

The parties so sent in 1879 were as follows :—

	Assistant Engineer or surveyor.	Junior assistants.
Mr. Michaud.....	1	4
Mr. Hamel.....	1	4
Mr. Farijana.....	1	5
Mr. Lindsay.....	1	4
Mr. Austin.....	1	4
Mr. Roy.....	1	3
Mr. Gray.....	1	4
Mr. Sullivan.....	1	2
Total.....	8	30

This number is independent of the draughtsmen engaged in the office at Ottawa, some four or five I believe.

Yet Mr. Langevin stated in the House after the change had been made that the staff numbered 12, and the surveys were 13. The total number exceeded 40.

My connection with the Department commenced in 1872, when I examined the supply waters of what is known as the Rideau Canal in connection with the River Gananoque, I reported at length on this question settling some important points. I made likewise two or three other examinations. For this work I was allowed to count a year's service.

In 1873 I was placed in the position of Engineer in charge of harbours, Quebec and Ontario, which I held till the 31st December, 1879, on the morning of which day I was dismissed, my dismissal to take effect on the completion of the Minister's Annual Report, on which I was then engaged.

It is this question of dismissal I have now to consider.

The first intimation that there was a feeling inimical to me was communicated to me by one of my staff. One portion of my duty was the charge of the Government dredge in Ontario. It had been placed under my directions unasked and had so continued for five years, the work having been regularly, methodically, and economically carried on, and I claim satisfactorily. Shortly after the resignation of the late Ministry I was informed by a member of the staff that he had been met by Mr. J. Arnoldi, then of architects' branch, who had said that the dredge was to be transferred to him, and that he would want a different sort of person to manage it. I also understood that this transfer was to be made by the instructions of the First Minister, Sir John Macdonald. I spoke accordingly to the Deputy-Minister of the circumstance, but he had heard nothing of the matter.

On the 10th of January, 1879, (the official number is 78,854), a letter was sent from Mr. Langevin to the Minister of the old Department, Sir Charles Tupper. It enclosed a letter from a Mr. Austen who had been an assistant of Mr. Page. Mr. Austen made a statement as untrue as it was astounding; that he had been discharged to make room for me, and that the appointment against the wishes of Mr. Page was my reward for political services. Mr. Langevin in enclosing this letter virtually asked Sir Charles Tupper to dismiss me. His words are: "Will you look into his (Austen's) case and see justice done him."

A public department is a small world. Anything extraordinary runs through it like wild fire. The letter had not been on record more than two hours before I heard of it. As the head of a branch, I had the right to send for any paper, so I obtained this document from the record room and took a copy of it.

Mr. Page hearing of the use of his name sent the chief of his staff, Mr. Townsend, to