



To Fleming
Dear Sir.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

(Museum and Office, 76, S^t Gabriel Street) MONTREAL.

Copy.

10 Dec

1879

Answer to
letter earlier

My dear Sir,

I found your letter of Nov 7th
on my arrival at Winnipeg, & before
leaving made what enquiries I
could as to the reported coal on the
Assiniboine. The reports refer as
you had supposed to localities on
the Souris River in the vicinity of
the Roche Percee, the same visited by
me in 1873-74 & described in the
Boundary Commission Reports.
No coal in place has so far as I
can learn been found east or north-
east of these localities, though Mr

2.

Murchison reports loose fragments in considerable abundance, in that direction. The Coal Claims actually located are on the Souris. The material is a lignite of good quality & ~~may~~^{may} no doubt be extensively used as a fuel in Winnipeg if it ~~could~~^{can} be laid down at a moderate cost. The boundary of the lignite-bearing formation as mapped is somewhat indefinite as owing to the thick covering of superficial deposits the exposures are not sufficient for its complete definition, & though the beds about the Roche River appear to be near the bottom of the formation they may not be the very lowest. This question & the possible existence of minor outlying lignite-bearing horizons can scarcely be settled

without a resort to towing. For the plan as proposed by
 Mr H. Sallataud of floating the logs down the Senne
 River to the Armeboise three main objections occur.
 (1) The supply of timber for the building of boats of any kind on
 the upper Senne is very small (2) The river is exceedingly
 crooked, making a long detour in US Territory. (3)
 The water remains high for a short time only, in the spring,
 after which the upper part of the stream ^{is almost} is entirely unpassable.

Mr Murdoch daily expects the return of a man
 who has been making further explorations for him
 & has promised to send me full particulars
 of his work, which, with any further information I can
 give on the subject will be quite at your disposal.

Yours truly

George W. Dawson

Sandford Henry & Co.
 Engineer in Chief C.P.Ry
 Ottawa.