

"145 BLEECKER STREET,

TORONTO, February 23rd, 1896.

"DEAR SIR,—Since my return from Montreal, Rev. S. D. Chown (a former school-fellow of mine in our native city, Kingston), who kindly volunteered to present my claims for a pension to the Government of Canada, has handed me several letters from Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Premier, Hon. John Costigan, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and yourself.

"Judging from their contents, it appears that the present Minister of Marine is following precisely the same policy as his predecessor, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, who tried to transfer my claim to the Post Office Department, on the ground that I did not lose my sight completely until after I had become a *bona fide* employee in the Toronto Post Office.

"On the other hand, Sir Adolphe Caron, Postmaster-General, and his Deputy, Lieut.-Col. Wm. White, while frankly admitting the truth of this assertion, contended that, as my disability originated in the Life-Saving Service, the Marine Department should deal with it.

"The evidence contained in the medical testimony already forwarded you from Dr. Fred. Buller, of Montreal, Canada's leading oculist, and Dr. Clarence E. Gillard, a British army surgeon of more than eighteen years' experience, now practising in that city, and also that of Dr. W. W. Geikie, a prominent Toronto physician, now following his profession in Elmira, Ont., proves with reasonable conclusiveness that my terrible affliction is the direct result of my eighteen years' work in the cause of humanity, for three years of which, viz., 1883, 1884, 1885, I was an active member of the Toronto Harbor Life-Saving Crew.

"With such undeniable proof of the justice and validity of my claim upon the Government for support, what difference can it possibly make in which Department I became totally blind, as both are recognized branches of the Federal Government.

"Writing under date of November 22nd, 1895, after acknowledging the value of my services in saving life, and the duty of the Government to support me, you say that the Minister of Marine knows of no fund from which a pension could be granted to me. This excuse appears strange, coming, as it does, from the same Government which has already created a *fund* from which they granted pensions to every volunteer who received the slightest injury during the progress of the North-West Rebellion in 1885.