

Trent University Archives

Gilbert and Stewart Bagnani fonds

94-016

Transcriptions

June 18, 1862 - letter by J.A. Macdonald (Dept. of Attorney General, U.C.) to [Robinson]

Transcription follows:

Private - Dept. of Attorney General, U.C.  
Quebec, 18 June 1862

My dear Robinson:

I intended to have seen you prior to your departure last week for Toronto - the failure was owing to my having mistaken the hour when the steamer was to start. I must [ ] say that I regretted this as I was desirous to bid Mrs. Robinson farewell - (explain this and remember me kindly in that [ ]) and to congratulate yourself besides, on the result of the most [ ] & persevering efforts that man could make, to [ ] on an incoming Administrator the consideration of a matter involving the sale - (or should I not say surrender) of a million acres of land - I can scarcely even now realize how you managed to obtain the decision arrived at - not because there was anything wrong in the [ ] - but how you were propelled as it were to [take the thing \_\_\_] at all , amidst the turmoil and confusion incident to the [ ] by which we were surrounded - your pluck did the thing, that's all - I shall be glad to learn that your English friends will regard the decision to purchase as a favourable one - the tract bordering on an inland sea on one side & on [Frenchis] river on the other offers advantages - not [ ] by the purchasers of other blocks in more isolated sections of the Province -  
faithfully yours

J.A. Macdonald

The Hon. John B. Robinson  
Toronto

March 2, 1874 - [M.C. Cam\_\_\_\_], Legislative Assembly, Toronto, to The Honourable John B. Robinson

Transcription follows:

Legislation Assembly  
Toronto 2 March '74

The Honble John B. Robinson, Toronto

My dear Robinson:

I cannot refrain from expressing the feeling that is wide spread among the Conservatives in the recent action of the Northern Railway company of Canada in removing Mr. [ ] from the Board of Directors and yourself

from the Presidency position which you have both filled well and satisfactorily in the Legitimate intent of the Company. Your removal to make way for strong political partisans of the Government to which we as a party are opposed – was the first attempt in this country to make a commercial enterprise a partizan engine and I have no hesitation in saying its action meets with my unqualified condemnation – Admitting fully the rights of the shareholders to select their governing body from whom they please, I would not feel called upon to address you on the subject were the present action not a decided partizan movement calculated to interfere with the exercise of the just political opinions by gentlemen interested in the Company of my own party – it must not therefore be matter of surprise to the Company that they should be regarded with suspicion and their legislation vigilously watched by our friends – I [ ] this to you as still a Director of the Company and you may use it as you think fit – yours truly  
[N. C. Cam\_\_\_\_\_]

June 21, 1880 – Letter between Sir John A. Macdonald and John Beverley Robinson  
Transcription follows:

Ottawa June 21 /80

Private & Confidential

My dear Robinson

I brought the Lt. Governorship before Council – [ ] opinion is that it may be quite unsafe to open the Constituency just now – now I want you to come down on receipt of this & have the matter finally settled. – Come down tomorrow night.

Yours faithfully,

John Macdonald

The Hon J.B. Robinson

June 22 1880 – Letter between Sir John A. Macdonald and John Beverley Robinson  
Transcription follows:

(Copy) Toronto 22 June 80

My dear Sir John

It is impossible for me to go to Ottawa tomorrow evening, if for no other reason than that I must be at Aurora tomorrow for my son's wedding – I see no use in further discussing the matter on which you write (as you well know)

I have had good cause to consider it settled – whether appointed or not you can tell my old friends in your Govt that I am forced to create a Vacancy in West Toronto – under no circumstances can I, with a due regard to my own character, do otherwise – If you see it in another light, I cannot help it – Things have now gone so far that the situation would be too humiliating for me to occupy for one day – I must therefore call my people together at St. Andrew's Hall, and

announce to them the cause of my resignation, and my withdrawal from Politics for some time – That spirit which I have for years shewn in many a contest in defense of the Conservative Party, and your interests here, remain with me still – I utterly mistake the spirit of those to whom I must appeal, if they will now disapprove of the course I am compelled to pursue

[ ]

