

What took place would seem an exaggeration if it were not established by public documents. It is well here to set forth the situation of the proceeding so that it be clearly understood. As engineer in charge of harbours, the dredging plant had been under my direction for five years. Without a reason being assigned—without cause—I am called upon to transfer to a person inexperienced in this work, not only the plant, but the tug engaged on the deepening of the Neebish Rapids, then in progress, taken from my control. My recommendations, based on the experience of what is required, are set aside, and the scheme of transfer, of which Mr. J. Arnoldi prophesied and boasted in the month of November as a coming event is fully carried out in January.

Mr. Arnoldi recommended the sale of the dredge tug, and the substitution of the Trudeau, engaged heretofore on works, in its place. The sale took place in Sarnia by auction. In the public accounts, 1878, Part I, page 58, under the head of "Statement of Casual Revenue," the following item appears as a receipt :

E. Pleatson, Sarnia, sale of tug "Minnie Battle." \$641.00.

From this sum, however, the travelling expenses of Mr. J. Arnoldi, and other disbursements have to be deducted. From what I hear they may be set down at \$200. The tug therefore sold for \$450. I heard in Sarnia, she earned the cost of purchase in six weeks.

As the season opened the work of deepening the Neebish Rapids commenced. The tug, indispensable to the work on which it had been engaged three years, had been removed, and it was simply impossible to carry on the works without a tug. I sent the Clerk of the Works to the Welland Canal to obtain one. With trouble and tact and judgment an arrangement was made for \$200 a month, the tug to be returned at the close of the season to the moorings whence it was taken. We used the tug from July to October, four months, and taking into account the cost for finding her, of bringing her from St. Catharines and returning her there, the hire of the tug cost the Department [\$1100] eleven hundred dollars, nearly half the amount of the estimated cost of the repairs and restorations which would have placed the dredge tug in perfect condition, and have left it the property of the Department.

The year was well advanced before the Ministers, who were in England, returned. I, myself, was busily engaged on my duties. When Sir H. Langevin took charge of the Department I was absent, and I was never in Ottawa before the month of December when he was there. My daily address, however, was known, and I was repeatedly communicated with. Had it been considered expedient for my views on the branch under my control to be given, instructions sent to me to repair to Ottawa would have brought me there in a few hours. But I was ignored from the