

their friends to assist them they would occupy a stronger position if we had the legislature summoned, and the agreement confirmed beyond all doubt. It was not a case for much doubt, but in their opinion it was the policy of wisdom to make assurance doubly sure. We were willing to meet the wishes of the gentlemen provided we could be sure that the scheme would be advanced, but in view of the doubt as to the effect of the disallowance question, the members of the Government hesitated to advise an early meeting of the Legislature. On the 28th of December I addressed the following letter to Mr. Whitney :

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

*Halifax, Dec. 28th, 1892.*

DEAR SIR :

Since my return from Boston I have had an opportunity of discussing with some of my colleagues the question of an early meeting of the Legislature, with a view to a ratification of our agreement with you. Although such a course as you propose will be attended with considerable inconvenience to the members of the Legislature, we are disposed, in view of the importance of the matter in hand, to meet your wishes, if we can be satisfied that all obstacles have been removed, and that upon the ratification of the agreement by the Legislature, you and your associates will be prepared to carry on your enterprise.

I am aware that the solicitors of Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., the bankers who are co-operating with you in your undertaking, have recently raised a question with respect to the possible exercise of the power of disallowance by the Governor-General of Canada, as respects "the Mines and Minerals Act, 1892," and also as respects the charter under which you propose to organize your company. I discussed this question with you and your associates at an earlier stage of our negotiations, and I understood that the possibility of disallowance was not regarded as an obstacle to your proceedings. If, however, Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co. attach so much importance to this point as to cause them to delay action until the expiration of the period within which the power of disallowance may be exercised, I do not see that any advantage would be gained by having an early meeting of the Legislature for the purpose of ratifying our agreement with you.

I shall be glad to have a further statement from you before asking my colleagues to come to a decision respecting the early session.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.)

W. S. FIELDING,

*Provincial Secretary.*

HENRY M. WHITNEY, Esq.,

*81 Milk Street, Boston.*

Mr. Whitney, on receipt of that letter, sent me the following telegram :—

BOSTON, Dec. 31, 1892.

HON. W. S. FIELDING, *Halifax.*

Disallowance matter no obstacle. Have already taken Caledonia.

HENRY M. WHITNEY.