Montreal & Pictou Coal Comp.
Office of the Secretary
139 Hollis St. Halifax N.S.
June 25th 1867

Principal Dawson
McGill College
Montreal

Dear Sir

I was in April last instructed by the Directors of our Comp. to forward to you a copy of the accompanying letter from Professor How as to a comparative analysis of Pictou coals made by parties in Canada which he conceives must have been made under a misapprehension as to facts or from interested motives. As it is understood that you intend bringing out a new Edition of your Acadian Geology it is possible that the analysis in question may have been communicated to you and may be assumed by you to be correct

Though the matter has escaped my attention I the less regret it as the result of our Explorations since the date of Dr How's letter have clearly proved the incorrectness of the comparison instituted in Canada as to the respective merits of the varieties of Pictou Coals. Where we sank one pit there was apparently a sharp bend of the strata which had been anticipated by us. As we drifted Eastwardly the strata turned more Southerly and this was also the case in our western

level we have mainly confined our explorations to the western heading on our upper bench on which we have drifted westwardly between 60 & 70 yards. Where the pit was sunk the coal was more or less affected by the bend of the strata. There was no upthrows or downthrows faults but the roof & floor undulated and the seam varied in the thickness the coal not being uniform in character some being of excellent quality and a good deal batty coal. As soon as the coal drifted a few yards away from the bend affecting the strata the roof and floor became uniform and regular and the quality and size of the bench improved. We confined our level to the upper bench which was at first 10 ft. 6 in. thick yielding 3 ft. 6 in. of workable coal. The increase and improvement in our coal have far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Mr. Brain our engineer in his report to the Directors dated the 17th inst referring to the upper bench says "the seam at the Montreal and Victoria Colliery is gradually getting thicker and improving in quality. It is now 24 ft. from floor to roof 12 feet of which is good coal and the remaining 12 feet gradualy becoming good coal as we advance to the westward" The coal burns freely giving a great heat and is considered by competent judges who have used the Albion and Middle river Coals to give less ash than any in the district leaving no cinders

A cargo was recently exported for steam purposes & met with a ready Sale. We are arranging for exporting this autumn so soon as our engine is ready. I may mention that our differs from the Albion Mines and Middle River in being Semibituminous. It gives a small quantity of light coloured smoke creates no soot leaving the flues perfectly white a peculiarity of some of the Semibituminous Welch coals. I must not omit to draw your attention to a very incorrect tracing of our coal area in a plan of the intercolonial Comp. The crop as described runs at right angles to what our Explorations have proved it to take. If the Course of the crop indicated by that plan where correct we have not an acre of coal. As the plan was confined to private circulation we did not think necessary to take any action in the matter especially as our practical Explorations had proved the incorrectness of the plan. I think it however prudent to inform you of the fact as you might assume the plan to be correct and by reproducing it in your forth coming work might give it a publicity and a weight that might prove injurious to our property. I hope to send you a specimen of our Coal. The whole of our upper bench is not of such superior quality but layers of this very bright coal permeate the bench and increase in thickness and quality as we drive our level

away from the bend where one pit was sunk. We intend shortly to cross cut to the three under benches and have no doubt that the same causes which have led to the increase and improvement in our upper bench will similary affect the remainder of the seam. I shall be happy to acquaint you with the results. Hoping that these facts may be of intrest to you

I am dear sir

Very resp[t]y. yours

W. J. Myerslway[?]
Secretary

[illegible]
Coal Co
Aug 9/67

Gold at
Gold R
Lunenburgh
Ja 1867

REPORT ON GOLD CLAIMS,

SITUATE AT GOLD RIVER, NOVA SCOTIA.

King's College, Windsor, N. S.
Dec. 24th, 1866.

W. D. Sutherland, Esq., Halifax :—

Dear Sir,—I beg to hand you the following Report on my visit to the gold-bearing quartz district at Gold River, Chester, Lunenburg Co., and on the information respecting the claims subsequently taken up by yourself, obtained from the most reliable sources at command.

