

W. S.
Edmondson

M. Gill College.
Montreal.

Aug 28, 1883

My dear Sir John,

I returned last week from a very pleasant visit to the great West = west, in which I penetrated as far as Calgary, and enjoyed very much the aspects both of men and nature in that vast and valuable region, so promising in many respects. I now write in fulfilment of a promise made to my son Dr R. Dawson and some gentlemen in Winnipeg associated with him in opening up one of the Coal = beds

2881 82
1882
Explored in the Cliffs in
the South Suckatchewan
Coal district. Three gentlemen
I understand are applicants
to your department for the
right of purchasing a coal
area on which they are
already working, and have
expended considerable sums.
I visited their location, and
was pleased with what they
had done in exploratory
work, and think the
place they have selected
a good one to test the

Value of the coals of
this district,

I have no personal interest
in the matter, except my good
wishes for the parties engaged
in it; and have no hesi-
tations in asking your favourable
considerations of their applications,
believing that they will push
their operations and not
only put good coal into the
market; but lead the
way to other enterprises
in the widely extended
Coal district in part
of which they are operating,

and in which I believe
there is at present only one
Athe mine opened, which
is on the opposite side of
the river.

I may add that it
appears to me the Government
should, both with reference
to mines and farms, and
this in the case of the latter
even in the "reserved" belt,
encourage all pioneers willing
to make beginnings which
may serve to lead the way
for others. In these great
unoccupied regions, a single
successful farm or mine
here and there is sure

to lead to mines, and
 I believe there are not
 neglected tracts which re-
 quire only energetic and
 skilful beginnings to
 bring them into active
 demand, profitable to
 their occupants and
 to the country. Few
 have much faith either
 in land or mines till
 they ^{see} some produce of
 a profitable kind.

Again thanking you
 for the letters you were

Kind as to your self,

Remains,

Yours truly

Wm Dawson