

## APPENDIX No. 13.

### SLIDES AND BOOMS—OTTAWA DISTRICT.

*Description of the works and repairs executed during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1869, by H. Merrill, Superintendent.*

(No. 7,436.)

OTTAWA RIVER WORKS, SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,  
Ottawa, 21st July, 1869.

F. BRAUN, Esquire,  
Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit to the Department the following report, on the works under my charge, for the year from the 1st July, 1868, to 30th June last.

The pitch of water in the Ottawa and its tributaries, was low throughout the season of 1868, so that timber was later in reaching market than usual. In the fall of the year, late rafts were with difficulty passed at the lower stations, and in the month of September, when some of them reached the Chaudière slide, it would have been impossible to run the cribs through, had not all the saw-mills in the neighborhood been shut down in order to furnish the slide channels with an additional supply of water. At this place, no delay need be anticipated in future, however, as since the construction of the hydraulic dam, there has been an abundant supply for all purposes.

The works were not damaged to a much greater extent than usual, by the season's business of 1868, although in many instances the wear and tear, especially on the improvements that have been long in use, necessitated considerable outlay on the part of the Government in effecting repairs preparatory to the "running" season of 1869.

There are now so many improvements at stations on the Ottawa, and its principal tributaries, that even a moderate expenditure in keeping up the works at each place, amounts to a considerable sum in the aggregate.

The works of repair consisted of strengthening the bridge at Farmer's Rapids on the Gatineau river, at an expense of \$959.81; this was rendered necessary by the bridge having three very long main spans, with piers standing in a rapid, and liable to be damaged by flood-wood and jams of logs carried down by the spring freshets.

During the season of lowest water, all the works under my charge were inspected, and an estimate of the cost of repairing them was sent to the Department. On December 29th, I was authorised to expend the sum of \$17,254.00 in repairing the works at Joachim, Calumet, Mountain, Portage du Fort, Deschênes and Chaudière stations on the Ottawa; the slide on Black River, the slide boom and piers on the Coulonge River, the slide and piers at High Falls, the boom and piers at Springtown, and the slide and piers at Amprior, on the Madawaska river.

#### THE NEW WORKS

Consisted of the extension of the Joachim slide at a cost of \$3,243.60.

The works of repair and construction were carried out in due time, and were ready for the business season of 1869.

There was an unprecedented depth of snow in the Ottawa valley last winter, and the rivers were in such a state of flood in the spring as has seldom been witnessed by the oldest inhabitants. Breaks might therefore be expected to take place in the works, and such did occur at three of the stations, viz:

At High Falls, on the Madawaska river; where the superstructure and foundations of the slide were renewed and thoroughly overhauled last winter and spring, a break