

tion in the Department was Resident Assistant Engineer under the Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. Page, at the Rond d'Eau, at Godech, and the Chantry Island Harbours. With the exception of some slight work at Kincardine, he had never the slightest connection with any part of my work, which extended from the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Restigouche to the River Kaministiquia, Lake Superior. My position was Engineer in charge of Harbours, St. Lawrence and Lakes, reporting directly to the Secretary—in other words, it was an independent branch, controlled only by the Minister and Deputy-Minister. Mr. Austin himself states he was appointed in 1871, and was continued on Mr. Page's staff until 1877—five working years after my appointment. I was appointed in May, 1873, by Sir H. Langevin himself, whatever his representations in his letter to Sir Charles Tupper. My first connection with the Department was an examination and report on the water supply of the western descending levels, on what is known as the Rideau Canal, with a map shewing the sources of supply on each level. I had reported confidentially on the possibility of constructing a ship canal between Lake Champlain and the Hudson, and thence by the Hudson to the deep water below Albany, so far as the question of a reliable water supply could be counted on in relation to any extended enlargement of the present navigation. I have reason to believe that it was from my reports on these two subjects that more permanent duties were subsequently assigned me. I never, therefore, came in any way in connection with Mr. Austin, except when the laws of courtesy and good manners brought us side by side. His own statement is to the effect that he remained nearly five years, until 1877, as Mr. Page's assistant in the Department, during the period I was acting in the position I held. Why his services were not continued by his Chief is a matter with which I could have nothing to do, as the point was determined by Mr. Page. His name, indeed, was never heard that I know, out of the circle where it obtained official mention. Mr. Austin's introduction of my name is in every way unwarrantable. It is not even a reproach to the late Minister of Public Works, Mr. Mackenzie, as for a moment it may appear, for my appointment was not made by him. The attack of wrong doing, if it fall on any one, strikes Mr. Trudeau, the Deputy-Minister, and Mr. Page, as having been the cause of the valuable services of Mr. Austin being terminated, owing to some political influence. The whole matter is simply ridiculous. The wonder, however, is that with the facts to be brought against such a letter that anyone could be found to put it to paper. It is as follows :

THE HON. H. LANGEVIN,
Post Master General, Ottawa.

ST. ANDREWS, QUE.,
10TH JAN., 1879.

SIR—I beg most respectfully to inform you that I have made application to the Hon.