

WM. BELL DAWSON,

Civil Engineer,

Land Surveyor and Architect,

260 ST. JAMES STREET,

MONTREAL.

Mr. Howard Primrose is in town, with Aleck & Minnie. Aleck leaves for Edinburgh this week. They are staying at the Madams -

Dear Father,

It appears that the question of the N. S. Syndicate is now practically decided. I telegraphed the result of the vote yesterday as I thought it might interest you. Mr. Holmes called at my office yesterday with Mr. Plunkett to ask if I would lay down the projected Railways on a blank map of the Province; which of course I was glad to do: it was merely a few hours work. Mr. Plunkett

William  
H'fax. 22-2-82.

heavy bridging. I need hardly add that I infinitely prefer this Province to the Rocky Mountains. I only regret that I have not succeeded in obtaining work in Montreal; but if I cannot, I am still comparatively near home.

I understand now how Mr. Plunkett has such a leading place in this Railway matter. I think he has had a prominent part in originating the whole thing. He is largely interested in the Western Counties Road; in fact I believe has a controlling amount of its stock. This road was completed from Digby to Yarmouth, but the connection from Annapolis to Digby was never finished; and although there



intends to leave for Montreal in a few days to arrange about the appointment of a Chief Engineer. I am rather interested to know who he is to be; but I shall probably see him on Mr. Blunkett's return here about the fifteenth prox. He leaves for England on the 18<sup>th</sup> March; & wishes to have some levels run with reference to some of the more important bridges that he may order them in England when he is over there. I told him that I had still a number of weeks work before me; and he says that the immediate work can easily be arranged for, & that I can come on when I am ready, and when

the work begins definitely. He does not ~~and~~ wish to make any final arrangement with me as to position; before the Chief Engineer has been decided upon; but he tells me that I may count upon an appointment, and from what he has said, I think he is likely to give me charge of a Division. He has selected rooms in the Intercolonial Station for Offices, which may become the permanent central office, although local offices will be required on each division.

I am very glad indeed that there is every prospect of this Railway work going on. There is much of it that is through difficult country; and there is a considerable amount of



was fore guaranteed in the bonds, a certain amount of subsidy & other advantages were lost for want of the road being finished; & the company hesitated about making the connection on account of the heaviness of the work, & its great expense. Under these circumstances the bonds stood a long way below par. The new arrangement, by combining all the roads in the Province into one system, enables the new company to raise a considerable amount of capital on the property put into their hands, and so to complete the unfinished parts and realize the advantages which are still outstanding promises. The result of this is to bring the Western Counties bonds up to their face value.

It is also noteworthy that the two  
Aboriginal Sections in the Company (out of  
Halifax) are both western men. The  
vote in the House seems to have  
balanced between party & local interests.  
The Govt consider it a good bargain  
for them, as they realise a consider-  
able amount of the subsidy original-  
ly invested in the various lines.

The question of the Topo. Survey  
is to come before the House to-day  
or tomorrow. When the Legislature  
has decided what it is willing  
to do, Mr Holmes will communicate  
with Ottawa, & endeavor to put the  
work on a definite footing.

I am preparing Examination quest-  
ions which I hope to have ready  
about the end of the week.

Your affectionate son,  
William.