Alhourie, Bearsden,

22nd January, 1936.

The Editor,
The Glasgow Herald,
Buchanan Street,
GLASGOW, C.1.

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Dear Sir,

In the Glasgow Herald of 15th January 1936, I read a very interesting article on the Life of James Watt.

I should be very glad if you could give me information with regard to one point. In the list of Watt's inventions reference is made to metallic packing of pistons. I have always understood that this invention was first made in the year 1824 by my great grandfather, the last Mr Neil Snodgrass, C.E.

A very complete description of this is given in the Glasgow Weekly Citizen published at the time of his death.

I am enclosing a copy of an extract referring to this subject.

As a man er of interest I have also made a very thorough search of the papers of Watt contained in the following

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* SEE PAGES 6 TO 10.

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The Editor.

books, "Origin and Progress of Mechanical Inventions of James Watt" by James Patrick Muirhead, M.A., and Memorial of James Watt" by George Williamson, Esq. and "Smiles Life of Boulton and Watt". I can only find reference to his use of cotton or hemp and animal fats for this purpose. Watt deplores that "he cannot obtain the piston steam tight", but I can find no reference to his invention of metallic packing.

If reference to the invention by Watt of metallic packing has been made in error I should be much obliged if you would have the necessary correction published.

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FTG/PB Encl. Newspaper Report.