

materials and plant enumerated shall be clearly and distinctly understood to be a payment equal in amount to the sum of \$119,336.64, as above stated.

Parties intending to tender for the execution and completion of the works are especially invited to make a careful examination of the materials for themselves, especially of the cut stones, inasmuch as there is a large number of them that must be rejoined, many of them reduced in height, and others faced anew, rendered necessary chiefly as a result of bad piling and careless handling.

The necessity of a thorough examination of the materials now on hand for the works is imperative, from the fact that the workmanship of all parts of the Aqueduct must be of the best description, fully up to the class described in the foregoing specification, in the carrying out of which no modification in any way whatever will be made.

There are fully 340 cubic yards of straight cut stone more than required to fill out the respective courses adopted for the masonry by the former contractors. These stones, it is believed, may in many cases be advantageously made into circular stones for the wings of the structure.

Fully 600 cubic yards more of the cut stones will have to be rejoined, reduced in height or faced anew, according to circumstances, making at least 940 cubic yards of the cut stone that must be more or less altered or cut over again before they can be permitted to be used in the work.

It is, therefore, important that a contractor should bear these facts in mind when preparing a tender for the work; so that if it is awarded to him the recutting, rejoining or whatever is necessary to be done to any of the stones, already provided, to make them suitable for some part of the work, may be fully embraced in the bulk sum stated in the tender for that purpose.

Tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms, and, in the case of firms, except there are attached the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation, and place of residence of each member of the same.

For the fulfilment of the contract satisfactory security will be required, by deposit of money, to the amount of *five per cent.* on the bulk sum of the contract.

Ninety per cent. only of the progress estimates will be paid until the completion of the work.

The works are to be commenced immediately after the person whose "tender" has been accepted shall have entered into contract, and must be proceeded with in such a manner as to fully satisfy the Department of Railways and Canals that the whole of the works described in the foregoing specification and embraced in the contract can be fully completed on or before the 20th day of May, 1884.

JOHN PAGE, Chief Engineer of Canada.

OTTAWA, 12th September, 1881.

OTTAWA, 15th October, 1881.

SIR,—In looking over the aggregate amounts of the respective tenders received for the re-letting of section No. 27 of the Welland Canal enlargement, it will be seen that the tender marked D., H. J. Beemer of Montreal, is the lowest, amounting to \$759,170, or \$28,244 below tender F, which amounts to \$787,414. Keeping in view the high rate of wages at the present time, it seems as if both these tenders are low, still the construction of the Aqueduct and works connected with it depends so much on management that what would be rather an inadequate price to one contractor, would to another afford a moderately fair profit.

In tender D the price for masonry is low, but the sums set down for the cofferdams are fair, and that for the removal of the present or old dams is high, these being the principal items there is reason to believe that a skilled person could with care and attention do the work as a whole satisfactorily to the Department and profitably to himself for the amount stated.