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TORONTO, February 6, 1871.

DEAR SIR,—

We are in receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo.

We are also in receipt of the parcel containing Contract, copies of resolutions, &c. From the latter we gather the following facts :—

The Inspector of Prisons having seen the plan for the proposed alterations to the North Wing of the Welland Gaol, and carefully examined the details indicated in the plan by letter dated 20th January, 1870, expressed himself that they were in all respects satisfactory, and approved of them in accordance with the Prison Inspector's Act. The County Council accordingly passed a resolution, dated 28th January, 1870, authorising advertisements for tenders, limiting the maximum to \$8,000, and stipulating that the work was to be completed by 1st July, 1872, without any alterations as to the Plans or Specifications whatever, and requiring a clause to that effect to be inserted in the Contract. An advertisement was afterwards published asking for tenders.

In the advertisement it was stated that the Contractor would be required strictly to adhere to the Plan and Specification, and that no departure therefrom would be allowed, nor any payments made for extras either in work or materials.

On 3rd March, 1870, the tenders were opened by a Committee of the Council appointed for the purpose, and the tender of Benjamin Schooley to do the work for \$7,750 was accepted. The contract for the doing of the work is dated 12th April, 1870, and contains a stipulation that the Contractor should in all things in the prosecution of the works adhere strictly to the specification and plan, "it being distinctly understood that no departure therefrom should be allowed; and that no extras, either in materials or work, should be paid for; that no greater price or sum of money than that named in the tender should, in any case or under any circumstances, be paid for, all the materials to be furnished, all the work to be done and performed, and all