

The result of this examination was that on the seventh of February, 1854, Mr. Rankin communicated to the Trustees that he had discovered an error in Messrs. Keefer's and Rubidge's measurement of the width of the Montmorency River. He stated that the actual distance from rock to rock at the proposed site was three hundred and six feet instead of three hundred and sixty, as represented by figures on Messrs. Keefer's and Rubidge's plans. From this he concluded that the span proposed by Mr. Keefer could be reduced some fifty or sixty feet. Mr. Rankin moreover represented to the Trustees that in consequence of this reduction of the span, the suspension cables, instead of being composed of twelve hundred wires as proposed by Mr. Keefer, could be made of one thousand wires, and that in the whole a saving of at least two thousand pounds in the cost of the work would be effected.

In consequence of these representations, on the seventh of February, 1854, the Trustees directed Mr. Porter to countermand whatever orders might have been laid before Messrs. Keefer and Rubidge, and at the same time directed Mr. Rankin to prepare other drawings and specifications adapting Mr. Keefer's views to the corrected distance of three hundred and six feet from edge to edge of rock.

It was also understood that the tenders received on the first of February, 1854, should be laid aside, and other tenders should be received on the drawings and specifications about to be prepared by Mr. Rankin.

Mr. Rankin accordingly prepared other plans and specifications, and by these he proposed that the distance between the points of suspension should be about three hundred and twenty-seven feet. These new plans and specifications were copies of those furnished by Mr. Keefer, with the exception of a difference of fifty-seven feet in the span and the consequent diminution of two hundred strands of wire in each of the two main cables. Mr. Rankin, in his specification, omitted a second inverted arch in the western anchorages described by Mr. Keefer, and also substituted to a paragraph in which Mr. Keefer described in detail the method of constructing the wire cables, the following:—"The process of fabrication will hereafter be determined by the engineer in charge."

The time for receiving the tenders was extended to the first of June, 1854, and on the sixth of that month four tenders were laid before the Trustees, namely—

W. O. Buchanan, at certain prices, per yard and quantities to be ascertained after the completion of the work.

Joseph Archer.....for.....	£12,000	0	0
James Lyons.....for.....	8,481	12	8
Thomas A. Walker..for.....	7,200	0	0

Mr. Walker's tender, being the lowest, was accepted. The accepted tender was dated the first of June, 1854, and offered to have the work completed by the first of December, 1855.

The width was taken as three hundred and twenty-seven feet, and the sum of the tender was divided into two parts, viz:—

For the Masonry.....	£4,200
For the Superstructure.....	3,000
Total.....	£7,200

The amount of debentures which the Trustees were empowered to issue being limited to five thousand pounds under the 14 and 15 Vic., cap. 133, of which two thousand pounds were applied to the purchase of the old bridge and a further sum of three thousand pounds under the 16th Vic., cap. 233, forming six thousand pounds. Delay arose in closing the contract, and a letter was written by their Secretary on the tenth of June, 1854, to the Provincial Secretary at Québec,