anyone. Mr. Paget seems to think that men here have been putting out blood calling it Gurnay and have hurt the blood and name through these methods. For instance in Paget's home town a friend of mine has 6 to 8 Gurnays he bought from me most every one of the bred from birds imported from Gurnay. Mr. Paget says they do not look like Gurnays, that is like the birds in your loft. But as I have explained to Paget I bred most of these birds and know they were bred from Pure Gurnay birds. One can usually pick out the Gurnays as soon as they see them. In my mind there are no finer lookers in pigeondom.

I imagine Mr. Banks has sent the birds to you for liberation though I have not seen him since first writing you on the subject. You understand conditions there so suggest that you liberate birds as you deem best and you can wire J.M. Banks, - % Quincy Cold Storage Co., Boston, Mass. collect.

You no doubt know that the five pair of Dardenne birds Mr. Gurnay sent Gibson for my friend E.C. Fitz, Wakefield, Mass. were bought on my recommendation. Mr. Fitz wrote Mr. Dardenne regarding how far the birds had flown and further blood particulars and Mr. Dardenne wrote him a very nasty reply stating that Gibson had only the other day sent him 300 francs (\$ 32.) on birds, though Fitz paid \$ 50.00 the pair., and if Mr. Fitz wrote him again the letters would be returned unopened. I have asked Mr. Fitz to write you in detail and thought you would kindly write Mr. Gurnay and have this matter placed before Mr. Dardenne in the right light so Mr. Fitz can get some action on the particulars he wishes. One must admit that Mr. Fitz is in no way at fault and should have the information he wants for his records. These birds are beautiful, - but to my mind to large a type to stand the strain of being flown *FAA* as young birds.

Mr. Paget had written me about exchanging two or three pairs of Gurnays (your blood) for the Pure young Delmottes. My Delmottes were reared in late July and only had their baby feathers this year, consequently I only bred one nest from them. They are separated now and going thru a nice moult and as I wrote Mr. Paget cannot ship him or his cousin the young birds til next year. He has no doubt since written you on the subject.

In your letter you speak of PRESUMINGLY Heuvelmans saying Gurnay bought birds on the market to resell. Please understand that he did not say this though I know Gibson has accused him of saying it. That is I have no knowledge that Heuvelmans ever stated this.

Will write you further after I hear from Heuvelmans and trust the entire matter will be straightened out to your full satisfaction.

Yours very truly,

R. Bowlett

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 12th. Aug. 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. A. HEUVELMANS

Brooklyn

Sir,

I duly received your last letter with a copy of that which you wrote to Mr. Gibson, and relating to our affair.

Your wrath seems ridiculous, seeing the harm you have wilfully done me, and without arguing further on what you have said against me, it remains absolutely certain that you have circulated rumours in your country that were sure to harm my reputation.

Also, it is most immaterial whether those reports had been given you or were your own making, for your duty was to circulate only rumours that you were sure about, without doing harm to any one without the slightest proof.

Why then you may be so ticklish, I cannot understand, for it seems to me that you are very thick-skinned when other people's honour is at stake.

However, to show you that I fear naught, I have requested the F.C.B. and my own club to give me the certificates you wished to have, and make haste to enclose same.

Now I shall be pleased also to see the corrections you will have published in the Fancy press, in order to undo what you have done, as far as that can be undone.

Mr. Ford, who I am proud to say, had faith in me and may call himself a Friend write you a few days ago, and I see that he offers you his help in order to put things right. That is certainly very kind of him, as I asked him to act in your country on my behalf with regards those slandering rumours of yours.

I would suggest to you to keep in touch with him, as he is almost as much interested in that matter as I am myself, and I am perfectly certain that nothing but good can come out of your co-operation.

Yours very sincerely,

(5) R. Gurnay

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

C O P Y

Fédération Colombophile Belge

F. C. B.

Association sans but lucratif
agrée par le Ministre des Finances

Bruxelles, le 2 Août 1924

Sous la Présidence d'honneur de

Mr. Ad. Max

Ministre d'Etat

Bourgmestre de la Ville de Bruxelles

Sécretariat

10. Rue des Grands Carmes. 10

Bruxelles

Téléphone 25929

à Monsieur R. Gurnay

Amateur Colombophile

à Verviers

Monsieur Gurnay,

J'ai l'honneur de vous délivrer, au nom de la Fédération Colombophile Belge, l'attestation que vous réclamez dans le but de réduire à néant les bruits malveillants qui auraient été colportés sur votre compte par Mr. A. Heuvelmans de Brooklyn.

