

WM. BELL DAWSON,

Civil Engineer,

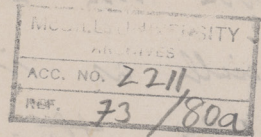
Land Surveyor and Architect,

260 ST. JAMES STREET,

MONTREAL.

July 26, 1880.

July 1880



Dear Father,

I have received your letter referring to the King's College Professorship, & enclosing President Darts. The principal question which comes up in this connection is the nature of the work to be done. It would be of little advantage to me to accept a position in which I would have no opportunity of keeping up my professional knowledge, nor have occasion to extend it in connection with the work I was engaged in.

He might have been apologetic if
it were possible in a man of so
dried-up a nature. He brought for-
ward Mr Shundy's large experience,
and admitted that considerable
difficulties had been brought to bear
by the Duke's Gov^t in his favour.
I went so far as to say that I
had understood from him that
nothing would be begun in the way
of surveys until the Governor had
given his sanction to the bill.
~~However,~~ he I never did place the
least reliance in anything he told
me, but thought it better not
to tell him so. However, he spoke
of my calling upon Mr Shundy, &
allowed me to ~~use~~ use his name
in doing so. It appears that
Mr S. has been entrusted with the
preliminary surveys and reports
& will make borings as soon as
the ice takes on the River. He
is now negotiating about appliances

If the work to be done consists almost entirely of Pure Mathematics, it is doubtful whether it would be worth my while to accept it; especially as in a college of so small calibre, there is little chance of the chairs being subdivided so as to give me the branches in which I am more particularly interested. It would be perhaps too great a sacrifice of my professional interests to take up the work of instructing, in branches outside of Engineering subjects; unless indeed, it be considered as a stepping-stone to something better in the future. If I were to accept the post, it would be practically deciding to go in for educational work for the rest of my life; & if I do so decide, there is nothing like "rising from the ranks," and

understanding the duty of my future
subalterns. If all the mathematics
I had to teach were for the bene-
fit of students who afterwards
go on to Engineering, I would
not so much object. In any case,
whatever position I occupy, my
aim must be to acquire more ex-
perience in professional subjects, ei-
ther on actual work, or by such
a class of educational work as
would ~~accommodate~~ extensive reading
give scope for
in connection with the courses.

I am writing to-day to Presid-
ent Dart, to ask for further in-
formation respecting the nature of
the work. I enclose a copy of it.

As soon as I saw mention
of Mr Shundy's name in con-
nection with the Tunnel Scheme,
I called upon Mr Chaffer to as-
certain the aspect of affairs.

for the work; and told me that
he thought ~~if~~ he could give me
some part of the work, although
he would not speak definitely till
he returns to town at the end
of this week. I took the oppor-
tunity of asking about several
points in connection with the
enterprise, so that he might see
that I was not ignorant of such
subjects, & of the way to go
about them. He is not at
all confident in the scheme
being eventually carried out.
You will notice from what I have
said, that the statements in the
"Witness" are very inaccurate. Mr.
Shunby spoke of having read with
interest my paper on the "Easter
Council" which I sent him some
time ago. He appears to be a
straight forward man; and I certain-
ly prefer to deal with him rather

than with Chaffee & Co

Rankine & I went to hear Prof. Bryce give an account of Manitoba Missions in Eskine Ch. last night. It was very interesting. Mr. Long of Glasgow preached in St Andrew St. in the morning.

George comes to-morrow night; he now has a pile of things for Maria about large enough to fill a small trunk. It is good he is accustomed to having to do with "pack animals" now that he is on the way to being one himself; especially now that Rankine talks of a further basket of refitables.

The weather has been very pleasant, although hardly warm enough to enable one to enjoy a cold bath.

With love to all,

Your affectionate son,

William.

2211/73/806

WM. BELL DAWSON,

Civil Engineer,

Land Surveyor and Architect,

260 ST. JAMES STREET,

MONTREAL.

20/10

Dear Sir. - ~~I would~~ My father
has mentioned to me that the Civil
Professorship of Mathematics and En-
gineering in King's College is now
vacant, thinking that I might
wish to become a candidate for
the position.

In order that I may take
the question more fully into con-
sideration I would be obliged if
you would kindly inform me as
to the nature and extent of the
Mathematical and Engineering
work included in the Professorship;
and to what extent Pure as well
as Applied Mathematics forms part

of the course of instruction.

I should also be glad to know the length and arrangement of the session, the number of students attending the Mathematical and Engineering classes, and how far these subjects are obligatory upon all; and also the probable number of lectures per week in these branches.

I shall be obliged if you will favour me by considering this communication as strictly private.

I remain,

Yours respectfully.

