

Pictou 24th June 1872. 44A

Principal Dawson
Macgill College Montreal
My dear Sir

We duly received your letter of 19th Inst and Mr. McKay's of 20th and submitted them for consideration at a meeting of the parties interested in the Iron Claims offered to Mr. Prentice. We do not think it necessary to copy here the Telegrams communicating the result of their deliberations presuming they have reached you correctly.

At the meeting it was considered next to impossible to sell out the Rights and get a satisfactory security on them. They are so numerous and of different degrees of interest some being a square mile, out of five, already selected - others a second square mile out of five, one being already selected by others - others again with rights to select first one square mile out of five and a second square mile out of the same five - others again where a right to work one square mile must be selected before the negotiations can possibly close say on or before 15 Aug next and this is the valuable square mile containing the specular ore on the Mt. side of the River. Again there are four areas between the bank and Battery Hill from which one mile ^{each} can be selected. It would hardly be possible to make a description of all these Rights intelligible in Britain without a very voluminous document & all parties here think far more have telegraphed you that the only way to bring the thing to a satisfactory issue is to get Prentice to ask the Company to send an Engineer or Agent to examine the properties, titles ^{see} and to empower him, if he considers them quite satisfactory to conclude the purchase and to pay the consideration already named on receiving a transfer of our titles thereto.

We presume Mr. Pringle knows that these titles are Government leases to work the Mines paying a Royalty of 8 cents per ton of ore on all except the Medizomish ore of which a deed absolute can be given free from all Royalty or Government control, no reservation having been made by the Government of the iron ore when the land was granted in which it exists.

Mr. Carmichael has informed the Government by letter that he owns the property upon which what is known as the Fraser mine at the East River reported on by Mr. Hartley is situated and claims the ore also as unreserved. He has forbidden the Government to authorize a survey thereof to the Pictou Company and their surveyor has received orders to delay until further instructed, but before he received such orders Fraser and others forbade him to go on their property and it was on reporting this fact to the Government Holmes received orders to delay the survey. An investigation is ordered and no doubt Mr. Carmichael will use all his influence with the Government (which is not small) to defeat or delay the title as claimed by us, but we have not any doubt of ultimate success, if the Records at Halifax are correct as to the reservation of the iron ore in the grant issued by the Govt. of this property in 1816. The Records are perfectly clear on the point.

You will remember all the areas on the East side of the River are based upon the first one [Fraser] which was described as running at right angles eastwardly from the River. Holmes has been engaged for some time in trying to lay down a course for this right angle line and also trying to take care that the course which he lays down

will make our new areas embrace the iron at McDonalds and Websters also at Cameron's near the Church, an area which the Pictou Company have taken up but not embraced in the offer to Prentice. This Survey will be somewhat expensive as Holmes was forbidden to go on some of the properties and he had to find out the bearing of Websters from a certain point in the River by surveying round the roads and finding it out in this way.

Mr Ross sent us word that the "Georgia" was just finishing loading for Montreal at Granton Wharf and that a Boat was just leaving Pictou for Granton Wharf. We immediately sent the Box of specimens (addressed Principal Dawson Macgill College Montreal) to the wharf and delivered it on board to the Purser and we were greatly disappointed on receiving your tel "specimens not in Georgia". We at once telegraphed you that the box had been delivered to an officer on board. Mr Ross ascertained since that that officer was the Purser and telegraphed Mr McKay to order a search in the steamer's warehouse - we hope it has turned up but in case it has not we will look out for it on the return of the Georgia here. Take care that it is put in a way to reach you.

We do not think it worth while to take third rights on the new areas on the East River if we can select two miles out of every five it will surely be enough. Fraser has been engaged with Mr Holmes on the survey. We expect to see him when that is finished and to send him out prospecting if he is able to go. We hear there is more ore showing East of Websters at Sutherland's River, but unless it could be got to Moore's mine of coal we think it would be too far from the East River to be useful as connected with East River Coal Mines.

Yours Truly
Howard Primrose

Confidential

