

tenders for the execution and completion of the works, by circular letters, addressed to such experienced, competent contractors, possessing means and of such standing that they could be relied upon to carry out what they undertake, the selection of the parties to whom such circulars be addressed being left to the Chief Engineer of Canals; it being however, provided that any contract for said work must be made subject to the approval of Parliament.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES TUPPER,
Minister of Railways and Canals.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 27th October, 1880.

On a Memorandum, dated 26th October, from the Honorable the Minister of Railways and Canals, representing that in September, 1877, a contract was entered into with Messrs. Hunter, Cleveland & Murray, for the execution of the works embraced in Section No. 27 of the Welland Canal, such contract to be fulfilled by the 1st June, 1881.

That the said contract comprises the construction of an Aqueduct for the purpose of carrying the canal over the Chippewa River, the works necessary for which the contractors have so far failed to find means of executing.

That the contractors representing themselves to be experiencing difficulties at this point, have now applied for permission to relinquish their contract to the Government.

That upon this application the Chief Engineer has reported to the effect that little has been done on this work except providing part of the materials, and that unforeseen difficulties of any extent have been experienced, further that the construction of the coffer-dams required, and the unwatering of the foundations of the new structure could not be done by the most experienced contractor, under the best management, for less than double the amount set down for the purpose in the present contract, he also gives it as his opinion that the only way to secure the execution of the works is to place them in the hands of experienced energetic contractors at such rates as will enable them to form proper dams.

That his Report further points out that if the usual course of receiving and accepting tenders is followed in the present case the Government may not obtain the services of a contractor of competence and adequate resources, while it would be impossible to estimate the time which might be occupied in the undertaking or its cost.

The Minister, under the circumstances, and upon the advice of the Chief Engineer, recommends that the present contractors be permitted to relinquish their contract upon terms to be hereafter arranged; and that authority be given to invite tenders, for the execution and completion of the works, by "Circular" letters, addressed to such experienced, competent contractors, possessing means and of such standing that they could be relied upon to carry out what they undertake; the selection of the parties to whom such circulars be addressed being left to the Chief Engineer of Canals, it being however provided that any contract for said work must be made subject to the approval of Parliament.

The Committee submit the foregoing recommendation for Your Excellency's approval.

Certified, J. O. COTÉ, C.P.C.

OTTAWA, 28th October, 1880.

SIR,—From the unsatisfactory rate of progress made with the works on Section No. 27 of the Welland Canal enlargement, under the contract entered into with Messrs. Hunter, Murray & Cleveland, and these gentlemen expressing their inability to proceed without assistance, not warranted by the agreement, and offering to