

and state that you have referred the said letter to the Minister of Justice, in order that he may give the necessary instructions as to the course which the Government is legally bound to pursue under the circumstances stated by me.

Your telegram of the eighth has also been received, in which you say, "have telegraphed Bank of Montreal what I hope will be satisfactory. Your letters are under reference to Minister of Justice, but an amicable arrangement settles every thing I hope."

Before I telegraphed you, the creditors had made the following liberal offer to William Weir:—William Weir to give an order on the Finance Minister for one and one-half per cent. on all silver received and exported up to the seventh April; Creditors to pay one-quarter per cent. to the Banks, actual express charges, bags and packages, or the creditors would receive five thousand dollars net; either proposition being accepted, in order to give the Insolvent the benefit of completing his lucrative contracts with the Government, creditors to discontinue proceedings in Insolvency and not oppose his discharge.

The Insolvent refused.

Confidential agent to be arrested on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences, but not by a creditor.

I am just informed that a warrant for the arrest of the said William Weir has been issued at the instance of a person who is not a creditor on his estate, on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences.

The creditors, under whose instructions I am acting, representing more than three-fourths in value of his indebtedness, are the City Bank, the Molsons Bank and the Merchants' Bank.

Assignee anxious to be vested with the contract.

Presuming that the same agent will not now be allowed to carry out the silver contracts, I have the honour to say that I am ready, in the interest of the creditors, to carry out the original intentions of the Government with respect to the silver received to date; or the creditors will be willing to accept any agent the Government may please to appoint for the same purpose.

The creditors appear to be in a hurry.

The honour of a prompt reply will oblige, as the creditors are urgent.

(Signed,) A. B. STEWART,  
Assignee of the estate of William Weir.

No. 10.

*Finance Minister's despatch to A. B. Stewart. No. of message, 257.*  
(Copy.)

MONTREAL, April 12, 1870.

*By telegraph from Ottawa to A. B. Stewart.*

Justice rather slow, as usual. Finance Minister clearly sees his duty to be "to do nothing," at least for the creditors.

Have not yet obtained legal opinion, but expect it will be to the effect that you cannot obtain a lien on Government liabilities to any one. Meantime, my duty must be to do nothing. Weir is here. But I have done nothing with him. He says he has offered reasonable security to you for five thousand dollars. My desire is to have an amicable settlement. I have not told Weir, that in all probability, I shall be bound to pass warrant in his favour.

(Signed,) F. HINCKS.

(Telegram.)

No. 11.

MONTREAL, 12th April, 1870.

*To the Hon. the Finance Minister of Canada, Ottawa:*

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of to-day. The creditors seem to be well aware that, without the assistance of the Hon. the Finance Minister, it would be difficult for them "to obtain a lien on the Government liabilities" to the Insolvent, Weir. But they rely on the Honourable the Finance Minister's aid to obtain what is really an asset of the estate.

Assignee fails to appreciate the truthfulness of the Insolvent.

The offer made by Weir was not reasonable; nor did it give more security than his own word, which cannot be relied on. But the creditors would take five thousand dollars cash, and not interfere with the Insolvent's future earnings; and, so far as a resolution of the creditors could bind, not oppose his discharge.