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Ottawa, January 29, 1907.

Gentlemen,-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, in which you express surprise at learning that your tender was not accepted for Lot No. 1, Manitoulin Island, unceded, which the Deputy Minister was understood to say had been accepted.

In reply I beg to explain that at the time your representative was present the rough draft of the tenders in the order in which they were received was submitted to the Deputy Minister, who had made inquiry about them, although the draft had not then been checked and compared with the tenders.

When the draft statement of the tenders was made, the Timber Inspector placed a cross, in pencil, opposite to the name of the highest tenderer for each Lot. Lot No. 1 was placed at the bottom of the sheet and the names of your Company and another were written thereunder; your tender being the higher of the two was at first sight marked with a cross, without considering the third and highest tender. There was no room at the bottom of the sheet for another name and therefore, the name of the third and successful tenderer was written on the opposite side of the sheet and marked with a cross, while that placed opposite to the name of your Company was defaced but not effaced, hence in looking  
down

Messrs. John Harrison & Co., Limited,  
Owen Sound, Ont.

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