

Minister of Public Works to be reinstated to my former position as Engineer in charge Improvements on the Upper Lakes, and would [be] obliged if you could by using your valuable influence forward my views.

As you are aware I was appointed in the year 1871, when you were Minister of Public Works, to superintend the construction of the Harbours of Refuge on Lakes Erie and Huron, in which position, I can safely say, all the works were carried on to the satisfaction of Mr. Page the Chief Engineer.

I may mention that I had charge of the construction of the Harbor of Refuge at Rond d'Eau on Lake Erie, the construction of Piers, Breakwaters, Landing Places, as well as the deepening of the Harbor of Goderich, the extension of Piers and deepening of the Basin at Kincardine, the construction of Breakwater at Chantry Island, and Beacon, as also the Breakwater and Landing Pier at Southampton.

In the spring of 1877, owing, I am informed, to some political influence, I was discharged to make room for Mr. Kingsford, a strong supporter of the late Government, seemingly against the wishes of the Chief Engineer as he took the trouble to have several interviews with the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie in order to keep me in the employ of the Department.

You must be aware that after having served the Department faithfully for six years, and considering my position a permanent one, to be discharged without a moment's warning has proved very damaging to my interests.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE F. AUSTIN.

This letter was inclosed in a letter from Sir H. Langevin, then Post Master General to the then Minister of Public Works, Sir C. Tupper. The latter is placed officially on record No. 78354. 15 Jan'y, 1879.

OTTAWA, 15TH JANUARY, 1879.

MY DEAR DOCTOR—

I send you herein enclosed Mr. Austin's letter. He was employed, as I told you yesterday, for the construction of Harbors and Piers in Ontario in my time and until 1877, when it appears he was superceded (*sic*) to make place for some one else. Will you look into his case and see justice done him.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) HECTOR L. LANGEVIN.

As to the statement of Mr. Austin that Mr. Page spoke to Mr. Mackenzie on his account, I have the authority of both the then Minister and Mr. Page to state that it is mere invention. When the news of the letter went the round of the Department, Mr. Townsend, the then chief of Mr. Page's staff, called on me to say that Mr. Page was exceedingly annoyed at the unwarrantable use of his name, that the statement had not the slightest foundation in fact, that he had not spoken to Mr. Mackenzie, or in any way interfered with regard to my position, and most certainly he had not asked Mr. Austin's appointment to additional works when his duties ceased. Later, in 1880, when I had frequent meetings with Mr. Mackenzie, with his permission I brought the matter under his notice, and he authorizes me to say that the whole story is a fabrication. Mr. Page