

BROOKLAKE ROAD, R.F.D. No. 1, MADISON, N. J.

March 9th 1947

Mr. R. V. Harris
P.O.Box 522
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Harris,

It was nice to hear from you again and to receive the information in regard to Blair. The fact that Blair has permitted the Mines Leases to expire is understandable as it was established some years back that the expropriation right of the Mines Act could not be applied to the Oak Island site. I believe the Ministry ruled at the time that there was little or no evidence of any valuable ore or other reason for mining the area. It is possible that my recollection of the requirement of progress reports and annual expenditures is connected with the Mines Leases and not with the Treasure Trove agreement.

As the matter stands, with Blair in possession of a Treasure Trove agreement good until 1949, the further progress of recovery is effectually stopped. Blair cannot proceed without my agreement as I own the property and control the right of trespass. I cannot enter in to any agreement with those seeking to recover as Blair controls the Treasure Trove rights and has so far insisted on a 50% share for himself. Few groups or individuals are willing to invest the sum necessary for any recovery operation on a 50/50 basis. Two groups, well-financed, have approached me since last season and have arrived at terms of settlement and methods of procedure satisfactory to them and myself, only to be balked by the exorbitant demands of Blair. In both cases I referred them to the authorities in Halifax and they reported back with the answer that the lease could not be broken, set aside or run concurrently with another so they have both withdrawn from negotiations to wait until 1949 and the expiration of Blair's agreement. My terms in both cases were 10% of the net recovery, payment of taxes annually during the life of the agreement and the financing of one inspection trip by myself each season. I think the terms are modest and reasonable considering the probable expense involved and the large gamble of no recovery. I fail to see why Blair should expect more in his position. In addition to the cases mentioned above an offer to purchase my holdings outright for \$20,000.00 was balked for the same reasons. I have not communicated with Blair at all nor have I heard from him.

SDH