JBR

above copy & protest in answer to Sir John's letter of 21 June

25 July 1880 – Letter between Sir John A. Macdonald and John Beverley Robinson

Transcription follows:

Ottawa July 25 1880

Private & Confidential

My dear Robinson

You ought to have come down at all hazards when I wrote you. It would I think have been better for your future – but it is too late now, as Govt could not delay the appointment any longer. If your [appt] loses [in] West Toronto, your "usefulness will be gone" and the party will clamour in such a manner as to make your tenure uncomfortable if not impossible – The Privy Council were of course a good deal concerned at the step, but finally resolved to throw the responsibility on you – So you will have to ["move your boots lively"] in West Toronto.---

Now that it is finally settled – I must repeat what I have said to you before – that I never promised you the office – my [ ] statement to you was that if you ran [ ] [ ] Emergency for [ ], you would be taken care of – As an old Cabinet Minister you know that I could make no such promise – that the [ ] did not belong to me but to the Ministry as a whole. I have your letter written in consequence of my telling you that [T R Gibbs] had prior [claims] – stating that you would take the [ ship] – and when I was last in Toronto, I was there for the purpose of seeing whether it was safe to open the [ ]. You know also that I [mentioned] [\_\_\_\_ \_ B\_\_\_\_] and your other friends that I met at the U.E. Club & that the question was as to the safety of the [ ]. At that meeting [ ] & Tupper were present and on my leaving it I met you – You asked me how things were going to which I answered "favourably". I mention all this to put our relations in this matter right from the start.

And now wishing you all success in you new sphere of usefulness.

[Believe me]

Yours faithfully,

John Mcdonald

The Hon J.B. Robinson

(on back of letter J.B. Robinson has written "Never answered this [provocation] – didn't believe much of what is stated --")

Oct. 12, 1885 – letter from John A. Macdonald to "My dear Robinson"

Transcription follows:

Earnscliffe, Ottawa

12 October 1885

Private

My dear Robinson,

Your five years expired, I think, in July last, and you have I suppose been expecting a communication ever since as to your successor.

I am opposed, so I stated to you when you were appointed, to a second term - unless with an interval - and for that reason pressed you to take the Collectorship of Customs instead. - If I reappointed one Lt. Governor the others who are all political friends would feel slighted if the same favour were not granted them. As it is, because McKenzie when in power committed to a second term for Archibald in N. Scotia, I have applications founded on that precedent.

However if it suits you - it could be arranged between you and me that without a new appt. you may hold on say until 1 July next (1886)

When that time comes, we can then take stock of the position - Let me know if you agree to this, or if you would prefer the immediate appt. of a successor.

If you decide to remain, the public need not know the terms of the arrangement. Your statement that you had received no letter of recall should be enough to satisfy public curiosity.

Of course I do not include Mrs Robinson among "the public". Pray present her my best regards and believe me

Sincerely Yours

[signed] John A. Macdonald

Oct. 20, 1885 - letter from John Beverley Robinson to Sir John A. Macdonald

Transcription follows:

My Dear Sir John,

Your letter of the 12 inst. addressed to me in Toronto only reached me in camp on Lake Joseph on Saturday morning, the 17th, the steamer since the 6 of the month running but twice a week to the head of the Lake. This must therefore be my apology for not answering it before.

Naturally enough, I did expect to hear something from you shortly after the expiration of my office, but knowing your many pressing engagements did not worry myself as I felt that within a reasonable time, I should have a letter from you. I note all you say and personally am inclined to make every allowance for political exigence here, and in the other Provinces.

There may be precedents for a 2nd Term but I need now not argue this with you here.

I agree to the arrangements you propose and hope we may both be able to take stock of the future next year.

I shall say nothing of the arrangt- between us to any one, and shall fence all enquiries as suggested in yr. letter, except in that quarter to which you allude.

Mrs. R desires me to acknowledge with her best regards yr. kind

message, and to remind you that altho you do not recognize her as one of the "Public", she has for some time past been its faithful servant, working almost as hard as yr.self to win its approbation, though not with the same brilliant success.

