

CUSTOM HOUSE, MONTREAL,
2nd October, 1879.

DEAR SIR LEONARD TILLEY,

I am thankful to you for your kind answer.

It is a pretty large jump, I admit; but if I could get the facts upon which the expectation is based laid fully before the Government (authoritatively,—not by myself) they would, I think, be held to justify a jump which ought to have been made by stages ere this. I have been so long stationary, in point of salary, (since 1873) while always progressing in the value and extent of intellectual and administrative assistance rendered my official chief, that I feel a good jump, in that respect, would not be out of order now. However it may appear, it is really an unpleasant task to me to blow my own horn. It would be far more satisfactory and, I have no doubt, doubly effectual if a full and clear blast were blown from it, by those who could do so with better grace than I can, and whose duty it is to do so. But, having waited ten years for such a service, I may, I think, be pardoned, if I find myself forced at last to take up the trumpet in my own cause.

Ten years ago, I was practically the Acting-Collector of this Port in the absence of Mr. Delisle, to whom he avowedly looked for the conduct of his office while he was away; and, at all times, I was his Assistant in some of his most important duties, while I shared largely the burden of office routine. I have never ceased to render these important services; on the contrary, they have extended as I grew in judgment and experience. They were an absolute necessity too; as no one man, without such assistance, could cope with the labours of the position. Mr. Delisle, in a sort of a way, admitted this in a report to the Hon. Dr. Tupper in 1873—too late, however, to help me. The present Collector has recognized it to the extent of appointing me to act for him in case of temporary absence, when the Surveyor is not present—thereby making me rank in importance, ability and position next to the Surveyor. From this I turn to my official rank and salary as a clerk; and I am sensible of the contrast and incongruity, not to say injustice, since I have, so far, put up with the situation.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed), W. J. O'HARA.