

Private

Copy to the Bell

Mc Gill College.

Montreal,

March 18,
1881.

My dear Sir,

I was much surprised and pained to learn from Mr Selwyn, on Wednesday, that he felt aggrieved by the cancellation of certain land sales in Manitoba in which my son Mr R. Dawson was interested; and I immediately made inquiry as to the facts, which had not appeared to me at all in the light presented by Mr. S.

It seems that my son was in the first instance acting in the interest of the other settlers of the Selwyn party as well as his own; but when he found in Norway that his supposed friends, with one of whom he had left a sum of money to secure his interests in event of the land being sold, had preferred to take advantage of the

action of the land agent and to
go in with other parties to buy
up lands, leaving him out. He
felt that he was in no sense
acting any longer for them,
and I understand intimated
this to you, so soon as he
was aware of the actual
facts.

His intention was to have
returned to Manitoba this spring
after passing his medical examina-
tions in March, and to
have established himself, ~~as a~~
~~large scale as possible~~ ^{in which could have had views to operate a} as a
farmer and ^{as a} medical prac-
titioner. The action of the
land agent at Nelsonville
in December, and the subse-

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several uncertainties, have I am
sorry to say so affected his studies
and broken down his energies,
that there is no prospect of
his going in for medical exami-
nation this Spring; and should
he go to Manitoba for the
summer he must return
next winter to finish his medical
course.

In these circumstances, it
appears to me more to his
interest to abandon all
intention of settling in Mani-
toba, or at least in the
district he had selected, ^{since}
more especially as ^{he cannot secure the land he desired,} his doing
so would seem to place
him in conflict with speculators,
and I have feared a case after judgment
he still has the same risk to incur
to cross him to purchase a tract of land
either in Canada or the U States

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Though reluctant to take this
course he authorizes me to
say that in regard to the
cancellation of the sales
or any rights he may have,
he will be content with
any arrangement that
may be convenient & suitable
to your department, if he
can obtain land he is
prepared to settle on it,
but otherwise of course
must hold himself ex-
cluded from this.

I regret very much
that you should have had
so much trouble in the
matter, and that what

under the order issued;
though quite willing to
complete the purchase
and to do the best
he can for the settlement,
in so far as he may
be under any obligation
in the case.

I can assure you I
regret very much that you
have had so much trouble
in the matter, though I have
no doubt the course taken
in the affair by your De-
partment has been right
and expedient. I trust you
accept my assurance that my
son was acting in good faith,
and claims honestly & fulfil-
his engagements.

With thanks for your personal
kindness & courtesy to my son
I remain
Yours truly
J. M. Dawson

offered to cure, after his graduation, he still desires this, to procure money to enable him to purchase land either in Canada or the U. S. States.

Though reluctant to take this course, and still holding that the cancellation of the Sales is just and that his action was in the interest of the Settlement, he authorizes me to say that, while thanking you very much for the trouble you have taken, he has no wish to stand in the way of any arrangements that may be made