

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 4631
REF. 384

Harold Sydney

Sydney C. B. March 26-1898-

Sir J. W. Dawson

Dear Sir-

I trust you will pardon the liberty I take as a stranger of writing to you, but I feel sure my object in writing will not be displeasing to you.

During the past three years I have been doing considerable searching for coal in that part of the Sydney coal field lying between Sydney and Mira Bay, and was very much encouraged in doing so by your opinion of that district as given in your "Acadian Geology." And it gives me much pleasure to be able to inform you that your opinion and predictions of that district have been fully verified, probably beyond your expectations.

Our prospecting was mostly done at Black Brook, about eight miles from Sydney, and from that point I have succeeded in

tracing the coal seams a long distance
both ways, especially to the N. West, - and
have located them accurately along the
Eastern side of Sydney Harbour to the
Anticline at South Parr.

It is now over twelve months since I
succeeded in tracing the coals to this place,
but for good reasons did not report it
publicly, and do not wish it to be publicly
known yet a while.

My associates in this venture are Rev. John
Murray Presb. Minister at St.ubenacadee, Hugh
McDonald - of McDonald & Maffatt & Co. Contractors, and
John McEwan, a Scotch Miner, with one or
two others having small interests.

We have had both the coals and the Property
examined by an English expert - considered
one of the best authorities in the world, and
he has reported very favourably on it, - and
it appears that the tests made of the coal in
London after he returned fully sustained

his opinion of the property, I may also say
that our entire Area - Thirteen Square miles -
are now in the hands of an English Syndicate
under option for a certain time.

The President of the Syndicate also visited
the Property with the Expert, and I learn
that your remarks on that district are quoted
to strengthen the Expert's report.

This is a new and very important Coal field,
and is an entirely separate basin from any
hitherto worked here. This I suppose you
suspected long ago. It is in fact a very
large Coal field divided into a number of
subordinate Coal basins by a number of faults
and anticlinals cutting through it from East
to West. It is remarkable for the grouping of
a large number of Coal seams in a comparatively
small vertical depth. And I have as yet been
unable to find any evidence that those Coals
are repeated in any of the adjoining basins.
It seems to resemble the Pitou Basin in

in this respect; and indicates quite as many seams of coal.

One of the seams we cropped has been pronounced by the experts as "equal to the best coal in England," and superior to any they had seen on this side.

I hope you will excuse this long description but I feel sure you will be interested in anything that pertains to the welfare of this Province, and this coal field should in the near future be a source of wealth to the whole Dominion.

We used a Diamond drill in boring, and we also opened a number of crossings, and should you desire it I will be pleased to give you a detailed statement of our work & results.

This coal field will about double the productive coal area of Cape Breton.

Kindly consider the information in regard to the Syndicate private, as they wish it so for the present, but as to the coal it need no longer be concealed.

Most of our local coal authorities would hardly credit what I have written you but it is all perfectly true.

Yours Respectfully
L. B. Harold

Address

Nova Scotia