

never mentioned Mr. Austin's name that he could recollect, except in a general way; certainly never in connection with mine, and never asked for his appointment to my position, or to anything analogous to it. Indeed, as I have said, I had been nearly five years already employed on the Engineering Staff as a Superior Engineer when Mr. Austin ceased to belong to it as a Resident Assistant.

That the letter, however, was deliberately written and sent there can be little doubt. Sir H. Langevin, in his letter, speaks of his interview of the previous day with Sir C. Tupper, and taking the text of Mr. Austin's letter there can be but one meaning in Sir H. Langevin's request, viz., that I should be summarily dismissed to gratify his enmity or his requirements.

While my position was being threatened by the correspondence I have given, other circumstances shewed that I had to look for a combination of influences against me, which to all appearance had full strength to sweep me away from the Department. The enumeration of a few dates are necessary to make clear what I have to state. The elections of 1878 took place on the 10th September. Mr. Mackenzie resigned the 16th October. The new Ministry was formed by the 18th October, the day Lord Dufferin left Ottawa for England, Lord Lorne arriving the 28th November. It was the custom with the harbour branch under my charge for the parties on surveys and the clerks of works to close up their operations, and to proceed to Ottawa for our winter labours; and we were never idle. One of these gentlemen arrived in the last week of November, when Mr. J. Arnoldi met him in the passage, and this person told my assistant that the dredging plant was to be transferred to him; Sir J. Macdonald had so directed, and that he, [Mr. J. Arnoldi] would want a different person to manage it—the remark being a threat to the gentleman who was supposed to be in charge that that position should no longer be held by him. The conversation was reported to me, and I at once saw the Deputy Minister, Mr. Trudeau, on the subject. He told me that he had heard of no such proposed change, and I regarded the speech, like much that is said, to be beneath notice, and the matter at the time made little impression on me.

The reader of Sir H. Langevin's letter will see it is dated the 15th January, two months after this conversation took place. The date is suggestive. Either on that day or the following the Deputy Minister officially informed me that the Minister, Sir C. Tupper had directed the transfer of the dredging plant to Mr. J. Arnoldi, and I was called upon to report upon its condition and where it was being wintered. I can speak confidently of this date by my official letter which I subjoin. There had been a personal interview between Sir H. Langevin and Sir Charles Tupper, as the former tells us, in which my position was discussed, and doubtless the exacted transfer to Mr J. Arnoldi of the dredging plant was one of the