Non seulement la Fédération Colombophile n'a jamais eu connaissance d'une plainte dirigée contre vous, mais elle s'enorgueillit de posséder des amateurs qui, comme vous, portent au loin la réputation de la colombophilie belge.

Aussi est-ce avec un réel souci de remplir mon devoir que je vous adresse le présent certificat.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur Gurnay, l'assurance de mes meilleurs sentiments.

(s) Pour le Président de la F.C.B.
Le Vice-Président

M. W I L M O T T E

Président du Comité Provincial de
Liège

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

C O P Y

SPORT COLOMBOPHILE
VERVIÉTOIS

En ma qualité de Président du Sport Colombophile Verviétois, et faisant partie de son Comité depuis 25 ans, je me plais à déclarer hautement que notre membre, Monsieur R. Gurnay, n'a jamais été accusé d'avoir commis aucun acte pépréhensible ou malhonnête, ni même suspecté d'avoir enfreint aux règles de l'honneur.

Lors de notre réunion du 1er. Août, courant, nous nous sommes fait un véritable plaisir de le proclamer le Roi de la Colombophilie mondiale et nous sommes heureux et fiers de posséder parmi nous un membre tel que lui, qui n'a eu d'autre souci que de perfectionner la colombophile en général, et de porter dans le monde entier la réputation de sa race.

Fait à Verviers, le 5 Août 1924

(s) A. D E B A R R E

Président du Sport Colombophile
Verviétois.

August 16, 1934

Mr. A. Heuvelmans,
221 Webster Avenue,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Your letters of May 30th and July 7th were duly received, also a copy of your letter to Mr. Gurnay. I delayed answering your letter of May 30th, awaiting developments but now feel it is time for me to place you where you belong.

One can excuse a lot in a man who is as ignorant as you are, still there are limits. A man can be ignorant and still be honest, truthful and try to act the part of a man, but it does not seem to be within your power to do so.

You lie in your letter to Mr. Gurnay about our conversation at the time you were at my loft last Fall. I called you good and proper before all the men who were standing outside my loft and you begged me not to say any more. I dropped the matter at that time, for I considered your statements nothing more than an "Old Womans gossip" especially when you were not man enough to back up or stand on your statements made at that time. You know well I was not selling birds to my visitors, like your friend and agent was that day. I at least have some idea of manners and would not repay a friendly call of any fancier by attempting to sell him birds on his visit, these courtesies however are something foreign to you and your agent, otherwise you would not have set up an untruthful condition in your letter to Mr. Gurnay.

In your last letter you say "We have too many of the washwomen pigeon men" I know washwomen today who have higher ideals of manners, courtesy, honesty, truthfulness and right than ever will be a part of your nature in the slightest degree so I am afraid you did not know how to express in English just what you wanted to say. If you had said that there were some men in the game who were like gossiping, scandal spreading old women, I would agree with you, and if you will sit down and think over your part in the rumors you have caused to be spread here about Gurnay birds, I am sure you will agree with me that you come rightly in this class I have just referred, and in which I have always considered that you belong. It is not for Mr. Gurnay or myself to prove anything to your satisfaction. Neither of us would have ever given a thought to the fact that you even existed, had you not started this matter. You still stand on gossip for in none of your letters have you shown that you have anything to back you up except idle talk on the part of Belgian fanciers whom you met in Belgium and whom you know are selling pigeons and envious of the men who succeed and get good prices for their good birds. It is up to you to back up your statements or withdraw them and make an apology.

If you are fool enough to go around repeating as facts gossip that may reach you, I am not. Where the statement originated that Gurnay bought birds on the market to sell here originated, I do not know, certainly not with me, nor have I quoted it to anyone. I have been told that such a statement has been made to New England Fanciers and if neither you or your agent made such statement, then it probably was a misconstruction of your words by someone. Neither have I said anything about your

Delmottes, for while Howlett has told me that you had a pair which he felt Serventi gyped him out of, I never gave a thought to what birds you had, nor have I ever given any thought to the fact that you might be selling birds, of any strain whatsoever. If you succeed in finding out how such a statement reached Mr. Gurnay don't be surprised if you learn it is another case where your agent was misunderstood. If the Delmottes you have are the same in type as those I saw at Howlett's after he received them from Serventi, you will never hurt Gibson or anyone else except yourself by selling them.

