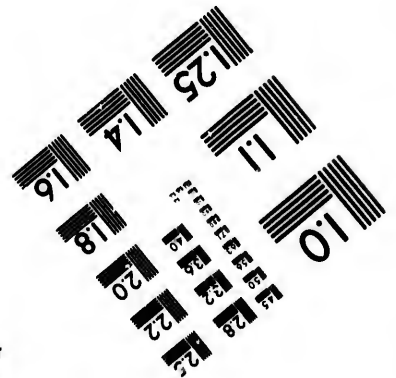
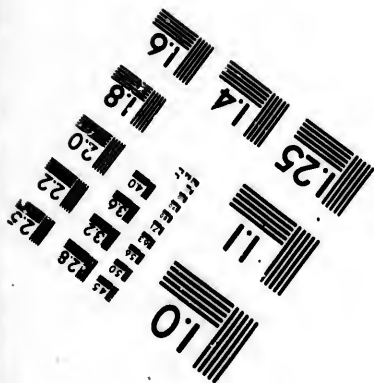
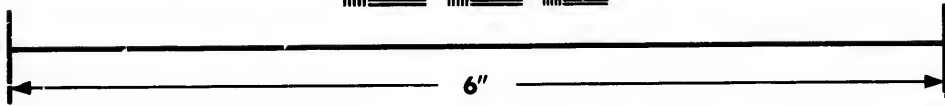
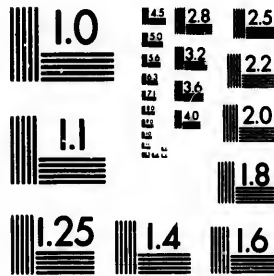


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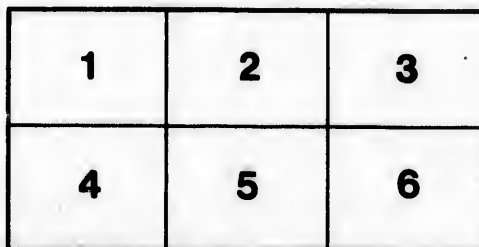
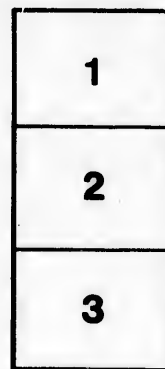
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MEMORIALS,
DOCUMENTS AND AFFIDAVITS,

SUBMITTED TO THE

EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

BY

RUGGLES WRIGHT, ESQ.

WITH REFERENCE TO HIS

SLIDES AT THE CHATS AND CHAUDIÈRE,

ON THE

OTTAWA RIVER.



Montreal:

PRINTED BY LOVELL AND GIBSON, SAINT NICHOLAS STREET.

1849.

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COPY OF PETITION OF RUGGLES WRIGHT,
TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, DATED
6TH APRIL, 1847.

*To His Excellency the Right Honourable JAMES Earl
of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, Governor General of
British North America, &c. &c., &c.*

The MEMORIAL of RUGGLES WRIGHT, of Hull, in the
District of Montreal, in the heretofore Province of Lower
Canada, Esquire,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That the late Philemon Wright, Esquire, the father
of Your Memorialist, emigrated to this country in the year
1800, (when Your Memorialist was about seven years of
age,) and proceeded up the River Ottawa, 120 miles from
Montreal, and 80 miles beyond any settlement at that
time, to the Township of Hull, where he settled himself
and family, and became the main instrument in support-
ing and bringing forward the extensive settlement in that
section of the Province.

That Your Memorialist, with his father and family,
suffered great privations and hardship in aiding and
assisting the formation of this settlement, in consequence
of the want of Roads and other improvements of a public
nature; and also expended heavy sums of money in
establishing both temporary and permanent Roads,
Bridges, &c., to enable themselves and others to carry
on trade and business in that section.

That Your Memorialist has since, in connection with his family, carried on agricultural, commercial and lumbering business, extensively, and from the numerous difficulties met with by the lumberers in descending their Timber down the Rapids and Falls, it was next to an impossibility to get all the Timber to market the same year it had been manufactured. That after mature consideration, with a view to facilitate the Lumber operations, Your Memorialist did, in the year 1829, construct and erect an inclined Plane or Slide near the "Chaudière" Falls, at very great expense, and the passing of Cribs of Timber to the foot of the Falls was thereby afterwards effected in perfect safety. Your Memorialist would observe, that, before this Slide was erected, Cribs of Hardwood Timber and Staves were broken up at the head of the Falls and drawn past by means of teams, and were then re-raftered below the Falls at an enormous expense; whereas, by means of this Slide, these and other descriptions of Timber were enabled to pass through in Cribs at the rate of 5s. for each Crib; and further, Your Memorialist hereby declares, that he was the sole and first inventor of this inclined Plane or Slide, and that there was none at that time in this or any other country he had ever heard of for such purposes.

