

Disappointment  
of losing his chance of  
advancement

70 St. Matthew Street  
Montreal

23 Nov: 93.

Acc. 976

My dear George,

There is a change which has occurred in the Engineering Office which seriously interferes with my prospects in the C.O.R. and which I would like to explain to you. One of the Asst. Engineers, Vantelet, has been promoted over me in the Office, with the title of "Principal Assistant Engineer". He is from France; and has worked chiefly on Bridge work here; but has not by any means the ~~same~~ experience that I have, nor been so long in the service. The first I knew of the change was on the pay-roll; and on speaking to Mr. Peterson about it, the only explanation he

gave me was that I had been  
away so much on the Arbitration  
that Vautelst had had the  
opportunity to work up bridge-  
work, & had now had more  
experience than I had in it.  
The experience I had had in the  
Arbitration he would not admit  
to have made me any more  
useful to him, (altho this in-  
cluded the Estimates I made).  
Also the testing work I am doing,  
he takes little interest in, as he  
does not see that it is any  
advantage to his Department.

I saw Mr. Shaysnessy about the  
matter, as Mr. P. had spoken of the  
Arbitration; and mentioned to him  
the above points also. He listened  
to what I had to say, and said

he would see Mr. Peterson about it;  
but nothing has come of it.

The pay-roll now stands as follows :-

Per month	Vautabat	208 <sup>00</sup>
	Dawson	166 <sup>00</sup>
	Zueler	150 <sup>00</sup>
	Irwin	120 <sup>00</sup>

What is most unsatisfactory is that I have no opportunity of making any Engineering Record or gaining any definite experience; and also that I am superseded & have little further in the way of prospects to look forward to.

What I am now doing is to look around for other work; as I do not think it right to allow the best part of my life to slip by, without the opportunity to gain more experience, as this is really what will make me valuable as an Engineer, especially later in life. My chief fault is that I

have not the map and push  
that some men have, and do not  
make so much splash about my  
work. I have the feeling that I  
would have much better opportunities  
in England of being appreciated  
in the steady-going kind of work  
that I do. I have thought that  
you might possibly be able to  
obtain some information for me in  
England. What I would be best  
fitted for would be, say, bridge-work  
in a Railway Co.; or construction  
work. I have always preferred  
hydraulic or Canal work, as  
being more accurate & interesting,  
but have not succeeded in getting  
any experience so far in these  
lines. I would be much obliged  
if you could obtain any informa-  
tion for me while in England.

This no doubt may sound to you a little vague; but still I venture to make the suggestion, as you may have some opportunity; and might be able to put me in communication with persons there. There is exceedingly little going on in Canada at present, as I have been making pretty full inquiries; and I do not like the States, altho' no doubt opportunities are better there. Of course I will hold on to what I have in the mean time and make the best of it; but I think you will understand the disadvantage I am at.

We are all well. Anna & Bernard have to leave their nice place, which is very sad -

Ever your affectionate brother

William -

*[The page contains several paragraphs of extremely faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.]*