

Judging from the tender (which appears as if it were in Mr. Sutton's handwriting), that Mr. Tolton might also be a farmer, unacquainted with the class of work required—which, it may be observed, consisted of a double line of pier-work 60 feet apart, the north or river pier being 2,300 feet long, for which a channel had to be dredged, the pier-work sunk and carried to the full height the same season in which it was commenced; requiring considerable plant, knowledge, means and energy—I therefore advised that from the low rates then tendered, and the person, so far as could be ascertained, being unknown as a contractor, together with the circumstances previously mentioned, that it would be injudicious to entrust the execution of such works to him, as it probably would result not only in a loss to the Government, but also prove ruinous to the man himself.

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

(Signed) JOHN PAGE.

The Hon. A. MACKENZIE.

OTTAWA, 22nd February, 1877.

SIR,—With reference to the address carried yesterday for papers in connection with the Goderich Harbor Contract, I have to request that the private letter which I wrote you on the 2nd January, 1874, before the tenders were received, and which was the only communication between us on the subject, may be included in the return.

I have, &c.,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) EDWARD BLAKE.

The Hon. A. MACKENZIE,
Minister of Public Works.