

(Cots)

Chesley Col Montrose  
Sept 1, 1896,  
Acc. 976

A. R. C. Selwyn & MS co  
Sr

Having since my return  
to town been more fully informed  
as to your action as Director of  
the Survey in reference to the  
Office of Palaeontologist, and feeling  
that in such a matter the  
Government cannot be expected  
to act contrary to your expressed  
recommendations I by leave  
withdraw my application on  
behalf of Mr S. M. Dawson,  
explaining that in this as well  
as in my suggestion of his name  
I have been obliged to act  
on his understood wishes and  
qualifications, rather than on  
any definite instructions from  
him, owing to his great  
distance from regular means  
of communication. He is therefore  
free in no way responsible  
for any particular steps I may

have taken no for what I am  
about to add in this letter,  
— in all of which, however, I  
desire to assure you I have  
been actuated by no feeling  
unfriendly to you or to the  
Survey.

I need now take the liberty  
to say, in the capacity simply  
of a citizen of Canada, but of  
one who from his parents and  
his intimate relations with  
the late head of the Survey  
had occasion to be very familiar  
with its perils and toils, from  
its commencement, and  
also in the capacity of one  
who has had long experience  
of the qualities and capabilities  
of Mr. Whitehead, that in my  
judgment the appointment of  
that gentleman to the high

position filled by Mr Bellings —  
a position requiring an amount  
of training, energy, breadth of view  
and knowledge of geology which  
Mr W. with all allowance for  
his skill in certain specialties  
does not possess — and above  
all his position on Canada  
already on the Survey and  
his Superior in all these  
respects will be an error  
and injustice of the gravest  
magnitude, and may cripple  
the work of the Survey and  
detract from the reputation  
of Canada in one of the  
most vital points connected  
with the investigation of  
its geology whether for theoretical  
or practical purposes.

As one of the oldest

and most experienced Canadian  
workers in this field, I should  
regard it as criminal to be  
silent in this matter,  
inasmuch my opinion may  
differ from that of others.

I shall send a copy of  
this letter to the Hon the Minister  
of the Interior, but to no other  
until I learn that the ap-  
pointment has actually been  
made; after which I shall  
consider myself at liberty to  
take part in any public  
discussion or other steps  
that may appear to be  
necessary in the interests  
of Canadian Science.

In the mean time remain  
your obedient servant  
W Dawson