

WM. BELL DAWSON,  
Civil Engineer,  
Land Surveyor and Architect,  
260 ST. JAMES STREET,  
MONTREAL.

H'fax. Jan. 25, 1882

Dear Father,

I took dinner the other evening at Government House and met there Mr. Plunkett who has just returned from England. I called on him this afternoon to see what the prospects were about the N. S. Syndicate. It appears that a Company is already formed, backed by London bankers, who are carrying on the negotiations with the N. S. Government. As soon as these arrangements are made and the measure passes the House (provided it does) the Company will

of Digby + Annapolis; Eastern Extension  
thru C. Breton to Louisbourg; a shore  
line from Pictou to Amherst; and  
perhaps a direct line from Truro  
to Windsor. These works will occupy  
at least 3 years. Mr. P. intends to  
leave for England immediately; the  
measure is ~~dis~~ passed, to make ar-  
rangements for commencing the work  
in the spring. I shall try to get  
a copy of the Bill as it contains,  
I believe, the names of the Company<sup>rs</sup>.  
I do not suppose Mr. P. was taking  
too much account of his own importance  
but it wd be as well to know who  
else are in the scheme. I told  
him ~~of~~ ~~my~~ that I was correspond-  
ing about a place on the C. P. R.



assume the management of the existing lines, and will also have running privileges on the I. C. R. from Toronto to Halifax. The Syndicate are the contractors for the new work to be done, and for them Mr. Plunkett is Manager. Their contract will be with the Company. Mr. Plunkett may also be acting as agent for the Company, but this I do not know; in any case it is to his interest to see the arrangements satisfactorily completed with the Government. The measure is now before the House and will be voted upon in about a fortnight at furthest. There seems to be little doubt that it will pass; as

It has already been agreed to by the Government & only requires the ratification of the House. The Engineering is entirely in the hands of the Syndicate. A Chief Engineer will first be appointed; & in this Mr. Plunkett's recommendation is pretty sure to be taken (as he believes). He will probably be a Canadian or an American, as Mr. P. is quite aware of the unsuitableness of English Engineers for R'y work in this country. Mr. Plunkett tells me that there <sup>will</sup> be no difficulty in any getting the best available position on the work; and he does not believe in \* economizing by employing second-class men. It is proposed to build the Picton Branch; Dartmouth Branch to Windsor Junction; connection



but did not enter into details  
about it. His opinion was  
that an "eye for country" as  
he expressed it, would have more  
value in the estimation of the  
C. P. R. Syndicate than any merit  
of a more substantial character.

Your affectionate son,

William.

William  
July/82

about it. His opinion was  
that an "up for country" as  
he expressed it would give more  
value in the estimation of the  
I. J. K. Department than any other  
of a more substantial character.

Your affectionate son,  
William.