

It seems that no good purpose would be served by going further into the matter at this time. I therefore conclude by suggesting that the contractor be informed that their recent letter (24th August) has been fully considered, and that the Department sees no reason to alter, in any way, the decision previously arrived at and conveyed to them in official letter No. 53,656, dated 12th June, and No. 54,049, dated 27th July, 1880.

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

JOHN PAGE, C.E.C.

The Secretary of Railways and Canals.

OTTAWA, 3rd September, 1880.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, on matters relating to the construction of the Aqueduct, under contract, to carry the line of the enlarged Welland Canal over the Chippewa River at the Town of Welland.

The representations and statements it contains, together with other information in the Department on the subject, having been examined and fully considered, I am directed by the Hon. the Minister to inform you that he regrets to learn that your efforts to form a coffer-dam for the purpose of enabling the site for the structure to be unwatered have been so unsuccessful.

He is fully aware of the necessity of forming a strong and well secured dam, and on consulting with the Chief Engineer, that gentleman states that a dam made with oak piles of the length and size stated in your letter of the 31st May last, would answer a good purpose if the piles were straight and made square of the full size throughout their entire length, driven close in position, and the two side ranges of piles well secured to each other a sufficient depth under the water surface as well as over it, and the whole braced, anchored and otherwise secured in the strongest possible manner.

The Minister, nevertheless, cannot consent that the dam in the first instance should embrace any more of the river than is necessary to allow space for the construction of the three southern arches and piles. In short, the line of the dam for the first section of the work must, as far as possible, correspond with that stated in the contract; and that no proposition or suggestion to the contrary can be entertained.

I am further directed to inform you that the Minister cannot consent to the business of this Department being referred to any third party.

I am also requested to state for your information that no proposition, having either directly or indirectly for its object any deviation from the contract entered into by you, can be entertained.

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

F. BRAUN, Secretary.

MESSRS. HUNTER, MURRAY & CLEVELAND, Contractors, Welland, Ont.

N.B.—A duplicate of this letter has been sent to your address at St. Catharines.

F. B.

ST. CATHARINES, 11th September, 1880.

SIR,—We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant.

We admit the power of the Government under the contract to force us to build two coffer-dams where one would, we are convinced, better secure the object desired—the earliest date completion of the Aqueduct.

We have already built dams with piles of the length approved by the Chief Engineer, which length has proved insufficient. They have given way, as did the canal bank, from causes not anticipated by any one. In rebuilding with increased length and strength of pile we think it but reasonable that the Department should