

WM. BELL DAWSON,  
Civil Engineer,  
Land Surveyor and Architect,  
260 ST. JAMES STREET,  
MONTREAL.

Halifax,

Jan. 23, 1882.

Dear Father,

I now enclose a copy of the letter which I have sent to Major Rogers; I was of course at the disadvantage of not being able to show it to you before sending it. I sent with it a new set of my Testimonials. The Memorandum I had reprinted to correct my titles and add additional items. It is now complete as a record of my education; testimonials as I receive them will show what work I have been on since. The letter will, I think, explain

my view of the matter, as it ex=  
presses pretty fairly my wishes and  
preference ~~in the matter~~. I would be  
glad if you would let George see  
it also, that he may understand  
what I am endeavouring to obtain in  
this connection. An additional reason  
for my wishing this new position, (if  
satisfactory) is the uncertainty of  
this present work. The principal line  
of attack made by the Opposition with  
reference to this new Syndicate, is that  
the Gov<sup>t</sup> is doing what the Dominion  
Gov<sup>t</sup> is already bound to carry out.  
Some pressure in a similar direction  
seems to have been brought to bear  
on Mr. Holmes with refer<sup>s</sup> respect to  
this Survey, although I do not know  
to what extent. He seemed to de=



was somewhat the last time I saw  
him at the idea of the N.S. Government  
paying an equal share with the Dom:  
Govt, and spoke of writing to Sir J. A.  
Macdonald to see if better terms could  
not be secured. The money for this  
survey lies in the Bank of Montreal, &  
is payable to my own signature; but  
there is not much more than enough  
of a balance left to meet this month's  
with accounts & salaries, & I do not in-  
tend to go beyond the actual cash  
on hand in the work I do. Although  
I say this, I do not anticipate any  
difficulty in this matter; but only  
mean that Mr. Holmes appears to de-  
sire a more favorable arrangement,  
and it is a question whether he  
will succeed in getting one. He is

perhaps justified in being dissatisfied  
with the only party of the Geol. Survey  
in this Province being employed on the  
Granite of Cape Breton, while other much  
more pressing work is left untouched.  
There is much in system, no doubt;  
but to begin at the most useless  
end of any thing for the sake of  
making progress always in the one  
direction at a definite rate, is per-  
haps going a little too far.

The weather is always changeable;  
but there has now been sleeping  
for more than a week notwithstand-  
ing thaws and occasional rain.

Your affectionate son,

William.



W. J. P. P.

I learn from my father that you have been informed of my desire to have a position on the Engineering Staff of the Canada Pacific R'y, and that you have had an interview with him on the subject. With respect to my general qualifications and previous work, I may refer to the enclosed Memorandum & Testimonials. I am at present engaged in conducting a Topographical Survey of the Gold Field of this Province. I am using in this Survey stadia measurements, together with a micrometer telescope for longer sights. The tables for reducing the sights have been

calculated from direct observations on a carefully chained line; and I find the results from independent traverses check very satisfactorily. These methods appear to me the most practicable in so rough & rocky a country, and I believe I have acquired in this work additional experience of a kind which would be very useful in Railway location.

Although this survey may extend over a number of years, I would prefer work of a more strictly Engineering character. My only preference on the Pacific Railway is in favor of a section on which interesting and important works will be carried out; and I would rather be on construction than on a preliminary survey. I would be glad to know how far it if



It would be possible to meet my  
kind wishes in this direction, and I  
would also wish to understand  
the conditions of your offer more  
definitely. A salary of \$100  
a month and expenses is less than  
I would accept without hesitation,  
unless it were counterbalanced by  
the opportunity of superintending  
works of construction of special  
interest, or by the prospect of pro-  
motion. With respect to instru-  
ments I may mention that I  
have an American six-inch transit  
theodolite, and one of Troughton  
and Simms "Dumpy" of levels"  
which I find very satisfactory.  
I might however wish to provide  
myself with a lighter theodolite.  
I would therefore be glad to know  
if I would be expected to provide

my own instruments; and also at  
what time the parties usually  
leave in the spring.

Trusting you will favour  
me with a reply to these inquiries,  
I remain

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