

inion Government. The plans are to be prepared by the Department, tenders are to be called for by the Department, and the contract is to be awarded by the Department.

CROSS-WALL.

The plans for the Cross-wall were duly prepared by the Engineer of the Public Works Department, and, on the report of the Minister of Public Works, were approved by the Governor in Council.

For some unexplained reason, the Minister of Public Works ignored the Statute of 1882, and did not call for tenders through his Department, but arranged for this important step to be taken by the Harbour Commissioners.

The advertisement calling for tenders for the Cross-wall was dated the 16th of April, and requires the tenders to be in by the 2nd of May, or in a period of two weeks.

It was not inserted in any newspaper outside of the cities of Quebec and Montreal.

On the 2nd of May five tenders were received and opened by the Harbour Commissioners, and forwarded by them, the same day, to the Public Works Department, at Ottawa, where they were received on the 3rd or 4th of May.

The tenderers were :

John Gallagher,
Larkin, Connolly & Co.,
George Beaucage,
Peters & Moore,
J. & A. Samson.

In the advertised notice to contractors, it is particularly stated that the "signatures of persons tendering must be in their respective handwriting." This was not complied with by Larkin, Connolly & Co., whose only signature was "Larkin, Connolly & Co., per O.E.M." No objection seems to have been made on this point by the Department.

Of these five tenders it is proved that three were put in by, or in the interest of, the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co., in order that they might so manipulate them as to make sure of the contract. The order as to prices of these three tenders was, when first sent in, as follows :

Gallagher,—lowest,
Beaucage,—next,
Larkin, Connolly & Co.,—highest.

The contractors were prepared to have done the work at the lowest tender if necessary, and by reference to the schedule H to the Engineer's report, it will appear that Gallagher's original prices would have brought the work, as completed, \$133,673 below the prices paid to Larkin, Connolly & Co.

Mr. Thomas McGreevy, as a member of the Harbour Commission, had opportunity to ascertain the prices of the different tenderers on the 2nd of May, and that Peters & Moore's prices would bring them below Larkin, Connolly & Co's.

The importance of getting a formal assignment from Beaucage, whose tender was lower than Larkin, Connolly & Co's, at once occurred to them. This they obtained on the 4th of May for a proposed consideration of \$5,000, to be paid if the contract was awarded him.

Mr. Thomas McGreevy reached Ottawa about the same time as the tenders. He placed himself promptly in communication with the officials of the Public Works Department, and forwarded, from day to day, all the information he thus received to his brother for the benefit of the firm.

He admits that he had received figures from Boyd in the Public Works Department, but claimed that Boyd was under his control, as being an officer of the Harbour Commission. Whether that would have been a sufficient plea or not is needless to discuss, for Boyd was not appointed to any position under the Harbour Commission until some time afterwards.