

Dawley

St John's N. F.

May 10<sup>th</sup> 1889

Sir W<sup>m</sup> Dawson K.C.M.G.

cc cc

Dear Sir

As I presume you are about the best authority on the geology of Nova Scotia especially of the Carboniferous areas in that peninsula, I take the liberty of asking you for some information relative to the Pictou Coal basin. I have always held that our Newfoundland Carboniferous deposits on the west coast, were rather an extension of the latter than of the Cape Breton series. The Laurentian range of Cape Ray & the Long Mountains in this island are evidently a continuation of the Cape North Range, & must.

must have at one time formed a continuous chain across the Strait of "Cape". Were this the case the two basins would be separated, & that of Cape Breton, the easternmost, would point towards our south shore, & run into Fortune Bay. As a matter of fact, there are a few small outcrops of a very coarse conglomerate, resting on one or two points at the head of this Bay, which might represent the basic conglomerate of the Carb. All I can say about them is, that they ~~are~~ rest unconformably upon Primordial silurian & Huronian rocks. They are composed chiefly of Laurentian debris, often containing huge boulders. They are very loose & friable, & apparently of a much more recent date than any other rocks of the neighborhood. They also

contain numerous pebbles derived from  
the Huronian, Primordial, & even the  
plumbaginious slates of the Bay  
East River Valley (Insect Group?).

If my supposition is correct, that  
these are two separate basins.

I would like to be informed how  
far they correspond in a general  
way? Are the coal deposits in ex-  
actly the same horizon, & is the  
development of the lower members  
of the formation, as great in the  
Victor region as in Cape Breton?

I have Brown's work on the latter,  
which is very full & clear, but  
know little of the former. I am  
about to give my attention to  
one coal region again this summer  
with a view of ascertaining what  
is the extent of the actual coal  
basins discovered, & the possibility  
of further developments. The infor

information I seek would be of great value to me, in studying out our portion of the Carboniferous. If the Pictou series presents any great differences from the Cape Breton, I would be inclined to expect something the same here.

Is there any such a thing as an approximate estimate of <sup>the value of</sup> your coal seams in situ. i.e., The quality, thickness, and extent of a seam being known, what is the value per ton, placed at, taking into account the expense of raising ~~or~~ mining &c? Is \$100 per ton too much?

You will greatly oblige me by an answer at your earliest convenience &c.

Believe me yours

very sincerely

James P. Howley