

77 George Street,

Edinburgh 4 July 1872

Messrs. J. W. Dawson & Henry McKay, Esquires
Montreal

Gentlemen I am favored this morning with your
 respective letters of 21st & 20th Nts, the contents of
 which are duly noted. I regret to say however that
 I am not yet in receipt of the specimens of Spalthic
 as from Derigonish, & as great importance is
 attached to this deposit in the printed Memorandum
 which I have had altered & amended in accordance
 with Dr. Dawson's reports from Picton, I am much
 inconvenienced & can make no progress. The other
 ore I have had assayed here by Professor S. Macadam
 & by Professor Thorpe of Glasgow, & am happy to say
 with satisfactory results. I am also having them
 assayed by another eminent chemist in Glasgow
 Dr. Wallace & in London also. I have also
 contracted with the publishers of Dr. Dawson's map
 for to strike off 50,000 copies, & I have had
 everything in readiness, believing that I should receive
 the spalthic ore, & also some evidence of the quantity
 of the various Iron Deposits. I expected that
 several trial pits would have been sunk to
 prove the continuity of the veins. You must be
 aware that no matter how satisfactory the geological reports

may be considered (& they are rightly considered highly so)
 yet business men must be assured of the quantity
 as well as the quality of the ore, before they will embark
 in a scheme involving an enormous outlay of
 Capital. A Railway must be built, Blast Furnaces
 & Rolling Mills have to be erected, but this can hardly
 be expected until your undeveloped property has been
 more fully proved. In the full expectation that such
 work would be done, I have given much time & money
 to this venture, which with your kind assistance
 I shall carry to a successful issue; & I propose
 to do what I expected would have been done by you,
 & have called Walter Shaulzy Esq to act as
 Consulting Engineer in developing the property as
 soon as I return. He has consented. But this
 will take time, & my option of purchasing expires
 on the 20th Aug. altho' I have your personal
 assurance that the time would be extended if
 necessary. I am aware there are other parties to
 consult, but I presume they will be guided by you.

You must also be aware that even if I had rec^d
 all I expected including the expense of a visit yet
 to hand, the time allowed me is quite insufficient,
 considering the season of the year. After the 31st
 instant it will be simply impossible to form any company,
 every body being away. Between this date & the end of
 October business is entirely neglected.

I have requested Mr. Prentiss to see you & if
 your reply to my not unreasonable request is favorable,
 I shall proceed to Gallegos at the earliest possible
 moment to see the work done. I shall also ask
 Walter Shaulzy & Dr. Dawson to meet me there, as soon

as I can be released for business here.

I have just completed the business for which I was specially sent here, & it is said that in the history of joint-stock companies there never was a similar amount of work done with such despatch. I spare neither time nor money, & I trust that I shall receive a cable message immediately on receipt - saying that you have agreed to give me the necessary extension of time. I shall make this business paramount to all others & let nothing interfere with it rapid progress, if you will trust me & give me time.

Yours faithfully

Wm. A. Prentice

P.S. You will also confirm the extension of time by letter or other document to be handed to Mr. Prentice who has my power of Attorney to act for me in all matters.

I trust you will not wait to communicate with Pictou, but in the interests of all concerned assume this legit. legitimate responsibility, & reply by cable.

You will also remember that from the first I considered the time insufficient, but relying on your personal assurance of an extension I have done what I have stated.

W. A. P.

Letter Prentice
July 4/42

McGILL UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 909A/10
REF. 8