

Ladner, B. C.

8th March 1928.

C. W. Chesterton, Esq.,
Bank of Montreal,
Calgary, Alta.

Dear Chesterton:-

Acting on your advice I wrote Jarvis on the 3rd inst., as per copy herewith, and on the 6th had an interview with him. He said there was no chance of my wishes being complied with. My name had been brought up amongst others at a meeting at which all three of the company's bankers were present. The manager of the Nova Scotia made no comment but both Laing and Holt had objected to me. In face of their opposition the company could not insist on my receiving the appointment. He admitted my claims were correct; he knew the crookedness of those who had opposed me; and he agreed the company had no one capable of filling the position and bringing order out of chaos, nor did he know where they were going to find one acceptable to both the company and its bankers.

I told him I had quite expected Laing's and Holt's opposition. Neither were here in those early days of the company and all they had to go on were the records of their banks. These records would be the expression of Sweeny's and Murray's viewpoint and they admittedly were biased. Unless further evidence was presented to offset that in file the banks naturally would be guided by what was already recorded. Personally I could submit documentary proof of all my contentions and if he was willing to do his share I thought both Laing and Holt would be fair enough to alter their opinions. I suggested he show my letter and supporting evidence to these men, explaining at the same time his own knowledge of their correctness, and that it was in the interests of both the company and its bankers that I be re-instated.

Jarvis said he would interview Laing and Holt again and try to overcome their opposition. He spoke as if all impediment lay with them and that he would try his best to overcome their objections but that it would take time, and for me not to count on his advocacy being successful. Confidentially I may say I question the sincerity of his intentions in this respect as just before we parted he said there was another matter in abeyance, of which he was not at liberty to speak, which, if it developed properly, would preclude my appointment even if the bankers were agreeable. (It is this I had reference to in the closing paragraph of my letter of the 7th inst., to Jarvis.)

On my return home I made extracts from documents relating to the matter of my resignation and sent them to Jarvis with a covering letter yesterday. I enclose herewith copies of my two letters to Jarvis and of the other papers submitted him, excepting Exhibit C. - the Inspection Report - which was too voluminous to copy. These will give you a pretty fair knowledge of what transpired in the past, and what I am attempting to do to-day.

I am inclined to think that instead of Jarvis bringing pressure on the banks more will be accomplished by the banks bringing pressure on the company. If you think well of it you can take the matter

up with Mr. Clarke and also enlist English's co-operation. I have not approached the latter but he may stand well with the H.O. man you said has charge of B.C. affairs and might influence his decision. I will leave it to you to get in touch with English and to send him such information as you think would assist him in the matter. I have no objections to your sending him and Mr. Clarke full copies of both the letters and documents I am sending you.

Your Montreal friends can doubtless deal with this matter so as not to hurt the feelings of either Messrs Hogg or Laing and perhaps arrange it so the pressure on the company would appear to come from those gentlemen direct. I do not know how to bring my case before the Bank of Commerce officials if Jarvis is lukewarm in his advocacy of my re-instatement as I am unacquainted with any of their eastern officials. If your bank could see its way to indicate to the B. of C. head office officials its desire for my appointment no doubt the other would be favourably impressed. However this is a matter for you to decide on without any suggestion from me.

Whether or not you can do anything for me in this matter I appreciate the soundness of your advice when I met you last week. Acting on it has at least cleared the atmosphere somewhat and brought matters out into the open. If ultimately I realize my ambition I will have you to thank for it. In any event I very much appreciate what you have already done.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

HD/P.