

Halifax, May 17, 1882.

W. Dawson

Dear Father,

I have seen Mr. Plunkett
several times lately, & it now ap-
pears that the Dom. Parliament has
made some alterations in the terms
on which the Windsor & Picton Branches
are to be transferred to the Syndicate.
Part of the agreement with the U.S.
Gov^t was that these lines should be
put in their hands with a clear title,
and now, (by an Act now passed its
second reading) the Dominion Gov^t in-
stead of confirming the Provincial legis-
lation, puts certain conditions upon

this transfer. This has been done thro
the influence of the Windsor + Annapolis
co on purpose to worry the Syndicate.
as it will of course affect the value of
any stock they propose to issue. Under
the circumstances, Mr. Plunkett con-
siders it essential to consult with
the parties at home before commencing
work here. He is to leave to-day
via N. York, and leaves a letter with
his Secretary to be handed to me as
soon as he cables on arrival on the
other side. The terms he offers me are
\$150 a month, and travelling expenses
which latter are of course a small item.
I said to him that I considered the
amount below the mark; and also
that I would not consider myself
under any obligation to keep myself

These open for in the event of an other offer
being made me, as he could not make
his offer ~~open~~ definite before leaving.
His reply was that the salary would
be larger when the construction commen-
ced; and that he anticipated no diffi-
culty as to the work going on as soon
as he got across. As he is in a state
of considerable tension just now owing
to all the delay and annoyance to
which he has been put, I did not
consider it advisable to take a more
decided stand as to salary. He con-
siders very much of these poor spending
weeks over matters which should not
take as many days. Things are now
pretty well settled, however.

I saw Mr. Holmes to-day. He tells
me that he understood from Dr. Selwyn
that the Survey was to go on; but I

have heard nothing myself yet. I am just as well pleased, as it comes more time to see what will come of the Syndicate offer. I have enough work to keep both Archibald & myself going till June 15 when the present engagement ends. I shall wait till I see what turns up.

Would you advise me to go on with the present work if it offers first? I wd prefer the R'g work; & Archibald seems to think that he wd rather stand his chance of the Syndicate offer than go on with the Survey, in the position he has had. I wd keep him as my Assistant on the other work. I have reason to think also that Mr. Plunkett has instructed his Secretary to close arrangements with me rather than lose me in the event of my receiving another offer. There is nothing I can say to Dr. Selwyn at present.

Yours affect^d son

William