

the last signer, Charles Bate. We know C. T. Bate—it cannot be him, this letter is dated 14th January, 1874, two weeks before the general election, which was held 28th January, 1874, and it was open voting, so that we all knew how each other voted. It was necessary to secure this active man for the election—we all know the results. He having performed his part, the next thing was to get his pay. He tendered for this contract, being a mechanic, and, knowing the influences he had exerted and the friends he had at Court, he put in very high, so much so that he could not possibly get it himself. However, let us look at the influences brought to bear. Mind, these letters are not dated—a very unusual thing:—

“DEAR SIR,—The bearer is Mr. Lyons, a contractor in this city, who, I think, has tendered for the construction of the Gatineau Booms. Mr. Lyons is well recommended, and is able, I think, to fulfil a contract if the work is given to him.

“Yours, A. A. DORION.

“T. Trudeau, Esq.,

“Assistant Engineer.”

“DEAR TRUDEAU,—Mr. John Lyons has a number of friends in the city who would be gratified by our giving him some work. Can we employ him to construct Gatineau boom.

“Yours truly,
“R. W. SCOTT.”

Now, who are A. A. Dorion and R. W. Scott?—both Ministers of the Crown, writing to the Deputy Minister of Public Works, their employec; and when I show by the evidence of Joseph Sawse, Clerk of Works, Public Buildings, that John Lyons was a partner, I think I have proved my case, which is simply this—that a member of the Government agreed for political support before the election, received such support, and paid for it after the election, to the great injustice of others and a great loss to the country, and I say further, that the evidence connects conclusively the Premier with it, he having performed the act upon the recommendation of his associates. I fully comprehend what I am saying, and the evidence is now before the House for their judgment.

“OTTAWA RIVER WORKS,

“SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

“OTTAWA, 9th Feb., 1874.

“SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to the Department the tenders for the Gatineau Boom

Works, together with a statement of calculations showing the lowest tender to be that of Mr. Wm. Palen, contractor of this city.

“Mr. Palen is a practical man of much experience and his sureties are perfectly good. I would respectfully recommend that the contract be awarded to him, and as the time for doing the work is now quite limited, it is desirable that a decision should be come to at the earliest possible moment.

“I have the honor to be, Sir,

“Your most obedient servant,

“HORACE MERRILL,

“Superintendent Ottawa River Works.

“F. Braun, Esq.,

“Secretary of Public Works, Ottawa.”

Mr. Merrill at once ordered his deputy to see Mr. Palen, as the weather was unfavourable, and no time to be lost. Palen, under the orders of Merrill, on Tuesday commenced to hire men, and on Wednesday, with forty or fifty men with four teams and the deputy superintendent, Mr. Brophy, with Eastman as Government Inspector went to work, in earnest, and continued at it until Monday, when he was officially notified to discontinue work. For all the work and other expenses he has not received nor been offered one dollar, although he has petitioned the Government and presented his claim without even a reply. He says it cost him about one thousand dollars, but he claims that he was wronged by the contract being given to another, and ought to get more. It may be said, and it is so intimated by the Premier's evidence, that he had reason to believe that Palen had received improper information from the Superintendent's office of the other tenders before he mailed his, and that is the reason he gives for not giving the contract to Palen—a very poor one when we consider the evidence in connection. Mr. Trudeau, Deputy-Minister, says: “We give a day to clear the post-offices, and we do not object to receive a tender, as in time, if it bears the postmark in Montreal, a.m., on the day it should be received in Ottawa here.” Were these tenders treated, they were to be received on Saturday, 7th February, at noon? We find, although Saturday is a half-holiday, four tenders were sent to Merrill's office at the Chaudiere for extension. Merrill, thinking it something strange that only four were sent, as about fifteen persons had looked over the plans, went to the Department on Monday to enquire, as he expected others, Palen's