

P. strongly advising
George to buy land
in West Canada

Acc. 976
17 Palace Road
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London

My dear George, July 6th 81.

Very many thanks
for your most welcome letter,
scrap as it was; of course
however I quite understand that
it is not possible to write to
everyone; I have since seen your
letter in the Gazette which was
forwarded to me, & which gives
certainly a rather unhelpful
account of the country through
which you passed, as far as any
agricultural prospects are con-
cerned, but so much the better
for us on the north side of the line.

I got through with my examina-
tion the day before yesterday, & so
take this the first opportunity of
writing. After this of course I shall
be somewhat free & have more

2/ time to myself although of course
I intend to spend as much of it
as possible in seeing something of
Hospitals &c. There were about 200 up
for the exam, & of the 24 who went up for
viva voce on the 1st day, when I did,
rather less than half were let through, so
that I have been fortunate so far.
The results of the other viva voce, which are
still going on, I have not yet heard.

The north west and Manitoba
seem to be the places to go this summer.
I am rather sorry I am not up there
in order to be in the fashion. Both the
Gov^r & Gen^l & Sir A. T. Galt are to
make western expeditions this summer.
The former however is not to leave until
August & as he has only 8 weeks to
spend & is determined not to leave
Canadian territory, I don't think he
will be able to get very far west.
Sir A. T. is on his way across now,
& after spending a week or two in Mont^{re}
& Ottawa will push rapidly on,
picking up his son at Chicago, & thence
following your route via Benton.

3) I explained to him your route & the part of the country where you expected to spend most of your time, & he seemed to think that it was not at all an improbable thing that you & he might come across one another during the summer. He promised not to fail in calling if he came anywhere within calling distance. His object in going is I think partly for the trip but chiefly in order to be able to return as an eye witness of the country which he has to juff up & give information about.

It certainly is very wonderful how widely Manitoba is now known & how highly it is thought of over here. There is in my mind no doubt that the next few years will see it take wider & longer strides than ever before. And in this connection let me strongly advise you to look up some suitable land for investing in, it doesn't now much matter how far west it is as the railway will without doubt reach the mountains in the course of a year or two. How will you come home? If via Winnipeg, by all means take time to get some lots in any of the towns west of it which seem at all to be in promising localities, or in favourable situations. e.g. Portage la Prairie, Grand Vallé where the R.R. crosses the river & which has already come into prominence, or other places further west. I have seen a good deal of Mr A. T. Drummond lately. You of course know him very well. He came across in the Parisian & has since then spent a week in London. He you know is deeply interested in the N.W. & has come across this summer to complete arrangements for a gigantic land company which is being organized. But this you must consider strictly private at present, as it is not to come before the public till all arrangements are completed, which may be in 2 or 3 months. He told me in confidence that their capital will be £1,000,000 to be subscribed at once. £500,000 half of which has already been taken up by two Scotch land companies & the other half is wanted in Month. They are to get their land on exceptionally favourable terms from both the Gov^t

H) and the R.R., I will own something like 25 or 30 townships on which they are bound to put settlers, within a certain limited time. The government has as perhaps you know allowed extremely favourable conditions in the new land regulations for such colonization. The land they will get at little over \$1.00 an acre. I think of the stimulus which the mere fact of this being made public, will give to the whole of the industries of the country. And when settlers begin to pour in as they undoubtedly will next summer everything will go ahead with rapid strides. For my own part I would not want a better investment than property in the small towns west of Red R. They are bound to double & treble in a few years. Look at Winnipeg, Emerson, Portage & Nelsonville, & there will be other Emersons & other Nelsonvilles

Further west. If it hadn't
been for the way in which those
cursed Selwyns treated me, I
should have had over \$3000
now to invest, myself.

We have had most exceptionally
fine weather here since arrival,
as fine as it could be in Mont^e although
lately a little close. I have been
too busy to see much of London, but
took 2 evenings in Parliament (House
of Commons) & heard all the great
guns firing off there. Yesterday I
saw Mr Redpath in his new
quarters in Temple Gardens, the
same I suppose that you also saw
last summer, although he tells
me that he has only been in
them since last October. Mr.
R. has just returned fr. Mont^e
where the last letter I received
told me he had been dining at our
house. Mrs R. the are not unlikely
to go off somewhere for a summer
trip. Mr & Mrs J. A. R. Motson

are also over here at present.
as are also Mr & Mrs Innot
(Miss Frothingham that was)
Dr & Mrs. Howard are coming over
in August. I see too from Mont^{ly}
papers that Miss Bond was married
other day to Mr. Robertson, whom I
think you know. Death too has
been busy: Lady Allen & Mr.
Joseph Mackay are both gone. You
will have heard this however
direct from home, as also the
account of the Engineer's meeting
Wm's appointment &c.

I have seen old Mrs Guest here.
She still seems hale & hearty
although suffering from a bad
cold at the time, & of course
enquired most kindly after
you & other members of the family
& even knew my name, which
I was much surprised at,
from having heard you
mention it years ago.

She too, as does everyone
else here, know all about
this confounded C.M.G. business
& expressed herself much
surprised that Father should
have been offered & still more
that he should have accepted
such a quasi honour. It
certainly was a very stupid
mistake. People everywhere
I find take a man much
at his own estimate, & the less
you think of yourself, the less
others will think of you.

I disliked London exceedingly
at first, everything so dingy & old
& to me who had heard so much
of them, so disappointing: now
however as I am getting to make
some friends & am getting into Lon-
don ways, I rather like it.

Ever yours sincerely
Franklin.