It is gratifying to me to feel that the course I have pursued during my term of office, has so far met with your approval, and that of the people of Ontario, as to justify you in offering me a continuance of my position as Lt. Gov. of the Province. Again thanking you for yr. note, the courtesy of which I fully recognize and with best remembrances to Lady McD

I remain,  
My Dear Sir John  
Very faithfully yrs  
JBR

[July 1, 1886] - letter from John Beverley Robinson to Sir John A. Macdonald  
Transcription follows:

(copy)  
My dear Sir John,  
In the last note I had from you on the matter of my successor dated Oct 85, you said "I might hold on until the 1st of July next (1886) when that time comes we can then take stock of the position" --- So I took it for granted that you would give me some fair notice before my successor was appointed -  
I certainly expected this or should have appealed to my old constituents but was persuaded not to do so as some of them were convinced from what they learned in conversation with you that you had every intention of keeping me on for some time longer. I remained quiet therefore unfortunately perhaps for myself.  
I was prepared for a change in the Liut Governorship before very long but what I cannot understand is that you have given Mrs Robinson & myself absolutely no time for making the necessary arrangements to leave Govt. House at this season of the year, a matter which you will readily understand involves much trouble and expense -  
You extended to my predecessor the ordinary courtesy of three months notice, with the salary attached and which I also feel is my due. I have done my best to fulfil my duties to the Public in a constitutional manner without respect to political parties, and all I ask is to be treated with that fair play which I cannot help feeling I have a right to expect from you.

I remain  
My dear Sir John,  
Yours very faithfully,  
John Beverley Robinson

Feb. 22, 1887 - letter from Sir John A. Macdonald to John Beverley

Robinson

Transcription follows:

Private

My dear Robinson,

For fear of the elections going against us your successor has been appointed in Sir Alex r Campbell.

The [ ] Govt would have been found by their party to appoint a Gov't Campbell will make arrangements satisfactory to Mrs Robinson as to Govt House. I wish you were in Parliament with us.

Yours always,

John A. Macdonald

Feb. 22, 1887 - letter from A. Campbell to John Beverley Robinson

Transcription follows:

My dear Robinson,

I was struck by the force of some remarks made in Mrs Robinson's letter of yesterday and also by some made by Mr Mowat and I have seen your note of yesterday to Sir John - he sent for me yesterday and this morning we talked over the situation with the result that I should write to you to say that I will refrain from taking the oaths until after the 31st of May next, by which means, as my commission comes into force duly after the oaths shall have been taken, you would remain Lt. Governor until that period. Sir John was hampered by political party considerations, as I dare say he will explain to you in a letter which he writes to you today, or every possible friendly consideration for your convenience and that of Mrs Robinson would have been, I am persuaded, shewn to you as to the time of your being superseded. He will no doubt in his letter to you today request and I cordially join in the wish that you would continue to fulfil the duties of the post until the time I mention.

I shall much pleased to learn that this suggestion meets with approbation of Mrs Robinson and yourself.

Sincerely yours

A. Campbell

Feb. 23, 1887 - letter from A. Campbell to Mrs. John Beverley Robinson

Transcription follows:

My dear Mrs Robinson,

Sir John Macdonald has, I believe, informed Mr Robinson that I have been appointed to succeed him as Lt. Governor - he and you have made the office so popular that I can only hope for some reflected success. I write now to say that in all things I shall most desire to consult your convenience and comfort; and that as regards the occupation of Government House I beg that you will remain there until the spring - or whenever and as long as you may find it convenient.

I have written to Mr Mowat today and shall be guided by him as to going up to be sworn in and other matters.

Faithfully yours,  
A. Campbell

Feb. 26, 1887 - letter from John Beverley Robinson to Sir Alexander Campbell  
Transcription follows:

My dear Campbell,  
Both Mrs Robinson and myself much appreciate your courteous letter just received.  
Few I hope more willing at all times than I am to make every allowance for political or party considerations more especially when old friends are concerned and having this disposition Mrs Robinson as well as myself were naturally hurt at the summary notice received which led to the correspondence with Sir John and yourself. I am glad that it has ended as it has and in the friendly spirit to which you have given expression, all of which I cordially reciprocate.

