

laws and the leases of mining properties appear to me to be such that we can undertake to do any considerable business without the danger of friction with the Government or embarrassment to ourselves in these matters, I am inclined to take the matter up actively.

I desire simply that the terms and conditions shall be such as to make capital reasonably safe, and I infer from your position in the matter that there is no difficulty in our arriving at a satisfactory understanding about all these matters.

After we have had time for investigation, we will ask for a further conference with you upon the subject.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) HENRY M. WHITNEY.

HON. WILLIAM S. FIELDING,
Provincial Secretary.
Halifax.

That letter was handed to me by Mr. Whitney in Boston at the conclusion of some interviews we had there. Shortly afterwards I received the following letter :

BOSTON, *May 16, 1892.*

HON. WILLIAM S. FIELDING,
Provincial Secretary, Halifax, N. S.

DEAR SIR :

Referring to the interviews we have already had on the subject, I beg to say that since those interview, I have, for a substantial consideration, obtained the right to purchase one of the important mines in Cape Breton, and am expecting to pay out other considerable sums in order to secure the right to purchase other large mining properties. I do this with the intention of prosecuting coal mining in Nova Scotia on a much more extensive scale than it is at present being carried on.

Before, however, going any further, it is important for me to know upon what I can rely as to the form of lease to be granted under such circumstances under section 159 of "the Mines and Minerals Act of 1892." If any important details need the approval of the Legislature, I should be glad to know that I may rely upon the support of your Government in securing such measures as may be considered by both of us unobjectionable in view of what it is proposed by us to do.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) HENRY M. WHITNEY.

On the 19th of May, 1892, I replied to Mr. Whitney's two letters as follows :

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Halifax, May 19th, 1892.

DEAR SIR :

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th inst., which was handed to me in Boston, and also of your letter of 16th inst., which reached me to-day, both in relation to your proposed coal mining operations in Nova Scotia.

In reply I beg to say that after the very full discussion of the subject which has taken place between us, both in Halifax and in Boston, and