



Prunne 71A
Pictou 25th March 1873

My dear Sir

I was duly fav^d with yours of 10th Inst. and have written to the Mines office at Halifax for the Plans you ask for. As the House is sitting it is a very busy time in that office and they may not be able to send me the Plans for some time but as soon as I get them I will forward to you. At present we do not see our way clear to enter into any new mining speculations. We have been much worried about the way in which Prentice has used us in the matter of the Iron claims and must see an end of them in some way before entertaining any new projects.

We hope you will not think of selling out your rights to any one leaving us in the hands of Mr Prentice and I think yourself and Mr McKay should at once set about devising some way of getting rid of him finally on 31st May and let him know without

delay that the Pictou shareholders withdraw from you and Mr. McKay all authority to extend the time one day after 31st May. - Mr. Rudolf writes us from Glasgow under date 11th Inst. that he has neither seen nor heard of Mr. Prentice lately - that he does not believe he will succeed in selling the mines at this time - that a large number of Companies have lately come to grief and people are afraid to touch anything new in this direction.

He says Sir Hugh Allau, having bot the Londonderry Mines, that Ellenkauss, who was in some way connected with him is now in Glasgow offering coal and iron at Londonderry for £50,000 Stg. & is representing that Pictou Coal is not good for smelting iron & that his coal (we presume the Spring Hill) was the best. People however are suspicious at present of all American Mines and minerals.

If we were once out of Prentices hands we might be able to do some

thing either in Canada or the United States before our claims expire.

We think it was rather impertinent of Mr. Prentice to instruct you to renew a number of expiring claims with an intimation that it was not for you or for any other person to decide on the propriety of this being done but for him alone. Since writing you on 20th Ult. we have taken out the Angular line of one mile to work on Webster Area - The square mile adjoining Hudson north Eastwardly - also four rights on Areas 49 & 102 and are prepared to take the square mile to work at Cullens on 23rd April next as directed. We have heard nothing from Donald Fraser for sometime but it is rumored that he has received a letter from Mr. Prentice asking him to keep unengaged for next summer.

You will remember the interest which we call the "Montreal Coy" originated with yourself and that at your request Mr. Kay was admitted partner to extent of one third - We knew you would require some person to work it up in a mercantile point of view and consented to this arrangement but would not like to be with him alone or with a stranger which would, in a measure, leave us in a minority in the management.

We have unbounded confidence in you. If Prentice completes his purchase and payment - well - if he fails to do so, surely we can do something with our claims and if we lose all it will not be a killing matter. and we had better stick together and see it out. Please keep this last paragraph strictly private.

If anything important should turn up from Prentice please telegraph us

With kind regards to your ^{family} circle -

Yours truly

Principal Dawson

Howard Prentice