

as the requirement of the work required) to the boom, and continued to work thereat until ordered to desist by my employer—Mr. Palen. At noon on Monday I paid off my men and retired from the work.

"That, from my knowledge of works of a similar character, the work would have been satisfactorily completed within the time specified, as the force of men I supplied was amply sufficient, and that the interruption of the work under the control of Mr. Palen has been a serious loss and damage to me and to the other workmen employed.

"(Signed) ALFRED AUBREY.

"Sworn before me at the city of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, this eighteenth day of February, A.D., 1874.

"(Signed) THO. LANGRELL, J.P.,

"A Justice of the Peace,

"In and for the County of Carleton."

I hope I have made it clear to this House that a great injustice has been done, and it is a proper subject for this House to take up, with a view to the remedy, and I now move that this report be now concurred in:—

"THE SENATE COMMITTEE ROOM,

"1st April, 1875.

"The Select Committee appointed 'to enquire into all matters connected with the construction of booms, piers and other works on the Gatineau River during the spring of 1874, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to report from time to time,' beg leave to make the following as their third report:—

"The Committee have examined the following persons, viz:—

"Mr. G. P. Brophy, Assistant Superintendent of the Ottawa River Works;

"Mr. F. Braun, Secretary of the Board of Public Works;

"Mr. T. Trudeau, Deputy Minister of Public Works;

"Mr. Horace Merrill, Superintendent of the Ottawa River Works;

"Mr. W. H. Griffin, Deputy Postmaster General;

"Mr. John Harvey, contractor;

"Mr. Alfred Aubrey, carpenter;

"Mr. Joseph Larose, Clerk of Works, Public Buildings;

"The Honorable Mr. Mackenzie, Minister of Public Works, and Mr. William Palen, contractor, and the documentary evidence connected with the subject, copies of which, with the evidence, accompany this report.

"It appears that tenders were called for by the Department of Public Works on the 2nd of February, 1874, for certain work connected with the Gatineau booms, to be sent in by noon of the 7th February. That on the afternoon of that day, Mr. Trudeau, the Deputy Minister, and Mr. Braun, the Secretary of the Department, proceeded to open such tenders as had been received, being four in number, and these tenders were sent to the Superintendent, Mr. Merrill, to be extended; subsequent to these tenders being opened, two other tenders were received by the Department from the Ottawa Post Office, stamped 'p.m., Saturday, the 7th,' and marked 'too late' by the offi-

cers of the Department. In consequence of information received by the Minister of Public Works (the Honorable Mr. Mackenzie), he directed these tenders to be opened and sent to the usual officer to be extended, and they, upon examination, showed Palen's to be the lowest. That Mr. Merrill, the Superintendent, upon ascertaining this fact, without authority from the Head of the Department, sent for Palen on Monday, the 9th, and informed him that he had the contract, and that he must proceed without delay to execute the work, as the state of the weather rendered it imperative that the work should be done at once.

"That in consequence of this direction from Mr. Merrill, Palen commenced immediately to make the necessary preparations to carry on the work, and continued to employ men and teams, and provide material until Monday, the 16th, when he received the first official information that the contract had been awarded to another party, and at once ceased to work.

"That the reasons given by the Honorable Mr. Mackenzie, the Minister of Public Works, for awarding the contract to Murphy, are thus stated in his evidence, viz:—

"I had reason to believe immediately afterwards that there was a doubt whether they were so mailed or not, that Mr. Merrill had communicated to Mr. Palen that his tender was the lowest. I thought this conduct very singular on Mr. Merrill's part, and I sent for him and asked him if he had made this communication. He admitted he had. This being so very unusual a thing to happen in the department, and it being possible for any person to get information from Mr. Merrill's office in time to put in a tender, after the time mentioned in the advertisement, we determined in consultation (Mr. Trudeau and myself,) to adhere rigidly to the rules of the department. The circumstantial evidence pointed strongly to the conclusion that information had been improperly obtained, but there being no direct evidence to implicate Mr. Merrill's office, I took no further steps."

"From the evidence, however, before the Committee, it seems clearly established that the two tenders marked 'P. M.' in the Ottawa Post Office, and 'too late' in the department, were duly posted before the time mentioned in the advertisement calling for such tenders.

"That under all the circumstances of the case, the Committee is of the opinion that Palen should be refunded the actual cost he incurred in the work performed by him, which according to the evidence appears to have been about \$1,000.

"Your Committee recommend that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to direct that steps be taken to reimburse William Palen for expenses incurred by him on the works connected with the Gatineau River Booms.

"All which is respectfully submitted.

"ROBERT READ, Chairman.

"A. E. EOTSFORD,

"JAMES R. BENSON,

"CLEMENT F. CORNWALL,

"BILLA FLINT."

It being then six o'clock, the House adjourned.