

If you would give me an idea when the time for decision is likely to arrive, I would be very grateful for the information.

"Yours obediently,

"J. FRASER TORRANCE."

Dr. Selwyn replied as follows:—

"GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OFFICE, OTTAWA, 30th January, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of this date, I may say that the matter referred to in your letter of the 27th ult. will certainly not be considered till the Estimates are passed.

"Of course, your employment during the past summer was only of a temporary nature, and the result has not been such as to induce me to think your services could be continued with advantage to the Survey. I should, therefore, advise you to seek other employment so soon as the work you are now engaged on is completed.

"Yours truly,

"(Signed),

ALFRED R. C. SELWYN.

"J. FRASER TORRANCE, Esq., Ottawa."

When I received that notice to retire I personally sought Dr. Selwyn to remonstrate with him on the subject, and asked him if he discharged me for incompetency, to which he replied that I was the last person in the world to charge with incompetency, and the only reason for my discharge was that the temporary work for which I had been engaged was finished. "Oh," I said, "it appears evident that you are engaging extra men," to which he replied that he had spoken to me about draughting plans and that I told him I was no draughtsman. I never did so, and it would have been an absurdity for me to have done so after the training I had received. I replied to his letter on the 1st of February, as follows:—

"OTTAWA, 1st February, 1884.

"DR. A. R. C. SELWYN, LL.D., F.R.S., &c.,

"Director Geological Survey.

"SIR,—It puzzles me to understand how you received the impression that you had spoken to me repeatedly about draughting plans, and that I had informed you that I was no draughtsman. It is my firm belief that no such question was ever discussed between us, but I have talked to Dr. Bell about the draughting, and he may have spoken about me to you. He once asked me if I was a good draughtsman. I replied that I had not had much practice since leaving college, but that when my report was finished I would try my hand at it for him. I must beg leave to assure you most positively that I never refused to undertake draughting; on the contrary, I have always held myself ready to undertake any work that you chose to assign to me.

"It is satisfactory to learn from you this morning that your letter of the 30th ult. was written simply because the temporary work for which I was engaged is nearly finished. I am applying to the Local Government of British Columbia for a professional engagement, and I hope to find congenial work in that Province. If the impression got abroad that I had been discharged for incompetency it would do me very grave professional injury. But I am very glad to be able to refer to you for evidence to the contrary.

"I am, yours obediently,

"J. FRASER TORRANCE."

That letter remains still unanswered, though I suppose he has found no fault with the contents of it. This question of collecting mining statistics has been submitted to Dr. Selwyn, and before it was submitted I had a conversation with Mr. Hoffman, who holds the position of Inspector of Mines, and who assured me that my usefulness would be greater in professional work of this sort, than in this field work