APPENDIX No. 4.

BAIE VERTE CANAL.

BROCKVILLE, 6th December, 1872.

DEAR SIR,—I am in possession of Room No. 8, in the House of Commons, the same as I had for the Canal Commission, and have one draughtsman there at work on my plans He, however, is a mere copyist, and is of little use to me in the preparation of the drawings for the mechanical structures.

It would facilitate my work most materially if you could spare me the services of Mr. Wise for a month. He has done the same kind of work for me before, and can more readily, than any one else I know of, put my ideas on paper in such a manner as to render the work perfectly plain to those intending to bid for it. I may say that my plans are all settled upon; I have constantly been working at them at home, and have them, as you may say, matured, but they only exist in my brain; the thing is now to elaborate them fully on paper. This I could do if I had time, but men like Wise have a special aptness for the manual part of the profession, and can draw more rapidly than I could myself. As the canal is now closed for the winter, it strikes me you might spare him to me for a short time.

Mr. Stark will be back to-morrow, and he will have the charge, under me, of preparing the plans and calculations. I shall get on with them as fast as I can, but I do not see my way clear for being ready by the time you mention—the 1st January. I think I will be able to present you my plans and specifications by the 1st February.

Permit me at this stage to refer to my position in reference to this canal for the future. I have official instructions from yourself for making the location survey—nothing further. This is now done, and to comply strictly with them I should now go on and make my report; but from your unofficial letters I gather that you are more anxious I should go on and prepare the canal for letting, than to stop here and make a good report of my proceedings. But for this, should I not have official instructions? Do not misunderstand me. If I ask the question, you must not infer that I hesitate to take action upon your verbal or unofficial instructions. It is only that I should be duly charged with the duty I have undertaken for the Government. Again, when my plans are given in, I wish to know in what relation I may stand to them. I cannot agree to their being turned over to others to be carried into effect, in whom I have no confidence. In this case I could not vouch for their success. The only way in which I can be held responsible for the canal will be to appoint me the Chief Engineer, with the option of selecting my resident Engineer. Then I can visit the works as often as may be necessary, and thus direct the operations.

Up to this time you are aware that I have done all the work, while Mr. Gzowski, whose time has been taken up with the very important works at his bridge, has been unable to make the personal examination referred to in the instructions. He therefore stands in the relation of a consulting engineer, and as such has favored me with his approval of all that I have done.

Should it meet the wishes of the Government that he should retain that position for the execution of the works, it will be a pleasure and satisfaction to me.

I go to Ottawa again on Monday. Please address me there.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed.) SAMUEL KEEFER.

Hon. H. L. Langevin, C. B.,
&c., &c., &c.