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I might say that I understand the American negotiators were anxious to secure a very considerable reduction, not only on clocks but on many other articles, and that it was having in mind the representations I had made that our representatives refused absolutely to consider a reduction beyond 2 1/2 per cent, which they felt, leaving a protection of 27 1/2 per cent, could not prove serious, or might be made up in some other way.

I have taken advantage of what has been said to me in this connection to ask Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson to use their influence with the other Ministers to secure you a large share of Government business, and if any sacrifice is to be made by the tariff, to make this good, so far as possible, by having orders placed with Canadian manufacturing firms entirely and to the exclusion of any others. Dr. Pageley, the Minister of Public Works, and Mr. Graham, Minister of Railways and Canals, have already promised me to help toward this end. I have repeatedly spoken to them on your behalf, and they have made promises. The present situation has helped to impress them more strongly than ever before, with the desirability and necessity of meeting my wishes.

The first time I am up I shall see you and discuss the whole matter fully. I am sure when you know all circumstances, you will believe that in no sense was your industry singled out. That I would never have permitted one way or the other, nor has there been any lack of zealous guarding of your interests on my part, nor will there be in the future. You may count on my doing everything that is possible to see that your industry does not suffer one way or the other.

Might I ask that you would please regard this letter as strictly confidential. I have tried to go as far in explanation as I can properly go, being a member of the Cabinet, but I would not have written even so fully had I not felt sure that in asking you to keep what I have said strictly to yourself, you would not hesitate to do so.

With kindest regards,
Believe me, always,

Arthur Pequegnat Esq.,
Pequegnat Clock Co.,
Berlin, Ont.

Yours very sincerely,