I remain,  
Yrs very faithfully  
JBR

March 1, 1887 - letter from T.C. Patterson to Mrs. Robinson  
Transcription follows:

My dear Mrs Robinson,  
On my return from Eastwood I was awfully glad to hear things had been made pleasant, and that you were not to be rewarded for all your exertions by an unexpected and inconvenient removal. While sorry to see any change at Government House I am glad to think that if I lose a friend from the house, a friend takes his place.  
I hope Geddes will be the newcomer's A.D.C. and I stated the expectation in private the other day, thinking it could stave off other affiliations.  
I have no doubt that Sir A.C.'s ready compliance with your views has softened your heart just a little bit, because I know it is a very soft one when it comes to the pinch. You need have no fear that anybody will ever do the honours of Government House more agreeably to the public than you and His Honour have done, in the memory of those who have been fortunate to know your regime.  
[Rejoiced] to think that you have things as you would like to have them.

Yrs very sincerely,  
[ ]Patterson

March 2, 1887 - letter from [Mrs. John Beverley Robinson to T.C.

Patterson

Transcription follows:

My dear T.C. P.

Thank you for your note just received. It is like yourself as kind and nice as can be. Things are now as they should have been at first without any unnecessary correspondence. The first action on the part of ones supposed friends was absolutely indefensible and I should never have been placed in the position which it was intended I should accept without demur. We were fully prepared for a change in the Lt. Governorship before long & I for one as you will know was always sure it would be Sir Alexander to whom personally we have ever had a kind & friendly feeling. "All's well that ends well" but rest assured I can never think without holy anger (& there is such a thing!) of the unwarrantable way in which the occupants of Govt House for six years and a half were at first told to leave it without one moment of consideration.

I am glad you have a friend in the young Lt. Governor. The one you now have in [Govt] House could never even have thought of doing what his successor only a week ago apparently contemplated

March 4, 1887 - letter from A. Campbell to John Beverley Robinson

Transcription follows:

My dear Robinson,

I understand that Mrs Robinson is under the impression, which she has not concealed from others, that my brother had mis- stated to her the position of matters when he said that I was not about to be Lieutenant Governor, giving as one of the reasons that I had purchased a house of my own in Toronto as a private residence.

Will you be kind enough to say to Mrs Robinson that in this she is mistaken, and that my brother had no knowledge, nor had I myself, of my going to Government House until early in February - on the 3rd or 4th of the month Sir John proposed the appointment to me, being the first intimation that I had had. My brother learned the fact from me in the following week when I visited Toronto, with strict injunction that it should go no farther - and this was the first that he knew of it - Up to that time both he and I thought that I was going to reside in Toronto as a private citizen.

Yours Very Truly,

A. Campbell

March 30 [1887] - letter from John Beverley Robinson (addressee unknown, but perhaps family member)

Transcription follows:

Thursday 3.30

I have had a telegraph dearest [ ], from Ottawa given to me this afternoon from Sir Alex. Campbell addressed to a 3rd party, for the



purpose of being handed to me. He says "that matter will go right, you can say as to person interested".

This therefore closes the thing, and as I have just got it, I lose no time in informing you.

I met a mutual friend of mine and [Adam] Crooks this afternoon. He is the Reeve of [Ingersoll]. He said to [Laidlaw] and to myself (with whom I was walking), that he was at [Adam] Crooks last evening who said, well, we're going to have a good lively Governor in Robinson now for the next 5 years, and that he, the Reeve, would now see the inside of Govt House. So I at once said, that he might consider himself always comfortable at Govt House when I was there - at which he bowed, and left us most smilingly. Laidlaw said - that shot was well fired - if you hit them all like that, you're [ ].

Do not say I got telegram from Sir Alex. as he is a particular man. When you leave they came down the same train as I did - (8.37 from Aurora). There is a [P\_\_\_] for a quarter, and a fast train, with [ ] generally as Conductor upon it.

Minnie & [\_\_\_ \_\_\_] are down - and Bev telegraphed he had rather a slow, but pleasant trip. I had a note from Col. Gzowski, saying that as he heard last evening that my appointment was settled, he wrote to say (with congratulations) that I might have determined to hold a reception on Dominion Day of which he would much like to be informed, as Mrs. Gzowski was about filling out cards for a reception at their place, from 4 to 7, which if any was to take place at Govt. House would be abandoned. I ans.d that not being in [ ] as yet, there would be not time for a reception at Govt. House, and by all means for Mrs. Gzowski to continue her good intentions. This was right, wasn't it? Don't work too hard at [Beg's]. You can afford to take things easy now.

