

TO THE HON. WM. McDOUGALL, C.B.,

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, &c.,

OTTAWA.

SIR,

Although it is only little more than a year since Mr. Dawson addressed to you his report on the line of route between—"Lake Superior and the Red River Settlement," still the *realisation* of the hopes and expectations of Canada by adding this immense country to the Dominion, furnishes both materials and justification for the liberty I take in addressing this letter to you. There are, I believe, no two opinions as regards the richness and value of the great territory in question, the prairies are second to none on the continent of North America, and immeasurably superior to anything that exists in either Upper or Lower Canada; in a word, the fertility of the land, the salubrity of the climate, and the immensity of this area need not be dwelt upon here; or if necessary the following extract from Mr. Dawson's report will be sufficient on this head to answer all enquiries:

He says "The region is so vast and the soil throughout the greater part of its extent so good, that it is no exaggeration to say the cultivable lands may be reckoned by hundreds of millions of acres. The country is intersected with rivers, one of which, the Saskatchewan drains an area greater than does the St. Lawrence, and is navigable for seven hundred miles of its course. From the South Branch of this great river, north west to Peace River the climate is adapted to the growth of wheat. Coal, salt, iron, gold and bitumen, are among the minerals to be found. Over the untilled fields which nature has spread out, the wild cattle of the plains roam in countless herds, and for hundreds of miles together may be seen grazing like domestic cattle in a field of pasture. A