That Your Memorialist, since that period, has expended a further and much larger amount in constructing and erecting other inclined Planes or Slides upon his own property at the "Chats," extending through a rocky country, a distance of about three miles, which is equally beneficial to the Lumber Trade.

That Your Memorialist submits that it is a case of extreme hardship to him that Slides should have been erected in 1846 by the Board of Works, at the "Chaudière" and "Chats," also when his Slide at the "Chau-

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dière" did then afford ample facility for the trade at the former place; and Your Memorialist is led to believe that the Slide erected by the Board of Works at the "Chats," was undertaken only some time after Your Memorialist had completed his arrangements for the building of his own Slide on his own property at the "Chats."

Your Memorialist begs to call Your Excellency's attention to the Tariff dated at Montreal the 10th March, 1847, regulating the Slide Tolls upon the "Ottawa," wherein Your Excellency will perceive that Your Memorialist will be under a great disadvantage, inasmuch as it prevents any competition at the "Chaudière" and "Chats" Slides, and in consequence of the terms of this Tariff for the Slides above, a difference to the extent of 2s. 6d. on each Crib is made in favour of the Slides erected by the Board of Works, and to the detriment of Your Memorialist, in the same run for each Crib, which, if persisted in, must terminate in the ruin of Your Memorialist, (who is the only person having Slides on the Ottawa,) as he is aware he cannot compete with the Board of Works; doubtless Your Excellency is aware that the Province has borrowed large sums of money on its security, to enable the Board of Works to carry out their improvements, and for which Your Memorialist's property, in proportion with others, is a guarantee, and it is therefore not to be presumed that this money or any part of it was to be expended in opposition or as a check to individual enterprise.

Your Memorialist, therefore, prays Your Excellency may be pleased to take the premises into consideration, and the justice of establishing a uniform rate of 5s. for each crib passing through the "Chats" and "Chaudière" Slides unconditionally as heretofore; so that Your

Memorialist, the inventor of the Slide, may be placed upon the same footing with the opposition Slides, erected by the Board of Works; and Your Memorialist further states, for the information of Your Excellency, that if it should be the desire of the Board to have the control of all the Slides on the "Ottawa," he is not inclined to oppose the wishes of the Government, and would therefore dispose of his Slides at the "Chaudière" and "Chats," on receiving a fair remuneration. And Your Memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

Hull, 6th April, 1847.

Copy of a Letter addressed to Mr. Daly on the 3rd July, 1847.

MONTREAL, 3rd July, 1847.

SIR,—I am instructed by Ruggles Wright, Esquire, whose Petition is now under the consideration of the Executive Government, to say that, with a view to avoid all further difficulties, he is prepared to accept £25,000 currency for all the Slides he possesses on the "Ottawa," although they are clearly worth a much larger sum of money.

If these Slides be purchased at this price the Government may reckon with certainty upon a return of from nine to sixteen per cent annually, as appears by the following statement :

In the year 1845, 8,263 Cribs passed through the Slide at the "Chaudière" Falls, yielding, at five shillings per Crib,	£2,065 15 0
Had the Slide at the "Chats" Falls been in operation it would also have produced,.....	2,065 15 0
	<hr/>
	4,131 10 0

A return equal to sixteen and a half per cent or thereabouts, on the proposed outlay of £25,000.

In the year 1846—6386 Cribs passed through the "Chaudière" Slide, yielding, at five shillings per Crib,.....	£1,721 10 0
The Slide at the "Chats," had it been in operation, would have yielded a similar amount,.....	1,721 10 0
	<hr/>
	£3,443 0 0

A return equal to thirteen five-sixths per cent on a Capital of £25,000.

The average of the last two years may be fairly taken as a criterion of the probable produce of these Slides in future seasons ; but, lest it should be contended that there may be a falling off in the Trade, and that it would be more correct to take the average of a longer period of years as a basis of calculation, Mr. Wright has instructed me to accompany this communication by a statement of the produce of the "Chaudière" Slide during the last eight years, which, adding a similar amount for the "Chats" Slide, will shew that even upon this unfavorable rule of probable calculation, the two properties united would yield an annual income of no less than ten and a half per cent. And it is evident that the Lumber Trade upon the "Ottawa" has been rapidly increasing during the last four years, and that it is likely to increase

still more in consequence of the additional facilities afforded by the recent improvements made upon that river.

