

and I felt it my duty temperately and respectfully to protest against the proceeding. Accordingly I addressed the Deputy Minister on the subject. I did not do so officially but personally, a course often followed in a public department. A letter of this character is not necessarily placed on record, but the writer of it is in this position: The Minister or the Deputy Minister can direct that it be made official, so that he be held to his statements. On the other hand, should the matter on which he treats be accommodated, the communication can be withdrawn and all trace of the difficulty be removed. My object in taking this tone was that Sir Charles Tupper would see the injustice of the proceeding—that himself a professional man, he would understand the slight put upon me, and as a man of education he would not commence the administration of his Department by a gratuitous departure from those principles of right and fair dealing, the observance of which all may claim, but especially one whose years of good service merited better treatment than a wound to his feelings and his character.

I stated in an interview with Mr. Trudeau my feelings on this occasion, and I subsequently placed what I said in writing. I cannot give the precise date, but I presume my conversation took place between the 15th and 23rd January. My letter was as follows:

Wilbrod Street, Monday, January, 1879.

DEAR MR. TRUDEAU,—

The intimation I received from you on Friday afternoon that the Minister has given instructions for Mr. J. Arnoldi to report upon the dredging plant which has been solely under my charge since September, 1874, suggests that as I have asked you to do me the favour of obtaining an interview with Dr. Tupper, I should submit for his information the grounds on which I claim to tax his attention. I believe that I will most properly do so by addressing you in a form which can be made official or not as circumstances may dictate.

I am not taken by surprise by this announcement, for Mr. J. [Arnoldi at the end of November meeting Mr. * * of the Harbour Staff, who had acted as Clerk of Works on the dredge, told him that the dredge was to be placed in his (Mr. J. Arnoldi's) charge. Mr. * * does not now hold that position. The present Clerk of the Works is Mr. Duff, appointed by Mr. Langevin. But there is only one construction of this language, the threat of the removal of * * from the position Mr. Arnoldi considered that he was then holding.

At the time I paid no attention to Mr. * * 's report, conceiving these remarks to be mere ill-bred gasconade. For I could not understand why even such a course had been proposed. No enquiry had been made of me as the responsible Engineer in charge on any point. There is no report of mismanagement referred to me for explanation, no failure in carrying on the work, no ill doing brought under the notice of the Department; and it is not usual either in the Department or in professional life to make a change arbitrarily without cause and enquiry—a change in itself which is a reflection on the *status* and character of any one so superseded. Mr. Arnoldi, moreover, is not an engineer, he is deficient in the education and experience necessary to the conduct of dredging works.