

## DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

HALIFAX, N. S.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

BOTANICAL LABORATORIES

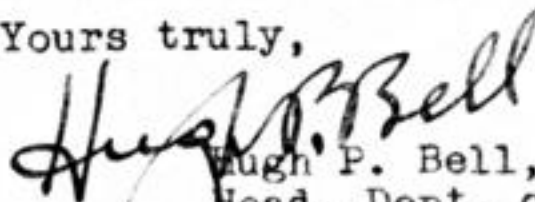
July 22, 1937.

Reginald V. Harris, Esq.,  
Prothonotary,  
Law Courts,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Harris:

In reference to the fibrous material that you showed me this morning, I am not sufficiently familiar with all forms of fibrous to identify this with any degree of accuracy. My knowledge is limited to a few common forms. However it appeared to me to be angiosperm material probably from some member of the lower monocotyledons, but I do not wish you to take this as a definite statement on the matter. In view of the situation in which this material was found, I would suspect that it is a very old deposit of our common eel grass (Zostera marina). To get the accurate determination of this material it should be sent to the Bureau of Plant Industries, Washington. If it turns out to be eel grass it will be very interesting from a scientific standpoint for, as you know, this plant disappeared from the Coast a few years ago and is now coming back slowly. A noted English Botanist claims that the plant which is coming back is not the old form but a hybrid between that old form and another species. Thus if your material is identified as eel grass it could be determined from it whether the plant which grew on our coast a good many years ago was the same form with which we have been familiar. For this purpose samples of your material should be sent to the Oceanograph Institute, Woods Hole, Massachusetts and to both the Kew Gardens and the British Museum, London, England. Of course this should not be done until after the people at the Bureau of Plant Industries have definitely identified it as eel grass.

Yours truly,



Hugh P. Bell,  
Head, Dept. of Biology.

HPB/EM.