

vegetables. There is no doubt in my mind but that Mr. Ellis could have produced the receipt signed by Mr. Smith for the vegetables if he had chosen to do so, but instead of that he produces a paper signed with a "X," manufactured for the occasion, as the evidence shows, for the purpose of covering up this gravel transaction. What an exhibition of meanness on the part of the man who is trusted by the Government to manage such an important work as the Welland Canal! Can you credit his evidence on any point after hearing the details of this petty transaction? I have already referred, at some length, to the pontoon which was constructed by Mr. Miller, under a contract, but in which a great deal of material purchased by the Government was used. Mr. Page, the Chief Engineer, swears that Roger Miller was to do all the work, but the evidence goes to show that the employes on the canal did a very considerable portion of it, and received their pay at the canal office, when they ought to have been paid by Roger Miller himself. Mr. Miller says that an improvement was put on the pontoon, and that it was necessary to add to its buoyancy, and his contract did not include the caulking of the pontoon. Does anyone who knows Mr. Page imagine for a moment that he would make a contract for a pontoon without specifying that it must be caulked? Roger Miller swears that the pontoon was to be tongued and grooved, but the man who runs the planing mill at Port Dalhousie swears that he prepared the lumber, and that it was not tongued and grooved. Can anybody believe that John Page would make a contract for the construction of a sieve or a basket under the name of a pontoon? Mr. Page is very little there, and they take advantage of his absence to perpetrate a job and feather their own nests. At page 1663 Mr. Demare swears that Mr. Page never said anything to him about Miller having the contract—that is the way Demare tries to get out of the matter, but if Mr. Page did not tell him that Miller had the contract, who told him? Did anybody tell him? The men that were under his charge were doing the work on this pontoon, and he certified to the time as if the work had been done for the Government, while Mr. Miller had the contract. Do you credit that.

Mr. Page did not know how much buoyancy this pontoon needed in order to perform the work it was intended for, without this tool box, that Mr. Demare says he put on? Do you credit it, that the contract made by Roger Miller with Mr. Page was to build a pontoon with groove and tongue? It is an unwarrantable act for Mr. Ellis and Mr. Demare to interfere with Mr. Page's contract for building this pontoon without letting him know about it. Who is this Roger Miller? The gentleman who gets the contract from Mr. Ellis to repair the overseer's house without any competition, he is the gentleman that dealt in rubber boots to the extent of 241 pairs, and returned two days' extra time that the men did not work, to pay for the boots; but the Government knew nothing about it. You will, by the invoice in the record, see that the average price of the boots was \$3.13½, the freight not included, and that he made from 60 to 80 cents a pair on them. I mention this to show that he must have been a great favorite of Mr. Ellis and Mr. Demare on the canal. When Mr. Ellis was addressing the commissioner at St. Catharines he remarked that he understood this pontoon question. When we see the report of the commission we will know how he understood it. I consider that the commissioner gave himself away a good deal there, because he thought when I was gone there would be a fair field to do just as he liked. They did not think of the hereafter. You will notice in the invoice that there are some clogs charged. For what were they required? For a dance or entertainment at the band hall at Port Dalhousie? The people of this country are paying for these clogs to enable some of the employes of the canal to have an entertainment. What else could they be for? All these things, remember, come into the country free of duty. The following is the invoice:—

RUBBER BOOTS.

Date.	No. of Pairs.	Description.	Total Cost.	Per Pair.
1888.			\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Mar. 26	7	Boots.....	20 63	2 95
do 26	1	do	4 75	4 75
do 17	9	do	28 90	3 22
do 29	2	do	6 60	3 30
do 29	2	do	9 50	4 75
Aug. 8	3	do	11 18	3 73