

Copey.

Ottawa Feb. 27. 1882

Dear Sir Alexander

I have delayed replying to yours of the
8th for a day or two till I could answer ^{the} ~~your~~ question
as to about the Sarnis by route region satisfactorily by sending
the latest information on the subject. This I now
do in the form of the proof sheets of a report which
will shortly appear in the Geol. Survey volume. The report
consists of notes on burnings by Dr. Selwyn & (1880),
with a reprint, in part rewritten by the Chaplin Survey on
the Sarnis region from the Bowditch Commission report.
You will observe that the Sarnis lignites are much
superior to the fuels found further west in composition,
particularly in the large amount of water they contain. They
are also different in texture & crumble readily on
exposure to air, making it difficult to transport
them to any great distance with advantage. For these
reasons, however, some economic impatience may be
predicted particularly in providing supplies of fuel
for settlements in their immediate vicinity.
Our Bryants' preference for the Bell R. Coal is well
founded & it is in quality the best of those ^{now} ~~included~~

by the ^{main} several areas. The ^{east} ~~coront~~ ^{boundary outcrop} ~~feet~~ on the Now,
is however the continuation of the same seam, &
though somewhat inferior in quality ^{appeared} ~~seemed~~ to me to
acquire special importance in view of the superiority of
the Now as a navigable river.

I have made arrangements to leave here about the
first of May for Germany, but if you return in
April may hope to be able to ~~discuss~~ meet you
here & shall be happy to give any additional
information I can.

Believe me
yours very truly
George M. Dawson

Sir A. F. Satt
G.C.M.S.

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Copy in att.
Satt.
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