Your reference to Mr. Dujardin and his birds is amusing. Where did you get all your information from the same parties who are not men enough as you claim to back up their other statements. Where did you get your information about the prices Mr. Dujardin received from his sale that you refer to. Ask your gossiping friend over there to send you a copy of the paper he is interested in, which was published after the sale and read what he said about the prices, and I am sure you will find that once again your desire to injure has led you to make other misstatements.

Misstatements is a polite way of expressing it, but I do not think any politeness is due you and for that reason I do not hesitate to state that to my mind a man who will spread broadcast as facts, idle gossip, and create situations that did not exist, not only is a liar pure and simple but a knave as well.

You say "I have never been engaged in the business of selling pigeons and have no intention of doing it now" I wonder if this is really a fact, and if so why then are you engaged in "working out a system by which every pedigree will be investigated and each pedigree to have the endorsement of the Belgian Federation". If you really for one moment think you will ever accomplish such an undertaking, then you can be excused for all the harm you have tried to do, for your egotism is proof positive that you are insane.

You know well, if you know anything at all about the leading and most respected fanciers in Belgium, that they do not keep breeding records like American and English fanciers. You know too that many of them will not sell a bird at private sale and only by public auction and in selling this way they will not bother to make out pedigrees to say nothing of not permitting their statements to be investigated. No one would ever suggest such a thing except a member of the lower class of Belgium like yourself. I doubt very much if a man of your standing could even approach many of the prominent Belgian fanciers.

I am happy to say that I met one truthful Belgian in Boston, who when I asked him if he knew certain prominent Belgian fanciers, replied:

"We don't know those men to talk to, we are not in their class and fanciers like myself stand by and take our hats off to them when they pass by"

If you were not in the hats off class he describes you would have gone to Mr. Gurnay like a man and not listened to idle barroom gossip.

You must have taken a lot of courage because I did not answer your letter of May 30th, otherwise you would not have the courage to write the closing paragraph of your letter of July 7th. I shall await the final outcome of this matter and if you do not substantiate the rumors you have spread, or apologize for the same, you will find that I shall be very much evident, for no Belgian ever was born who can frighten a red-blooded American and Gibson will never fear a yellow cur of the stripes you now wear.

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Gibson

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE August 22 nd. 1924
61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I duly received your last letter with a copy of that which you wrote to Mr. Heuvelmans, and I beg to thank you most heartily for same.

As you said, it may be possible to obtain from that fellow a corrected account of his statements by not going too hard at him, but all the same he had no right to run somebody's reputation down without better proofs than Adriaenssens's account ~~of~~ if he ever had it the way he said.

I wrote him again a few days ago, and I enclose a copy of my letter as well as a copy of the testimony delivered by the President of my Club in Verviers, and the President of the Provincial section of the Fédération Colombophile Belge.

I hear now that Mr. Heuvelmans wrote direct to the Fédération Belge and he will also get a direct answer from the authorities.

We shall now see what he is willing to do.

I was very glad indeed to get the account of what you had done with the birds this season, also your friend Coppens, as he is racing my strain as well as you do.

I knew that my birds, in experienced hands, would do well in your country as well as here, and I am absolutely confident that they will do better every year as they will become better accustomed to the climatic conditions over there.

You ask me to tell you how to treat them during the moult. Well, here it is as I do it:

Food:	Fres-h wheat	2 parts	
	Linseed	1½ "	Along with plenty of greens
	Black rape (colza)	1 part	lettice, cress and spinach.
	Tares	1½ parts	
	Maple peas	1½ "	
	Barley (unpeeled)	1½ "	
	Rice (unpeeled)	1 part	
	total	10 parts	

Mind that both barley and rice should preferably be raw, i.e. unpeeled. When the moult is over, give the same food but made up of 14 parts, in which barley will come in for 5½ parts instead of 1½ as during the moult.