Always your [ ] [affecty] dearest [ ]

J.B.R.

April 8, 1887 - letter from Sir [M] Cameron to John Beverley Robinson  
Transcription follows:

(Sir M. Cameron re his Knighthood)

Toronto 8 April 1887

My dear Robinson

I have just received on my return from the Brantford [Assizes] your very kind and gratifying note of congratulations on the [assumption] that Her Majesty had been [ ] pleased to confer upon me the honour of Knighthood. It is very pleasant to feel that my friends do not think the honour has been misplaced while [they] in common with myself realize that it was intended for the office and not the man who fills it. I am sorry that my brother chiefs will not wear the same distinction because it may be thought that I have been singled out for the honour while they though more deserving have been overlooked - when the fact is otherwise. It is a distinction that I should never have thought of seeking but when intended to enhance the dignity of the [ ] over which I preside, I felt I could not with propriety

decline acceptance of it while I feel how undeserving I am personally of the honour - very man thanks for your kind good wishes - & believe me

very faithfully yours

[M.C. Cameron]

His Honour The Hon'ble John Beverley Robinson, Lieutenant Governor,  
Toronto

May 25, [1887] - letter from A. Campbell to "My dear Robinson"  
Transcription follows:

25th May

My dear Robinson

We returned on Monday and have been delayed here by some private affairs -

I have written Mowat to say that if convenient to him I shall be glad to be sworn in on the 1st of June - this will I hope be quite convenient to you - it should be done I think at a meeting of the Executive Council and I have proposed this to him - will you come to the ceremony marking the end of your - and the beginning of my reign - I shall be very glad if you will

faithfully yours

A. Campbell

May 28, 1887 - letter from A. Campbell to John Beverley Robinson  
Transcription follows:

Dear Robinson,

I have your note of the 26th.

I do not know what you mean by the expression "surprise that you did not write to me before".

As I understand the matter, there was no occasion for me to have written to you at all, but I did so out of courtesy and to beg that you would be present on the occasion of my being sworn in.

In further rely to your letter, I beg to say that in February last, when I found that the immediate taking up of my appointment would inconvenience Mrs Robinson & yourself, I, of my own notion, and no with the knowledge of, or at the request of any one, proposed to Sir John Macdonald that I would abstain from being sworn in for two or three months, so that you & Mrs Robinson might not be inconvenienced. If you will refer to my former letters on this subject you will find that I fixed the time during which I would so abstain-it will expire on the 31st instant, and I propose to take the oaths of office on the following day.

As to the reception which you inform me you & Mrs Robinson had intended to hold at Government House, I have written Mr Mowat saying that, so far as I was concerned, I would cheerfully have Government House placed at your disposal until, say, the 30th of June.

Yours truly,

A. Campbell

June 4, 1887 - two copies of a letter on which the back of one reads "Mowats letter to L-Lansdowne re Lt. Govr."

Transcription follows:

