

WELLAND CANAL.

EXTENSION OF TENDERS RE-LETTING.

Section No. 27.

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|-----------------------------|-----------|
| D.....Beemer | \$759,170 |
| F.....Manning | 787,414 |
| E.....Gibson..... | 853,093 |
| C.....Cleveland | 890,427 |
| A.....A. Raynor Belden..... | 956,992 |
| B.....G. Peterson..... | 966,591 |

(Memorandum.)

The undersigned has the honor to represent that by an Order in Council, dated the 27th of October, 1880, the contractors for the works embraced in Section 27, of the Welland Canal enlargement, comprising the construction of the Aqueduct for the purpose of carrying the canal over the Chippewa River, were permitted, for the reasons therein given, to relinquish their contract.

That the same Order authorized the re-letting of the work, tenders to be invited by circulars addressed to experienced, competent contractors of means, upon whom reliance could be placed, this measure being adopted on the advice of the Chief Engineer, in order to the avoidance of the loss of time and the cost which might be incurred should the work by following the usual course fall to men not so qualified.

That in pursuance of the said Order, circular letters were addressed to (10) ten different contractors, inviting them to tender for the completion of these works, and that in reply six tenders have been received, the rates when extended being as follows:—

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|---------------------------|-----------|
| No. 1. H. G. Beemer..... | \$759,170 |
| “ 2. A. Manning..... | 787,414 |
| “ 3. Gibson & Co..... | 853,093 |
| “ 4. M. A. Cleveland..... | 890,427 |
| “ 5. Raynor & Co | 956,992 |
| “ 6. Peterson & Co..... | 966,591 |

That in a report, dated the 15th instant, the Chief Engineer states that Mr. Beemer, who submits the lowest tender, is possessed, as far as he has been able to learn, of desirable qualifications for the work, and that there seems to be good reasons for awarding the work to him at the rates of his tender.

The report of the Chief Engineer shows it to be very desirable that the contractor should have time during the present season to make requisite arrangements and provide suitable materials. That it is of importance scarcely to be overrated that the works should be in an active state of progression at the earliest possible period, the supply of water for the canal being limited, pending their completion to the volume which can pass through the old Aqueduct, only 45 feet wide, and that a delay of even a few weeks at this time would be almost certain to retard the finishing of the new Aqueduct for a year beyond the time absolutely required for the work, the country meanwhile being deprived of the benefits contemplated to be desired from the enlarged canal.

Upon such report the undersigned recommends that authority be given for the acceptance of the tender of Mr. Beemer, and for the immediate prosecution of the work. The contract to be entered into with him being made—as provided in the Order in Council of the 27th of October, 1880, above cited, subject to the approval of Parliament.

Respectfully submitted,
CHARLES TUPPER, Minister of Railways and Canals.