

The undersigned accordingly recommends that under the authority of the Public Works Act, 31 Vic., chap. 12, Mr. Page be constituted sole arbitrator for the determination of the amount to be paid to the contractors, and that authority be given for the preparation and execution of the documents necessary to such reference.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. POPE, Acting Minister of Railways and Canals.

ST. CATHARINES, 16th March, 1881.

SIR,—We are desirous of effecting a settlement of our contract No. 27 of the Welland Canal enlargement, at the earliest date possible.

Therefore if the Government will grant discretionary powers to Mr. John Page to settle with us we will abide by his decision, and any papers required by the Government to give effect to this proposition, will be signed by us when required so to do.

We are your obedient servants,

HUNTER, MURRAY & CLEVELAND.

Hon. J. H. POPE, Acting Minister Railways and Canals, Ottawa.

*COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 23rd March, 1881.*

On a Memorandum dated 12th March, 1881, from the hon. the acting Minister of Railways and Canals, representing that by an Order in Council dated the 27th October, 1880, and for the reasons therein stated, authority was given for permitting Messrs. Hunter, Murray & Cleveland to relinquish, upon terms to be thereafter arranged, the contract held by them for the works embraced in section No. 27 of the Welland Canal enlargement.

That the contractors have by a telegram dated the 8th instant, expressed their willingness to accept the decision of Mr. Page, the Chief Engineer of Canals, with a view to arriving at a settlement for the work done by them.

The Minister accordingly recommends that under the authority of the Public Works Act, 31 Vic., chap. 12, Mr. Page be constituted sole arbitrator for the determination of the amount to be paid to the contractors, and that authority be given for the preparation and execution of the documents necessary to such reference. The Committee submit the above recommendation for Your Excellency's approval.

Certified.

J. O. COTE, Clerk P.C.

The Hon. the Minister of Railways and Canals.

WELLAND, 3rd August, 1881.

SIR,—I beg to forward herewith my award in the valuation and arbitration *in re* section No. 27, Welland Canal, Department of Railways and Canals, and Messrs. Hunter, Murray & Cleveland the late contractors.

To get matters into shape has been attended with a good deal of difficulty. I had to hear evidence from time to time for about fifteen days, and the examination of documents with a view to arrive at a conclusion occupied what was equal at least to as many days more, making in all about thirty days.

This service was unavoidably spread over a considerable length of time, and had chiefly to be done during late and early hours to prevent direct interference with my regular duties and those of a departmental nature.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN PAGE.