Copy

Toronto June 4 1887

My dear Land

I ventured on one occasion which you were in Toronto to say a few words to you respecting our late Lt. Gov (the Hon John Beverley Robinson), and the desire of his personal and other friends that in the distribution of honours in this Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign, she should be graciously pleased to confer on Mr. Robinson the honour of Knight Commander of the most distinguished order of St. Michael and St. [George]. I am sure it will be felt that the Lt. Govr of this great and Loyal Province is a fitting subject for this Royal favour - Mr. Robinson's term came to an end on the first day of the present month after he had held the Office for nearly seven years performing its duties with recognized fidelity, impartiality and ability - Your excellency is aware that many of our most loyal people do not approve of Imperial titles to Colonists, and our Liberal leaders Mr. Brown, Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie thought it their duty for various reasons to respectfully decline the honour for themselves when graciously offered. In the present condition of public opinion other liberal leaders would no doubt under like circumstances follow their example. But it has been the policy of the Imperial Government to grant or offer these honours to representative colonists as well as others who appreciate them. Mr. Robinson is of this class and if such honours are to be conferred I should like very much that he should be one of the recipients - You are aware as matter of history that Mr. Robinson had been a somewhat prominent Conservative politician before he was appointed by the Conservative Govt in 1880 to be Lt. Govr. - He is a conservative still and no doubt will so continue - at the time of his appointment he was a member of the House of Commons of Canada and represented the Conservative City of Toronto, the Capital of his native Province and next to Montreal the chief City of Dominion - He was first elected for the City in 1856 and repeatedly afterwards - One term he served in Parlt. as member for the great district of Algoma which in Territorial extent was about one half the whole Province. In 1862 he was President of the Executive Council of the Province in the Canadian Cabinet. His father was one of the most eminent Public men Canada has had and in recognition of his public services and personal virtues he received a [Baronet\_] in \_\_\_\_\_ an honour which has now passed to an elder brother of the Lt. Govr. The whole family have for a century and more been distinguished for their loyalty to the British Crown. Your Excellency knows that in Provincial Politics I do not belong to the same political party as Mr. Robinson and his family have always done, and I refer to Mr. Robinson's political position because conservative as he is, and appointed to his office by a Conservative

Govt., he had to accept a cabinet of Liberals and rule by their advice during his whole term, the Liberals having for the last fifteen years had a majority in the Provincial assembly; and as his chief advisor during his term of office, I feel bound to say, and I have pleasure in saying that he discharged with unvarying fidelity the not always pleasant duties which under such circumstances belong under responsible Govt. and British [ ] to a Constitutional Governor. Mr. Robinson has thus obtained for himself the esteem and respect of his political opponents in this Province and as he always had the confidence and regard of his political friends, and I would respectfully suggest that he may now in a very special and exceptional sense be [deemed] for the purpose of this Royal favour the representative of all classes of the people of the Province. The distinction will not give him a superior place to other Lt. Govrs' of the Province. His successor the present Lt. Govr. received the honour of Knighthood in 1879. - One of his predecessors Sir Wm Howland who was Lt. Govr from 1868 to 1872 received the like honour in 1879.

Nov. 24, 1887 - letter from [ ] Haldane to [Oliver] Mowat  
Transcription follows:

Private [address] 24 Nov 87

My dear Mr. Mowat: I have had a private interview with Sir Wm. Holland about the question of the [orders]. He expresses himself as very sorry that he has not yet been able to do what you wish. The fact is, that there are some 130 applications for the distinction and the Queen has decided not to create any more KCMG this year. But I can assure you of his desire to comply with your wish at the earliest opportunity on which his hands are free. I am to tell you that this last Knighthood (and it was not a K.C.M.G.) which was bestowed on the President of your High Court of Justice was so bestowed merely because it was an [order] which had become vacant of a [number] specially reserved for the [ ] offices of the Colonies. I am satisfied of the sincerity of what he said to me and of his real will to do what you desire. Believe me [yours \_\_\_\_] [ ] Haldane

June 29, 1891 - letter to John Beverley Robinson from Walter Moberly  
Transcription follows:

Winnipeg June 29th 1891

The Hon. John Beverley Robinson, Toronto My Dear Sir: I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 15th June and will forward to you, as soon as I receive them a copy of the small book, together with the maps, that I mentioned in my former letter and I hope you may find some interesting information about the more northerly and westerly portions of the Dominion in it. The knowledge so far obtained of some of the most remote and out-of-the-way portions of the Dominion by the Explorations recently made by the officers of the Geological Survey, and also by others, cannot fail to convince the people of Canada of the great value of those, at present, inaccessible regions and of the

