

As I accept the offer of the Department, it is incumbent for me to do so without criticism. But I do not conceive that it is unbecoming to make allusion to the remark that the Minister of Justice has given the opinion that I have no legal claim against the Government. I beg leave to refer you to my previous letters in which I have advanced that my claim should be considered on higher ground than mere technicality, and it would seem by your letter that this principle has been recognised. The settlement of the claim therefore does not suggest any analysis of the ground on which this opinion has been found. But I feel it due to myself to say that I have consulted professional men in Ontario, in whom judgment and knowledge I have full confidence, and they hold a totally opposite opinion, and had the course been forced upon me, I should not have hesitated a moment to have tested the question in one of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice.

I would have answered your letter yesterday, but the mail being seven hours late, any reply to it was impossible.

Personally I beg leave to assure you of my high consideration and

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM KINGSFORD.

F. H. ENNIS, Esq.,

Secretary Public Works.

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So far as I know myself, it is not from private feeling that I publish this correspondence. The injury which Sir H. Langevin was enabled to inflict on me is not slight. I had been eight years without connection with professional outer life, and hence I was dissevered from it; and it is not a passport for the employment of any agent, especially an engineer, when it is known that he is under the ban of the Government. The fact has no public interest. But the whole case, in itself has an important bearing on a branch of public interior economy. This is the point not to be lost sight of, and there are special features in the narrative which I have put to paper so affecting the general interest as to exact the attention of the least reflecting.

I have to repeat that Sir H. Langevin's explanation in the House of Commons is in every way untrue, and it is strikingly at variance with the reasons he first assigned for my removal. It can easily be substantiated that, in the early stages of this proceeding, his explanation was that I had taken part in politics. I have it from more sources than one that my friends were met with the square assertion that I had personally opposed Mr. Langevin in his own county, and had endeavored to influence many electors. The statement is so ridiculous that it is a wonder it was uttered. But I will go through the form of stating that it is untrue, and that there is not even ground that I can understand for its having been made. Had it been the case, and I had thrown my bread on the waters of political strife, I would have silently and uncomplainingly accepted the consequences of my act. But my feeling is against a public officer taking part in politics. His first duty is to his Department. It has long been my opinion that in the Dominion elections every one receiving continuous pay should be dis