Also you should have in the loft, always at the birds' disposal, the following mixture: Powder of sulphate of iron chemically mixed: 1 part
bicarbonate of soda..... 2 parts
bran of wheat ---- Meat powder----washed flour of ~~XXXXXXXX~~----- 10 " each
flour of hemp---- bone powder---- ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXX~~----- 10 " "
this mixture being of 53 parts for 7 sorts

This might be added to some grit in case the birds would show some reluctance to take it.

R. GURNAY

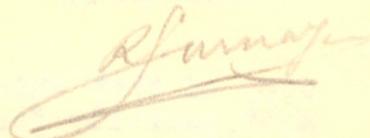
(Suite)

I trust that you will be able to understand the terms employed with regards to this mixture.

I am looking forward to the arrival of the youngsters which you will have bred for me, I am sure they will be A.I. and will mix again beautifully th mine own.

I shall also see to it to send you something worth your own loft.
Hoping to hear again from you soon, I beg to remain,
dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,



I am posting a French paper in which they talk about my birds too.

COPY

Verviers, 12 Aug 1924

Mr. Samuel P. Gibson,

Cambridge.

Sir:

In my previous letter, which has remained unanswered, I gave you to July 31st, last, to settle the account outstanding between you and me but all to no good end. Now I must decidedly take steps against you, seeing that all my patience is of no avail.

Of course you know better than I do that all birds supplied to you by my friends had been paid for to you beforehand by the American fanciers to whom you had sold same. We had lately a letter from the gentleman who purchased the Dardennes (8 I mean Mr. Dardenne got a letter which he took to us for translation) and that Gentleman disclaims any responsibility as he had paid you beforehand. I feel certain that all others are in the same boat, and consequently I come to a conclusion with regards to this matter which is not to your advantage.

Not so very long ago, we had a call from a gentleman coming from your state and we asked him what could be done in that respect, as we do not care to put gloves on when dealing with this, where we are likely to be victims of our trust in you.

As a last word about it, we request you to settle that matter in full before the 5th of September. This will enable you both to get this letter and to cable me the money, as I now have settled matters with Mr. Dujardin and the whole amount is owing to me personally.

If for the aforesaid date the full amount has not been settled, we shall immediately put the matter before the proper authorities in the American Pigeon Fancy and request them to have you put on the black list. Also Mr. Ferd will start a press campaign against you so as to show the whole American fancy with whom they are dealing, when dealing with you.

As ~~aforesaid~~ you have said when one wants to put his debts on other peoples shoulders, it is quite easy indeed, but likely as this is going to be done in this case, it will not be done without your reputation being ruined.

When you ordered the baskets, then the Dardennes, then again the Dujardins, all without sending the money or the balance of the Dardenne account, you jolly well knew what "coup" you indeed doing, and we now can see quite clearly what your intentions were as you could realize the difficulties we should meet with when we wanted our money. We will not give the trick a name and leave it with you to guess how we should call it.

Yours sincerely

Signed

R. Gurnay

COPY

August 26, 1924

Mr. Samuel P. Gibson,
197 Lakeview Avenue,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I beg to inform you that I just received letter from Mr. Gurnay enclosing two certificates, as I had suggested in my letter to you of July 7th, which was the shortest way of settling the dispute.

The translation of the certificates is in short that Mr. Gurnay has never been guilty of any dishonorable act, and even has not been suspected it also states he was proclaimed King of the Pigeon sport, on the meeting of the Spert Colombophile Verwietsis, On Aug.1st.

In view of the above, I do not hesitate in admitting that the information I received and which I reported to you, was without grounds and must have been fabricated by Belgian fanciers that had some reason of their own trying to injure Mr. Gurnays reputation. In fairness to Mr. Gurnay I want to say that I regret that such a thing was said against him, and will not delay notifying those to whom I spoke about the matter that I have now satisfactory proof that the rumors were false. But I absolutely refuse to admit that I invented these rumors for my own gain as you said in your letters to Gurnay.

I will handle this matter with Mr. Ford, as Mr. Gurnay suggested.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

A. Heuveldsman.

Charles F. Hoser, President,
Norristown, Pa.

Clarence R. Edwards, Vice-Pres.,
Westwood, Mass.