benefits to be derived by the country generally if they are rendered accessible by railways. The objects I have in view in publishing this book are to impart to our countrymen and others, in a concise form, as much reliable information as possible regarding the portions of the country referred to and to show where the best locations are for the first trunk lines of railways to ensure its future development and from which trunk lines branch railways can, in the future, be advantageously constructed to reach all other portions of those extensive territories that are suitable for agricultural, pastoral, mining and other purposes. It took me from the year 1858 until 1866 to make certain that a feasible line for a railway could be obtained by the route I wished through the mountains of British Columbia, and then the profound stupidity of some of the would be politicians of that Colony frustrated my endeavours to open the way through the mountains and get at the Kootenay Mines, as those men had set their hearts upon a scheme to bring immigration into that colony by means of a subsidized line of steamers from San Francisco to New Westminster which I opposed as much as I could but without avail and the money I wished to build the road with was [ ] or rather thrown away in paying a subsidy to a foreign line of steamers which took away more people than it brought into the country and consequently the Kootenay country was thrown back in its development for years. Having during those eight years obtained a personal knowledge of the country through which I proposed the C.P.R. should be build I had no fear as to the trade it would ultimately develop and which is now surprising people who were quite unacquainted with the country. When I left the service of the Government as engineer for the mountain section in 1874 and my proposed line was abandoned I felt certain Mr. Mackenzie's Govt. would make a great failure of the transcontinental railway and that the proposed northerly extension from Selkirk would not be accomplished for many years to come. I knew a good line could be obtained that way by adopting the Yellow Head Pass but it was not the proper line for our first transcontinental railway. The time to push forward the more northerly lines of railway has now arrived and they will when completed, form, with a line of ocean steamers, over a short sea voyage, a connection with the great railway through Russia now being rapidly pushed forward to Vladovistoc on the Sea of Japan and which is destined to make vast changes in our northwest territories, in the north and north east portions of British Columbia, in Alaska and in Siberia, and under proper management such as has brought prosperity to the C.P.R. since it got out of the hands of the government [their] railways will be most prosperous commercial undertakings to operate for those interested in them and will be of incalculable value to the governments of the Dominion and the United States and assistance can reasonably be looked for to further the construction of these railways by grants of land [ ] from both governments. I think it would be to the advantage of the North West Central Railway to be the first in the field to occupy the ground from Prince Albert to and through the Yellow Head Pass as far West as Tete Jaune Cache on the Fraser River where your railway would connect with my International railway through

British Columbia and Alaska and then the charter can be kept alive until required. By making an application for the charter for this proposed extension of the North West Central Ry. It may prevent future complications that may be very troublesome and probably expensive to get over. I remain Very truly yours Walter Moberly

June 27, 1892 - letter from Sir Oliver Mowat to John Beverley Robinson  
Transcription follows:

Department of Attorney General Ontario Toronto, 27 June 1892

My dear Robinson, I was glad to receive your note. Thanks for your congratulations and kind words in connection therewith. I had some difficulty about accepting the honr, because I knew that many of our people have adopted Mr. Blake's view of the subject, and would disapprove of my accepting. His Excellency wrote me several very kind letters urging acceptance, and combating the difficulties he supposed I might have. All my colleagues but one approve of my acceptance, and all whom I saw previously to my accepting urged me to take that course. My doing so has not been very heartily endorsed by any of the Reform papers, and has been criticised adversely by several of them. Still, on the whole, I do not think my acceptance will do any harm to my party or to myself politically, and I am glad that I accepted. My good wife desires her thanks also for your congratulations and good wishes. She continues to be such a sufferer that she has been unable to derive from the honour all the pleasure which otherwise it would be giving her. She is advised to try the experiment of Penetanguishene this summer, and we leave to-day. I do not expect to cross the Atlantic this year, though I should like extremely to be in the Old Land at the time of a General Election. Now that you are more a man of leisure than the General is, might you not take up yourself those memoirs of your father's Life and Times which I have occasionally spoken of? The matter of publication might be a subsequent consideration. Lady Mowat joins me in kind regards to your daughters and yourself. Ever yours faithfully, OMowat Excuse my using the typewriter.

