THE GLASGOW CANADIAN LAND & TRUST CO., (LIM.)

Scotstown, Que., 6th January 1881

Principal Dawson L.L.D.
McGill College University
Montreal

Dear Sir

I had several of the Scottish former delegates sent to Canada last year to examine its claims as a field for their surplus population, visiting here. They went to work in a very systematic and minute manner and in the course of their examination of the soil, we came upon a band or stratum of light grey matter. This material was found in all the parts examined where the soil has not been under cultivation. It was found about six inches below the surface and varied in thickness from one half of an inch to two inches. Leaf-mould or decaying vegetable matter was found to underly as well as overlay this band. I was satisfied at the time that it was an aqueous deposit, and from an analysis made by a competent chemist in Glasgow Scotland I am convinced it can be nothing else. I append the analysis made by Mr Tatlock. The conditions required to originate this deposit are puzzling to me. I am aware as in the case of the formation of coal deposits that it would require many generations to produce the six inches of vegetable matter on top of this band, but in all my geological reading, I do not remember of noticing an account of land depressing or submergence, nor of its elevation afterwards, except in certain limited localities. We are fifteen hundred feet above sea level, and I cannot suppose that it can have been of marine origin. I have not examined the deposit sufficiently to say whether organic remains

are to be found in it or not. but for many reasons I am disposed to think they are not likely to be. If the deposit I refer to was only found within the natural basin which contains Lake Mégantic. I would attribute the circumstance to the subsidence of the waters of that Lake, but as it is found beyond the ridges forming that basin - but to what extent I cannot at present tell - the submergence of the land in this locality must have been pretty general.

If your valuable time will permit your replying to this imperfect description. I shall be delighted to have your opinion on the subject.

I notice by the newspapers that you usually enjoy your summer holidays, studying in the field, and if you think this section of country worthy of a few weeks exploration I should be delighted to endeavour to make your visit as pleasant as possible. I gave the study of Geology enough attention to make me desirous of acquiring more knowledge, and if an ardent student would give your rambles any zest, I promise you that much at any rate

I remain

Respectfully yours

Æneas McMaster

Copy

City Analyst's Laboratory
138 Bath Street
Glasgow, 3rd December 1860

Chemical Report on a sample of earth received on the 26th ult. from Alex.r Robertson Esq. The Glasgow Canadian Land & Trust Company Limited, Glasgow.

An Analysis gave

	per cent
Silica	84.00
Alumina	12.96
Oxide of Iron	1.04
Lime	Mere Trace
Magnesia	Mere Trace
Sulphuric ~~Absent~~ acid	Absent
Phosphoric Acid	Mere Trace
Carbonic Acid	Absent
Organic Matter	.68
Water	1.32
	100.
Ammonia	.06

It does not contain any Gold or Silver.

Signed Robert. R. Tatlock F.R.S.E. F.C.S.
Public Analyst for the City of Glasgow
Chemist to the Glasgow Agricultural Society

C. McMaster
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