

Toronto, 1st December, 1880.

SIR,—If any inference is to be drawn from your letter of the 15th November, written by the instructions of the Minister of Public Works, to the effect that the Department of Justice had been requested to give its early attention to the papers connected with my claim refused on the 20th September, it is that no further prolonged delay was to be experienced. But seventeen days have elapsed and I have received no communication on the subject.

We are now in the tenth month since the claim was first preferred. For five months it was treated with unconcern and neglect. At the end of the sixth month, after my protest in August, I was informed that no papers could be found in the Department to prove my engagement to be an annual one and that my claim was disallowed; in other words, that the statement contained in my letter of the 1st March was untrue.

A slight search would have proved precisely the contrary. During this period, reference to the Minister and Deputy Minister of that date, the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Trudeau, would have established that that which I have asked is based on right and justice.

Indeed the official reply did not venture to take the contrary ground. The refusal to recognize my demand was founded on the mere objection that my claim was not sustained by written proof. The written proof furnished by me, instead of being accepted as sufficient, as it must be by any candid mind, has been referred for a technical legal opinion, and the only inference to be drawn from this course is that it has been adopted with the hope of possibly finding some legal loophole by which an unwelcome obligation can be avoided.

Unless the pledged word of a Minister of the Crown is to be held as a convenient phrase, to be recognized or repudiated as feeling or interest may dictate,—unless the honour and good faith of the Dominion are to be held as mere names without reality and without account, there is little law required in my case.

Nevertheless, my case complete within itself, exacting scarcely an hour's reading—with no new information to be obtained, with the facts sequaciously set forth, established and indisputable, with many precedents to guide opinion, with the written pledge of the present Minister of Public Works to the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie—a copy of which I annex—that he will respect any engagement Mr. Mackenzie may have made with me—the case has been seventy (70) days waiting for an opinion, which by the laws of abstract justice, honour, fair dealing and common sense could have been given in a few hours. Even to have asked for it is a violation of every right principle.

The explanation you have assigned for continued delay, is therefore unsatisfactory to me: and to-day I am as far from a settlement as when I wrote my first letter in March. I am unsustained by the least assurance that my claim will be in any way be considered within reasonable time. Therefore, in spite of any desire to think otherwise, I am forced to the conviction that it is idle for me to expect justice at the hands of the Minister of Public Works, and that there is no course open to me but to appeal to the people of Canada, through their representatives in the House of Commons against the persistent wrong I am experiencing at his hands.

This communication is the last which I shall write on the subject to the Department of Public Works.

I am, &c.,

(Signed), WILLIAM KINGSFORD

F. M. ENNIS, Esq.,

*Secretary Public Works.*