Jan. 25, 1893 - letter from [John Beverley Robinson] to "My dear Attorney General", [Sir Oliver Mowat]  
Transcription follows:

Toronto 25 Jany 93

My dear Attorney General Respecting the matter of which I was speaking to you and of which I happened to say that so many municipalities & Public [parties] had requested by Petitions & address that [he] would give me a 2nd Term, I have just to say that [those Members] but whose addresses are locked up in a box of which at present I cannot just find the key are the [ ] of this City County Council of York - Barrie, Chatham, Penetanguishene, Simcoe, Essex, Gananoque, Whitby, Peterboro, several others which I forget, but whose addresses or copies of them,

were sent to me. During the last 2 years at all public [ ] the true good will & wish was expressed. I have held every office this municipality, my [ ] [ ], could give me - alderman, Mayor, Pres't of their Council, Member [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] of my Province, Pres't of their Council during the union of the 2 Provinces and Lieut Governor of the Province - as I had the ambition to be Mayor and Governor, I refused as Sir John Macdonalds letters will show, the offices of County Attorney, Collector of Customs (twice), Registrar (twice), County Judge, and now my ambition is, I have [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] the additional honour which your Government requested L'Lansdowne, without my knowledge I should have, that I [ ] it, as against the opinion of others perhaps a [high] [honour], and as if conferred, [ ] [ ] [ ] one, whose father was knighted, and whose son [ ] his [ ] had had the same honour conferred upon him - The [ ]

May 7, 1896 - letter from John Beverley Robinson to Sir Oliver Mowat  
Transcription follows:

Private Copy Toronto 7 May 96

My dear Sir Oliver When in the States I have been much struck with the attention and encouragement given by the American people in many of their States and Cities to objects which in their estimation are calculated to promote a spirit of patriotism and pride in their country. This is evidenced among other things by the erection of Statues in the Squares and Public places of their cities, and in the Portraits in their many halls of Public men, who either in their army or Legislature have made their State or City famous, and added to the greatness of their Common Country. There is also in many of their State buildings mementos of their history to be seen in the display of Battle Flags and in the exhibition of uniforms [ ] of Gallant men who fell fighting for those Flags, the very look on which fills their descendants with pride and stimulates them with a lofty wish, should occasion require, to follow their example. In all this a love of Country is maintained to the great advantage and stability of American institutions. Now if this be so, cannot we do something in our [day] to collect and display to the people of this Province and to our youths, historical mementos of times gone by in which our Fathers took part, to the renown and glory of Canada, without which the British Flag would have ceased to fly over this portion of North America. I am prompted thus to write to you because in my visit to England, particularly in that of 3 years ago, I visited localities where [ ] interesting records and reminders of Canadian history are to be seen, which if procured, would be regarded with a mighty interest by all our people. For instance I saw on the walls of our first Governor Simcoe's family mansion in Devonshire, the Battle Flags of the Simcoe Rangers, in which noted [ ], led by himself, many prominent men who figured in the early settlement and history of our Country gallantly fought during the 7 years of the great American struggle. I can fancy with what emotion hundreds, yes, thousands of their descendants scattered throughout our Province would regard these Flags. Several portraits of

himself and friends are there also to be seen, as well as other things acquired by himself and Mrs. Simcoe, when in Canada in 1792-94 [ ]. Then there are Battle Flags taken greatly by the heroism of our Upper Canada Militia in the war of 1812-15 to be seen in Public places in England, which on proper application made, might perhaps be had, to be hung up in the new Parl't buildings. In a private house in Guernsey, is also to be seen, as I have been informed, the uniform, sword and hat of General Sir Isaac Brock, which he wore when killed at Queenston and which in my opinion should be under the care of The Government of Upper Canada, for which he laid down his life. There is also The Flag of the Steamer 'Caroline' in London, which steamer, you may remember was boarded in American waters, set on fire and sent over The Falls in 1838, well [ ] the cause of war between America and England. It has lately turned up, my brother Charley writes, in some Public institute there. It should be here, where it would be regarded with rare wonder and astonishment, all wanting to know, how, after the lapse of so many years, it had been obtained. All the above, and other much prized relics illustrative of our history, might perhaps be acquired to adorn the walls of The Parliament buildings, and so serve to keep alive and perpetuate the remembrance of events, which should not be forgotten. Now, if you think well of my suggestions, I would, on being authorized so to do, go to England, say for 3 months or so, and try what I could do to accomplish them, The Government paying my expenses only. No one here would be aware of the nature of my visit, which if successful would be applauded, and The Government commended. So give them a thought, and Believe me [ ] J.B.R.