

OTTAWA, 24th August, 1881.

SIR,—As requested in your communication of the 18th inst., I have prepared and now enclose an instrument to be signed by Messrs. Hunter, Murray & Cleveland discharging the Government from all claims under their contract in conveying to Her Majesty the articles mentioned in the schedule to Mr. Page's award. I telegraphed to the Sheriffs and Clerks of the County Court at St. Catharines and Welland to ascertain if there were any executions or chattle mortgages or bills of sale recorded against the firm. Replies have been received, stating that there were no executions, mortgages or bills of sale. The enclosed instrument should be signed by each member of the firm. The schedule should also be signed. Upon its being so executed there would appear to be no objection to the payment of the money.
Papers returned.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Z. A. LASH, D.M.J.

Seals should be attached before execution. Z. A. L.

OTTAWA, 25th August, 1881.

SIR,—You would oblige us by enclosing to the Imperial Bank, Toronto, for us the 5 per cent. deposit held by you as security for the performance of work on Sections 27 and 35 of the Welland Canal enlargement, amounting to \$60,000.

Yours truly,

HUNTER, MURRAY & CLEVELAND.

Hon. J. H. Pope, Acting Minister of Railway and Canals.

OTTAWA, 25th August, 1881.

SIR,—On the recommendation of the Chief Engineer of Canals, I am directed by the Hon. the Minister to request that the five per cent. security, \$60,000, deposited with the Receiver General on the 18th September, 1877, by Messrs. Hunter, Murray & Cleveland, by way of a deposit receipt of the Imperial Bank of Canada, dated 15th September, 1877, No. 2267, in connection with their contracts for Sections Nos. 27 and 35 of the Welland Canal enlargement, be returned to this Department.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. TRUDEAU.

J. M. Courtney, Esq., Deputy of the Minister of Finance.

ST. CATHARINES, Oct. 1st, 1881.

We have asked permission to bid on Aqueduct Welland Canal from Mr. Page; we were refused permission by resident Engineer to see plans or get specification and form of tender without Page's consent; we can comply with any terms as to security, the Department may ask and consider ourselves as competent to do the work as other firms that are tendering. Please inform us why we are excluded. Answer.

BANNERMAN & CO.

Hon. J. H. POPE, Minister of Railways and Canals.

INGERSOLL, Oct. 1st, 1881.

Bannerman & Co., of which firm I am a member who completed section thirty-three Welland Canal expected to be asked to tender for the Canal Aqueduct now being let. May they not tender? It is reported contractors who are asked to tender are pooling it.

THOS. WELLS.

To Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.