

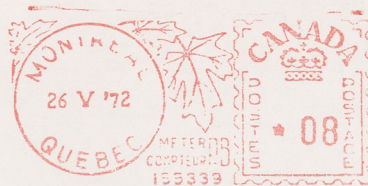
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

P.O. BOX 6070

MONTREAL 101

QUEBEC, CANADA

FIRST CLASS



Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge  
"Cedarbrae"  
Almonte, Ontario

John Andreassen, P.O. Box 6070, Montreal 101, Quebec



McGILL UNIVERSITY

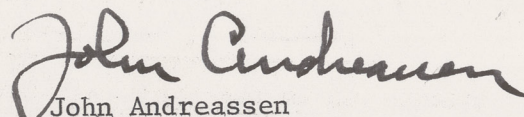
P.O. Box 6070  
Montreal 101, Quebec  
26 May 1972

Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge  
"Cedarbrae"  
Almonte, Ontario

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Sir William became Superintendent of Education in Nova Scotia in the early 1850s and served in this post until his appointment to McGill. I'm sure there will be Dawson materials in the Howe Papers, and I've asked the Nova Scotia Archivist Dr. Bruce Fergusson, about his holdings, but I've been puzzled that none of the papers of this important period in his life, except of a scientific character, have appeared in the collections we have. After all, he set up the Normal School in Nova Scotia, and his work on it conditioned his thinking about the establishment of the Normal School here in Montreal. What I come out with is that conditions of travel in Nova Scotia in the early 1850s were strenuous, that the opportunity was afforded John William Dawson in the course of these strenuous travels to continue his geological and other scientific studies, and that he disliked being away from home so much. I've found little so far, concerning his very material contributions to the educational system. And he is recognized as the real founder of modern education in the Maritimes. Can you throw any light on the papers he produced during this period? Printed materials are of course pretty well known and available. The attached enquiry and quote contained therein, indicates that he was undoubtedly responsible along with Joseph Howe, for the fact that so many "blue nose" natives became the educators across the Dominion. I'd appreciate your views.

Cordially yours,

  
John Andreassen  
University Archivist

JA:md  
encl.

P.S. The color prints of the George Mercer Dawson water colors have come out beautifully.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

Graduate School  
of Library Science  
3459 McTavish Street

May 25th, 1972

Mr. John C. Andreassen,  
University Archives  
3459 McTavish Street

Dear Mr. Andreassen,

I have just examined the work on the Preliminary list of Official Papers of Sir John William Dawson done by the students in your course of 1971. I found the description very interesting.

It reminded me that in 1850 when Dawson was Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia he selected, with the help of Joseph Howe, a collection of books with which to establish school district (public) libraries. These turned out to be not sufficiently elementary or suitable for Sabbath reading "the day the working man, for whom they were intended, could devote to such employment".

Do you think there would be any correspondence concerning this matter in your bundles?

Sincerely yours,

(Dr.) Violet L. Coughlin,  
Director

VLC/nf

