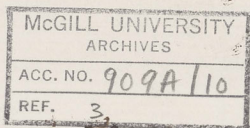


Prentice
C. W. P.

3A
THE QUEEN'S HOTEL,
GLASGOW.



30th July 2

My dear Sir

Mr. Prentice has forwarded
me your letter of 14th inst. in
which you mention that the Pictou
people are impatient & will not
wait beyond July. - that
excursions are being made to
raise a rival company in England
on the small remainder of Iron
properties in Pictou not included
in any agreement; & further that
you have reason to suspect that
some of the gentlemen from Scotland
who visited the area with me are
quite disposed to give you in cutting
us out, & in using their information
for that purpose. For these reasons
I advise you to sell at a moderate
price, as delay will lead to unsatisfactory
results.

To begin with the last year, let me
 assure you that I was not holding out
 for a large sum, but only a few, a
 very few thousand pounds for my labour
 & risk, - not as many as you will
 receive ere long. That I am sure of
 selling the property, there is no doubt.
 The only real danger of delay
 arises from the fact that I am
 dealing with men who from a
 desire to grasp thousands out of a
 property that has cost them a few
 hundred dollars, are not as true to
 me as they should be (aspect from honesty)
 in their own interest. I speak of the
 Pictou people, who, if any overtures
 were made, from any quarter, particularly
 from the gentlemen (?), who accompanied
 me, with a view to purchase the
 property, should have been fully &
 immediately communicated to us. I
 have bought the property & am liable
 for the remainder of the payments.

But the "gentleman" who was blackpainted
 enough to accompany to view my property
 & endeavor to take advantage of me,
 is Mr. Dickson of Edin. who is of
 so disreputable a character that he
 was kicked out of the direction of
 the Harvey Hill mine, & who it turns
 out has neither money nor influence.
 He came for Halifax in the S.S. with
 Giles, & Mr. Shaw Stewart, whom you
 remember & who is the only honest
 man of the whole deputation, related
 to me two days since all that has
 taken place. Mr. Dickson soon
 found out that Giles' project was
 exceedingly feeble, & in fact - Giles,
 whom I have seen, practically admits
 it by seeking to amalgamate with
 me. Dickson, seeing this hoped
 to cut in this year & then get into
 any place, which he thought was
 merely that of an agent who
 had the property for a short time.
 Beyond having a finger in the pie
 in this dishonourable way, he has no
 other views & has not only no power,
 but ^{his connection} would discredit any project.

No one can float a company now
 a days, & I am glad of it. I wish to
 have nothing more to do with the class
 surrounding these ventures. My object,
 & I shall succeed if you & McKay take
 a firm stand & support me in spite
 of the Pictou people, which you can
 do if you are firm; my object is
 to provide the means to pay you
 without any immediate profit to
 myself, & to put up ~~the~~ two blast
 furnaces & build the Railway.
 This I am now arranging for & have
 made satisfactory progress. My
 associates are men of great power, but
 like all capitalists, very cautious.
 However this day only I succeeded in
 convincing the most obdurate capitalist
 I have yet met, & he acknowledges that
 I have convinced him, thoroughly.
 Whether I will have the money ready,
note. 25th I told Mr. Primrose exceedingly
 doubtful, & if they will not act like
 reasonable men, & attempt to force
 me, I will of course offer every resistance.
 I will pay the money all in good time.
 They have the property as security, & I
 have proved its value, which they were

been wanted this last week, a report on the explanation
without which I could not write.

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agreed to do. Please remember
that my dealings have been
with you & Mr. McKay & that
proceedings can only be taken
by you. This you can refuse
to do on perfectly legitimate
grounds. You can tell Mr.
Primrose that you wrote me
urging me to pay \$10,000 on
the 20th of August & that I
would get a year if necessary
to pay the balance. Now I
do not ask, I merely wish you
to make a reasonable allowance
for the unforeseen difficulties
which have beset my path,
the condition of the money market,
& the depression in the iron
trade. Some consideration also
should be shown when it is
remembered that I am devoting
myself exclusively to this business,
that this my efforts you are
likely to reach need an earlier

honest than myself, I having
to wait until money is made
out of our blast-furnaces.

To this one object my whole
life is devoted, & I implore
you to cease distressing me
by these constant stories of the
impatience of these gentlemen
in Pictou, - but rather tell
them that I am entitled
to my consideration & that
I must have it. The sacrifices
I have made to carry out this
project are not likely to weigh
with them, but I am sure
they will not be without their
influence on your mind. It
is no light matter for one whose
only happiness is in his own
house to be so far & so long
away from home, conscious that
he is doing all that man can
do, & yet receiving constant

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Reminders that if he has not
Completed his work by a
given day, he is to be sacrificed
without mercy.

The first memorandum
drawn by you setting forth
the respective prices of the
different properties you have
not yet sent me, altho
my letter asking for it was
written in Picta & afterwards
by you. Please send it by
return.

I trust that you have
made arrangements with
some Banker. I would prefer
Mr. Corté of St. Paul
Jacques Carter, to advise
his London correspondents
that I am the proprietor
of the Picta Iron Field
described by you, & that we

as she has any right
to deal with them. If
this has not been done, it
must be cabled at
once.

Trusting that your
friends will see that what
Jack is in their own
interest, believe me

Yours very truly
Edw. W. Prentiss

To Principal Dawson U.S.