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J.B. Clarke to Marie Steele

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Toronto
10th June 1899

My dear cousin Maye

I was very glad to receive your letter and hear that you and the dear little children are all in good health. I can quite understand how you must all miss Sam. It is very hard indeed that he

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should have to be [illegible] you for so long a time. You must console yourself with the knowledge that he has won the confidence and respect not only of the Government but of the whole Country. I assure you I am very proud of him.

Referring to the [illegible] when Capt. Macdonell was here I negotiated an agreement with some of the best men in

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Toronto, to purchase an undivided [mine] quarters interest in the claim at the price of \$65.000. For the whole claim, to be payable in installments, and in the meantime to proceed with the development of the claim. This agreement was conditional upon the claim appearing to be as represented or rather as it was supposed to be when [excavated] this spring. The snow remained upon the claim until late in May. The Engineer [illegible] to the claim in the end of April but the snow prevented his completing his examination. He returned again on the 18th May, completed his examination and took samples which he had assayed at Nelson. His report arrived here only yesterday and has

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not yet been seen by all the parties. While the report shows that the

claim may possibly be a very valuable one, it appears that that is a mere possibility. There is nothing on which to [found] a conclusion. I am disposed to think that the parties will not proceed on the terms laid down but I think that if the cash payments are

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postponed until a certain amount of development work can be done that they will be willing to go on with the development and that if the result is favourable they will then accept the terms. The price named is a very high one for an undeveloped claim and the advantage of [receiving] a quarter interest is worth much more than the cash if the claim makes a mint. My own view is that it would be well

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to meet these new terms as far as we can [predictably] do so. They have all necessary capital business capacity and experience to make the enterprise a success if the property is good. They are men from whom we will receive fair honest treatment. As soon as there is anything further to report I will write to you again. I may add that Captain Macdonell has certainly done all in his power to carry this matter through successfully. I may [illegible words] Montreal this summer, where I will certainly see you all. Give my kindest love to the children and believe me, dear Maye,

Your affectionate cousin

J.B. Clarke

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