THE AMERICAN RACING PIGEON CLUB

Robert W. Howlett, Secy-Treas.
Melrose, Mass.

Cambridge, August 28, 1924

Samuel P. Gibson, Race Secretary,
197 Lakeview Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Lee M. Ford,
Great Falls,
Montana.

Dear Mr. Ford:

Your letter was duly ^{received} and I thank you for the expressions contained therein.

I enclose a copy of letter I have just received from Heuvelmans which he feels closes the matter ^{as} I really don't think he is worth bothering with for to meet the man is enough.

I also enclose a copy of a spicy letter from Mr. Gurnay. I can hardly blame him for feeling put out, still it don't do him or ^{me} any good to loose our heads in the situation.

It is nothing new for an individual to become financially embarrassed, and it is needless for me to tell you that this happens to many who have theretofore bore the best of reputations for integrity. Surely you must feel that I value my reputation and my manhood far above the amounts for which I now stand involved, but in your business you must meet with experience after experience which shows that when matters start running wrong it is difficult to get them started back on the right track again.

A former letter from Mr. Gurnay, of which I sent you a copy was very threatening in nature as well as abusive, and in my reply you will note I wrote him that I had been through the experience of having others unload their obligations to me through the course of law and found how easy it was to do this if one was dishonorably inclined.

As I wrote Mr. Gurnay I am not in a position to settle up with him at this time but will do so just as soon as I can work out from under the conditions I am laboring under now.

When I told him I had suffered losses at the hands of others I told no lies, for Court records will show that I lost over \$400.00 salary through the failure of the Boston Parcel Delivery Co., a company forced to the wall by war conditions, again a similar amount through the failure of the Coast Fisheries Co. another war victim, and finally another \$400.00 through a stock broker, whose partner stole his securities, leaving him flat and in the clutches of the law. This \$400.00 was not ~~for~~ a stock investment but represented night work on my part and wages paid for accountants in getting his books in shape. Had I been able to collect this latter amount Mr. Gurnay would not have had to wait for his money. These statements you can confirm if you so desire by writing Mr. Eugene P. Carver Jr., 110 State Street, Boston, who is conversant with the facts. (a reputable lawyer)

While Mr. Gurnay undoubtedly feels his dealings with me have been all above board, a technical reading of his correspondence would, to say the least

give one food for serious thought. When I sent him funds to cover the entire cost, that is Mr. Bodys, price for the last 30 birds I received from him, I asked specifically that the birds be shipped me not later than the middle of August so that they would arrive about the first of September. Mr. L.F. Curtis, of Newton, Mass. had agreed to advance funds to cover the entire lot and did so. When September came along and no birds had arrived, and after Mr. Curtis began to lose the Body youngsters he had bred from a former lot as well as Gurnay youngsters bred from a pair direct from Mr. Gurnay, he got disgusted with the birds and with me I guess for selling them to him, and called for a settlement under a written agreement we had both signed. There was nothing for me to do but enter into a new agreement with him regarding the Body birds. This cost me at least \$200.00. You dont have to take my word for this ask Curtis. I might say in this connection that all my dealings with Curtis were open and above board for I showed him the letters from Mr. Gurnay and my answers as they were received and sent. He knew what I was to pay etc. I could do no business with him otherwise and as he is a wealthy fancier and was out to get the best I made concessions to him, hoping in the end he would prove a good customer for Mr. Gurnay. Mr. Gurnays vascillating letters were the reason pure simple why Mr. Curtis was suspicious of Mr. Gurnays methods. In the first place I send an order with the funds to Mr. Gurnay purchasing his bird he called his Bronze Derby of 1919, for \$150.00. Back came the old worn out chestnut that the bird had flown into a wire and hurt his wing and as he did not care to furnish an injured bird he was sending a pair to take its place. When I saw the pair, while I have to admit they were good looking birds, still as a mating, nothing doing. I supposed Mr. Gurnay knew what he was doing ^{hoping} that I would be agreeably surprised by the work the youngsters they produced would do. Ask Mr. Curtis what his experience was with them. It was no surprise to me. Mr. Gurnay may say I know nothing about matings etc compared to him, still I think you will agree that I did not do a very bad job in sizing up the three pair which he sold you for so high a price and on which I had no particulars whatever, only the birds themselves to work with. Then the next year when Mr. Curtis was still considering getting more birds from Mr. Gurnay (but before he had had a chance to test out youngsters from the first pair) in sending a list of the best birds he (Mr. Gurnay) would let Mr. Curtis have, he again listed the Bronze Derby but at an increased price. Mr. Curtis, asked if he would let him have youngsters from his best pairs to which Mr. Gurnay replied yes only to hedge on this later and then when the youngsters began to prove disappointing Mr. Curtis got disgusted with the whole affair and placed an order for Bastien birds. Regarding this order I had no knowledge whatever until receipt of advice that the birds were coming to America and suggesting a foolish challenge to be made by Mr. Curtis to the party who get the Bastien birds. This is a long story that may not interest you but I cite it to show that I lost half the amount I now owe Mr. Gurnay through his delay in sending the Body birds. He says he did it for my good and so that the birds would have a good moult by breeding a round of late youngsters. Mr. Gurnay may be King of the Fancy, but I fear many would consider him the Court Jester if he tries to stand out on this statement for every novice knows that the later one breeds pigeons the longer the moult is retarded with the danger of birds not finishing up their moult. It was honorable too on their part after I had extensively advertised the Gurnay birds, throughout America, (for Shaw to cancel his agreement to let me have Gurnay bred birds for from 12 to 20 pounds per pair and raise the price to \$100.00 allowing me a 10% commission on a commodity of this nature, Gibson and his Customers to take all risks ^{of purchase} after the birds left Gurnays hands at Verriers. However it is useless for me to into any more of these matters for it might lead to my changing my decision to keep my temper in check and settle the matter in a proper way. Suffice to say I feel that there are two parties interested in the transactions, both have their story and washing dirty linen never is profitable to anyone.

