

possess the acquirements that are necessary for the discharge of the duties of the office entrusted to him. In fact, Mr. John McCarthy is neither a master carpenter nor an engineer, nor a machinist, nor a draughtsman, nor a millwright, and he has never done anything else than directing the work of a certain number of men under his brother's superintendence in D. & J. McCarthy's ship-yard. This gentleman's acquirements, either as a workman or as an administrator cannot be compared with those of Mr. Côté, any more than their manners in their relations with the public, because Mr. McCarthy is a blunt and hasty man, and is not at all sociable.

The reason for his appointment remains inexplicable, and cannot be explained to the advantage of the Commissioners, and yet the control of the affairs of the Commission appears to be exercised here very unjustly by the Messrs. McCarthy, who, after having made large fortunes under the former Commissioners for the works on the St. Lawrence, are in a fair way to make others under the present Commission. They have leased their shipyards and their wharves to it at exorbitant rents and the salary of one of them is altogether out of proportion to the services he is able to render.

Immediately after his appointment, John McCarthy began to interfere with the management of the yard, saying that he did so for the purpose of lightening the burthen of Mr. Côté, who had no foreman and superintended the work alone; he reduced the wages of a great number of the hands, who must have suffered from that act of injustice, because it was in the middle of winter and all places elsewhere were filled up; and then he gave Mr. Côté notice that his wages would be reduced to sixty dollars a month, dating from the month of February following, instead of eighty dollars, as before. Mr. Côté, who had let Mr. McCarthy alone until then, in order to keep on good terms with him, protested against this injustice, and invoked his engagement by the Hon. John Young. The only answer he got was that he was informed that the Commissioners could not settle the matter in the absence of the latter, who was then in England, but that it was probable that his services would be no longer required in the month of May following; and at the end of June he was discharged and paid at the rate of sixty dollars a month only, and was replaced by Mr. John McCarthy, whose salary was more than double his own.

Mr. Côté then insisted on being paid the balance due on his salary, and demanded the reasons for which he had been dismissed from the service, when Mr. Kennedy, the Engineer of the Commission, came to see him, and told him that he had a better chance to give him in Montreal, and to come and work there. Mr. Côté went there and was employed by the Commissioners for three months, and paid at the rate of three dollars a day, and then dismissed. Seeing that the Commissioners would not do him justice, this gentleman instituted legal proceedings against them for the recovery of the balance of his salary, and these proceedings are pending before Court in Sorel.

The act of having dismissed Mr. Côté from the service without valid reasons, was one of great injustice to that gentleman, as well as very prejudicial to the interests of the Commission, on the score of the capacity and the salary of Mr. McCarthy, who replaced him. In fact, this unjust and indescribable act has injured the Commission very much, and had the immediate effect of considerably increasing the expenses of management, because Mr. McCarthy hired a foreman with a good salary and two clerks to carry on the office, immediately after Mr. Côté's departure.

The Commissioners also, in the spring of 1875, appointed Mr. Thomas McKenzie to the post of Assistant Superintendent of the works on the St. Lawrence, with a large salary. This appointment was not more necessary than that of Mr. John McCarthy, because Captain Armstrong, then Superintendent of the works, had no need of an assistant and had not asked for one. Besides, if the thing was necessary, a man competent to discharge the office ought to have been chosen, and not a man like Mr. McKenzie, who is a stranger to the Province of Quebec, has never studied our internal navigation, and does not know the River St. Lawrence or Lake St. Peter, except from having passed through them three or four times on board of a steamship which he commanded formerly, on voyages between Halifax and Montreal. An assistant more