I visited Gold River in August last, and had the benefit of the guidance of Mr. D. Dimock, who is well acquainted with all that has been done in the way of prospecting and mining at the locality. The first place examined was a claim traversed by a branch of Gold River, running from Clinton's Lake into the Main River. Here (at a spot marked A on the plan accompanying this) was seen a pit, nearly full of water, in which workings had been carried on for a short time on a lead about twelve inches thick, with a north-easterly strike, which had given gold near the lower wall. Specimens, in the first instance to the value of about $20, had been sent to the States, and the claim with some improvements had been sold to an American Company, for $2000 This Company had sent further samples of 4 or 5 tons to be crushed, one barrel of which was full of "sights" of gold. At the time of my visit, one man was working here in the bed of the branch, on a lead which was thought to be richer than the one just spoken of, but the water was exceedingly high from the frequent rains, and little progress could be made. Another lead about 30 rods up the branch was said to have given sights.

I afterwards visited Croucher's claim, about 300 feet from the main river on the south side (marked B in plan), Here I went down a shaft about 35 feet deep and some 6 feet diameter, and examined a quartz lead 18 inches thick with a strike of about N. 45 E., and dipping three inches to the foot: the whole of the quartz and the lower wall, which was of slate, were said to give gold, the average of the whole being 16 pennyweights to the ton, several barrels of the quartz were at the time put up to be crushed. I afterwards learned at Chester, that $3000. had been refused for this claim, just before my visit. I then went to the American Claim, N.E., of Croucher's, about a quarter of a mile from the river on the north side (about C in plan). Here was a shaft 10 feet square, timbered, and covered up, nearly filled with water, (I understand from the frequent rains of the season,) in which operations had been suspended for some time. Large quantities of quartz were lying about the shaft and prospecting holes in the neighbourhood, some of which looked very promising, and I learned that "sights" were frequently to be found on searching the heap of rock near the shaft. The lead here was reported as 7 feet thick at the surface with a N. E., strike: consisting at first of white quartz, at 15 feet down it became striped, and continued of this character down to 30 feet when its thickness was two and a half feet. As soon as the quartz became striped it gave sights, and it was becoming richer in depth. About $100. had been taken out, and it was understood that workings were to be recommenced immediately. As evidence of the confidence of the Company operating here in the value of their property, it may be mentioned that they had formed a drain 325 yards in length from their shaft to the river. At the head of this drain, I observed a quartz lead: Quartz leads were also reported at various points on the N. side of the river, and I heard from respectable persons that sights of gold had been found in leads in the side of the river.

The claims you have secured are in the immediate neighbourhood of the ground I visited. They are very highly thought of by Mr. Dimock who states that "four leads commence at 815 (see plan) crossing the other claims and probably running through your entire block", which consists of 44 claims covering 38 acres. "One of these leads, tested on quartz from near the surface has given 22 pennyweights of gold to the ton, and the others are in appearance the same. All these leads are vertical affording great facilities in working. Seven leads, from one to two inches thick, all in the space of 4 or 5 feet, so that they could be included in one shaft, and dipping to the south at an angle of from 10 to 15 degrees, begin at 812 (see plan) crossing the other claim. In fact there are a number of leads crossing the areas you have taken up."

"Somewhere in the vicinity of 614 (see plan) near the bed of the river a specimen of lead ore which contained a large percentage of silver was broken off one of the quartz leads. The claims are superior to any in the locality. I have visited the principal gold fields in the Province, and in my opinion yours will compare favourably with the best."

Mr. Dimock justly observes further that you have a noble water power that will drive any amount of machinery, and that you can turn the course of the river still retaining this power, and he also adds you will find good washings in the bed of the river. As regards this last point I may repeat that I heard it stated that sights of gold had been seen on the sides of the river, hence it is not at all unlikely that deposits of the metal will be found in the bed of the river, which runs nearly the whole length of your claims.

Your claims are advantageously situated for the transporting of machinery, building materials, quartz, provisions, etc., as an excellent road of about three miles in length, runs from near the south end of your lots to Chester Basin, where there is water communication to Halifax and all other places on the sea-board.

From all I have been able to learn your claims are well-chosen, and while perhaps they will be found to yield silver in remunerating quantity, they are likely to afford handsome returns on systematic workings of the gold quartz,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Henry How, D.C.L.,

Professor of Chemistry & Nat. His.