In concluding I want to say That I have not the slightest intent of doing Mr. Gurnay out of any money that he is justly entitled to nor of trying to injure him in any way, althought I am quite certain he is doing his utmost to ~~help~~ ^{hurt} me. I cannot send him the amount due at this time nor can I truthfully set a date on which I could pay it. If he forces an issue you must realize that the laws of this country protect against persecution in matters of this kind.

bird ←
by Curtis

from
Gurnay

(about
2 months)

hurt

If I am given time I am confident of working out of my present financial troubles and paying up every cent I owe. The harder my creditors make it for me the harder it will be for all to get what is due them, for if I am to have further hardship of court proceedings, etc. to contend with, the harder it is going to be for me to accomplish what I am trying to do, namely find ways and means of meeting all my obligations.

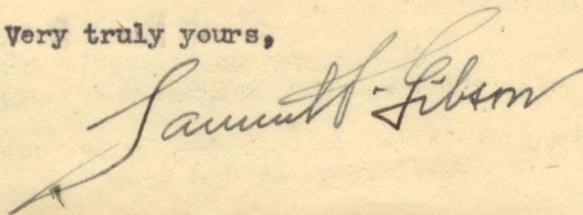
If Mr. Gurnay has placed this matter in your hands I am sure you will realize how utterly impossible he will make the whole situation for us all, if he insists on drastic measures.

As I said before I am sorry that you should have become involved in the matter at all and am quite confident that with the above facts before you, you will take no steps such as Mr. Gurnay intimates of injuring my reputation, etc.

I do not say it as a threat but there are limits that anyone can stand and if Mr. Gurnay will not handle this matter in a sensible way but insists on his pound of flesh and on having me driven to the wall, he will force me to retaliate, and will find out whether Gibson's dealings with American fanciers has made him friends or not. It would be a pretty how do you do if the United States Government would adopt Mr. Gurnay's methods in trying to collect what is due from his Government. When they got the money they promised to make good, and because they are financially embarrassed they are not told that they should not have taken the money unless they were sure they were going to settle on pay day, and because they have not, they are not told they are dishonest, liars, crooks etc.

In closing I wish to say that I feel sure you will advise Mr. Gurnay to use reason in the matter and assure him that I did not deliberately set out to defraud him as he intimates.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Samuel H. Gibson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Very truly yours,". The signature is somewhat stylized and fluid.

SAMUEL P. GIBSON
197 LAKEVIEW AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., U. S. A.

Personal

Mr. Lee M. Ford

Box 8

Great Falls

Montana

