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In so far as I have been able to learn, Mr. Beemer possesses many of the qualifications that foreshadow success in the carrying out of such an undertaking ; if this be correct and he furnishes the required money security there seems to be very good reasons for awarding the work to him at the rates stated in his tender.

It is very desirable that this matter should be disposed of at the earliest possible period so that the party to whom the work is awarded may have an opportunity of providing or bringing forward within the next month, the necessary equipment for the removal of the ruins of the old dams, and providing timber for the construction of proper coffer-dams.

In short, to give time this season, as above stated, to make the requisite arrangements to provide suitable materials and otherwise urge forward the operations as expeditiously as circumstances will admit.

The importance of having this part of the works in an active state of progression at the earliest possible period can scarcely be over-rated, as it will require about two and a-half years from the time they are undertaken to complete them. During all this time the canal can only have a limited supply of water, there being no other means of passing the necessary volume than through the old Aqueduct, which is only 45 feet in width.

In conclusion, it may be stated that a delay of even a few weeks in arriving at a decision, at this time, would be almost certain to keep back the completion of the Aqueduct another year, and thus further deprive the country, for that time, of the benefits contemplated to be derived from the enlarged canal.

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

JOHN PAGE, C. E. C.

The Secretary of Railways and Canals.