

Department of Agriculture,

Washington, D. C., March 28 1881.

Prof. J. W. Dawson,
Principal of McGill College.
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir,

In working up the subject of Forest Fires for my next report upon Forestry, I have been led, by the reference you gave me, to your article in 1847, as published in the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal. I shall use portions of this article, (of course giving full credit,) and the facts that you state, are closely similar to those I have myself observed in our Northern States.

Permit me to enquire whether your later experience and observation have led you to modify your views in any important particular, from those there expressed? I would particularly like to know whether you still have reason to suppose that seeds will retain their vitality in the soil for very long periods and thus contribute to the change of vegetation that we so often see, where a new growth succeeds one that has been destroyed by fire. I would be greatly obliged to you for any references to authorities upon this subject of forest fires, or any other that may come to mind. I directed a copy of my first report to be sent to you some months ago, and I trust it was received. My second one has been printed some months, but is still in the bindery.

Very truly yours, T. B. Hough

Department of Agriculture

Washington, D. C. March 28 1881

Amph
Mar 28 1881

[Faint, illegible handwriting covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]