

Had they known the invariable rule of the Department of the Public Works about giving contract to the lowest tender, they would have submitted the whole with the award they proposed making. The Commissioners desire me to say that had they accepted any of the lowest tenders, they are of opinion, the result would have been that the party could not have built the dock and that a lawsuit would have been the outcome.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. H. VERRET,
Secretary-Treasurer.

To F. BRAUN, Esq.,
Secretary Public Works Department,
Ottawa.

Certified.
(Signed) A. H. VERRET,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Harbour Commissioners' Office,
Quebec, 22nd March, 1879.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
OTTAWA, June 22nd, 1878.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, respecting the award by the Quebec Harbour Commissioners to Messrs. Charlebois, Shanly & Co., of the contract for the proposed Graving Dock in the Harbour of Quebec, and enclosing Engineers' reports on the subject.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) F. BRAUN,
Secretary.

A. H. VERRET, Esq.,
Secretary Harbour Commissioners,
Quebec.

Certified.
(Signed) A. H. VERRET,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Harbour Commissioners' Office,
Quebec, 22nd March, 1879.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
OTTAWA, July 4th, 1878.

SIR,—I am directed by the Minister of Public Works to inform you that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and himself have considered your letter of June 17th, and also the accompanying report of Messrs. Kinipple and Morris, the Engineers for the Graving Dock.

While fully appreciating the motives which have governed the Commissioners in passing over certain tenders, upon the report of the Engineers of the Board, the Ministers regard it as exceedingly desirable that the rules observed by the Government in reference to tenders for public works should, if possible, be acted upon by the Quebec Harbour Commissioners. They consider, therefore, that it would have been better that one of the lower tenders should have been accepted, providing that the parties so tendering were able to satisfy the Board by giving ample security for the due performance of the work.