

tect the public interests. The following was a copy of the letter he then addressed to the Minister of Public Works, for the reading of which he had obtained that hon. gentleman's permission:—

"MONTREAL, 17th September, 1874.

HON. ALEX. MACKENZIE,  
Minister of Public Works, Ottawa.

SIR,—The undersigned proprietors of a tract of land, one mile long, on the Lachine Canal, near Montreal, are desirous of securing from the Government the privilege of establishing on their said property one or two basins, and also one or two water powers. The water powers, they understand, could probably not be granted, except in the event of the widening of the canal, but the undersigned would like to secure them, even under such a condition; and on such terms as the Government would deem reasonable. This property runs from the Grand Trunk Railway bridge up to the Cote St. Paul road, and the Cote St. Paul lock is just opposite part of it, so that it affords the very best opportunity for the establishment of such water powers, as also does the little River St. Pierre, which runs in rear of said property, and might serve for the discharge of the waters to be used. We enclose for reference a plan of the above mentioned property. We beg leave also to mention that our intention is to sell at auction a considerable portion of this property in lots, as soon as possible, probably in a few days, and as we are informed that the Government will require a strip of this land for the widening of the Canal, it might be found more convenient, if the widening is to take place, to expropriate one proprietor only, instead of having to deal with one or two hundred owners. As this sale would, therefore, increase and multiply considerably the costs and trouble of expropriation, we thought it only just to draw the Government's attention to this fact in order to give it full opportunity of avoiding such increase in costs, and of taking such action that might be found proper under the circumstances."

"We have the honor to be,

Sir,

(Signed),

R. LAFLAMME,  
J. L. CASSIDY,  
L. A. JETTE."

This was the only letter addressed by the proprietors of the land to the Government. In answer to it they received the following, dated the 7th October, only three days before the sale, which was advertised for the 10th of the same month:—

"OTTAWA, Oct. 7, 1874.

SIR,—Referring to that part of your letter of the 17th ult., signed conjointly by yourself and others, offering to sell to the Government a strip of land for the use of the proposed new line of Lachine Canal between the Grand Trunk Railway Bridge and the Cote St. Paul Road, I am directed to inform you that the Chief

Mr. Jette.

Engineer, to whom the matter was referred, reports that a space of at least from 225 to 250 feet in width will be required for the new canal at the place above mentioned. I take this opportunity to say in regard to the other subject matters referred to in your letter that they are still under consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your ob't. servant,  
(Signed), F. BRAUN,  
Secretary."

L. A. JETTE, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.,  
Montreal,

He might remark that the expression with regard to the sale of the land was not correct. As would be seen by his letter there was no offer to sell any property to the Government. He knew this land could not properly be bought at private sale—that it would have to be expropriated, and they only pointed out to the Government the way in which they thought the property could be secured. Before addressing this letter to the Government, and before receiving the answer to it, the proprietors of the land had offered at private sale some of the lots indicated on the plan of the property. Some of them had been sold—a very few, because they reserved the greater part for sale by auction, and brought the very price obtained for them at the public auction, that was to say, before they gave notice to the purchasers that they had received such public information from the Government. The sales made were exactly at the same price that was obtained after the information was given. He might state for instance that Mr. FURNISS purchased a lot for \$6,000. This sale was not made at the auction, but at least fifteen days before it. When this sale took place the public of Montreal, and he supposed the public in general, was taken a little by surprise by the great success that they had. But those who knew something of the immense rise in property at Montreal during the past few years would realize the fact. He would take the liberty to mention to the House that a year before—in July, 1873—he bought another property in Montreal, at the east instead of the west end of the city, at Hochelaga, and paid for it \$110,000. Two months after—in