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Pictou 26th April 1873.

My dear Sir

I send you by this mail the Plan of the Cumberland areas rec^d from Mr. Barnau today. He has not sent me the Bill. I hope it will serve your purpose. He wrote to me on 24th Inst. that R. P. Fraser (S.D.B.'s son) applied for a License to search at Boat Harbor on 22nd Inst. within the limits of the tracing of Pictou's Coy sent you some time ago.

Last Evening rec^d a tel from Mr. M. Kay stating that Prentice had returned and told him he had sold the iron property and I have just rec^d another tel from him stating that a letter had been received from Richard Potter Pres^t Grand Trunk Railway London con- firming Prentice's statement.

This will be good news if it ends in putting us in possession

of the balance of the \$80,000.

You may think us blameable for having so little faith in Prentice but I must confess to a feeling that we may yet have trouble with him and would urge on you and Mr. McKay not to be led into a further Extension of time to him as there is no time to be lost in getting the property into the hands of some party who will attend to keeping alive the Government Rights to the Areas at present covered

Mr. McKay writes us there are parties in Montreal ready to take it and pay for it - besides either Prentice or Sir Hugh Allen

Prentice I believe has worked hard and no doubt paid out a considerable amount. He is therefore best entitled to the property but we must not hang it up to await his convenience losing the chance of selling to others perhaps even in disappointment.

In a letter rec'd from you lately you said you might probably be down in May to see the matter closed up. We have had a very backward Spring. There is yet quite a depth of snow in the woods.

It would be prudent for you to ask me by telegraph, before leaving, to ascertain whether the lands are in a favorable state for exploration.

You will remember the J. W. Fraser area is in my name only, and that I am the party accused in equity, of fraud. I will therefore not peril the issue by making any offer of that property to Mr. Prentice or any person else. The condition of the agreement you made with Mr. Prentice on 24 Sept '72 was not fulfilled by him as he declined to sign an agreement at Quebec as stipulated, and therefore cannot call on you to fulfill your part especially as this agreement was made by you without getting the assent of parties here.

Mr. Prentice only gives the Montreal Coy \$20,000 while the others have \$30,000 each and I have no doubt the Montreal areas cover more ore than all the others put together. Certainly vastly more than was sold to Mr. Prentice by the original contract.

Mr. McKay says he has written me and we await receipt with some anxiety, to hear exactly how the matter stands.

Yours Truly

Howard Prentice

D. Dawson