I would beg to add that when I obtained a judgment in 1845, dividing the property bequeathed by the late Philemon Wright, Esq., between Mr. Ruggles Wright and his brother's heir, Mr. R. Wright was compelled to give up some of the most valuable property in Canada, for the Slide at the "Chaudière" Falls, and that since that time he has expended £3000, in repairing and improving it; he was also compelled by that judgment to abandon some hundred acres of good arable land for the lot through which the Slides at the "Chats" rapids run, unavailable as it is for all other purposes. An important fact which I trust will not be overlooked, is that Mr. Wright began the works on the "Chats" rapids about the same time the Board of Works commenced the Government Slides; he had entered into arrangements for the construction of his Slides long before the Board began its operations, and at a time when it was generally believed that no Slides would be built by the Government at that place. These arrangements were made at the earnest request of some of the first houses engaged in the Trade, and were of a nature which compelled Mr. Wright to persist in carrying out his proposed undertaking, as I trust I shall be enabled to establish by satisfactory evidence.

It may be well to observe, in conclusion, that Mr. Wright has been induced to offer these Slides at several thousand pounds below their value, solely because he does not wish to remain in a state of competition with a rival, possessed, as the Government is, of the power to paralyze his operations, and to ruin him, if disposed to do so, beyond even a hope of redress. Should the Government resolve to effect the purchase, and yet entertain

doubts as to the propriety of giving the price demanded, Mr. Wright will be prepared to accept the estimate of three disinterested persons—one to be named by the Executive, another by himself, and the third by the two first named ; but in the event of a reference of this kind being determined on, Mr. Wright would consider himself entitled to the full amount at which the property would be valued by a majority of the Arbitrators, even though their estimate should much exceed the sum which he now consents to take, in the same manner as a person threatened with litigation offers to compound, for the purpose of avoiding a law suit.

No. 5.

Annual income of Mr. Wright's Slides at the "Chaudière" and "Chats" Rapids, calculated upon an average of the last eight years.

Year.	Number of Cribs.	Toll.	Amount received during the season.
1839	3,726	@ 5/	£931 10 0
1840	4,229	"	1,057 5 0
1841	6,084	"	1,521 0 0
1842	5,541	"	1,385 5 0
1843	3,421	"	855 5 0
1844	4,829	"	1,207 5 0
1845	8,263	"	2,065 15 0
1846	6,886	"	1,721 10 0

Total amount received from the Chaudière Slide during the last 8 years,	£10,744 15 0
Add same amount as proceeds of the "Chats" Slides, had they been in operation,	10,744 15 0
	<hr/> £21,489 10 0
Average range of the last 8 years,	2,686 3 9

Equal to an Annual Income of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent upon a capital of £25,000.

Annual Income of Mr. Wright's Slides on the "Chats" and "Chaudière" Falls, calculated upon an average of the last two years, viz :—

In the year 1845, 8,263 Cribb passed through the Slide at the "Chaudière" Falls, yielding at 5s. per Crib,.....	£2,065 15 0
Had the Slide at the "Chats" Falls been in operation, it would also have produced.....	2,065 15 0
	<u>£4,131 10 0</u>

A return equal to 16½ per cent or thereabouts on the proposed outlay of £25,000.

In the year 1846, 6,886 Cribb passed through the "Chaudière" Slide, yielding at 5s. per Crib,.....	£1,721 10 0
The Slide at the "Chats," had it been in operation, would have yielded a similar amount,.....	1,721 10 0
	<u>£3,443 0 0</u>

A return equal to 13½th per cent, on a capital of £25,000

AFFIDAVITS.

Jason Gould, of the Township of Litchfield and District of Sydenham, Canada East, being duly sworn, deposeseth and saith: That he has been engaged in the Lumber Trade on the Ottawa River and its tributaries for upwards of eight years past; that he has seen the Slides recently constructed on the Ottawa River at the place called the "Chats" by Ruggles Wright, Esq., of Hull, and that he considers these Slides to be well constructed, and that they will be required by the trade, in addition to the Slides erected by the Provincial Government, on account of the great detention arising by the want of room for landing, and many other obstructions.

(Signed,) "JASON GOULD."

Sworn before me the 9th day of

July, 1847.

(Signed,)

O. BERTHELET, J. P.

D. F. McLaren, of the Township of Litchfield and District of Sydenham, Canada East, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith : That he has been engaged in the Lumber Trade on the Ottawn River and its tributaries for upwards of eleven years past ; that he has seen the Slides recently constructed on the Ottawa River at the place called the " Chats," by Ruggles Wright, Esq., of Hull ; that he considers these Slides to be well situated and constructed, and that they will be required by the Trade, in addition to the Slides owned by the Provincial Government, on account of the great detention occasioned by the want of room for landing, and many other obstructions.

(Signed,) D. F. McLAREN.

Sworn before me, 9th July, 1848.

(Signed,) O. BERTHELET, J. P.

John Egan, of Aylmer, in the Township of Hull, Esquire, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith : That he is one of the firm of John Egan & Co., and as such is and has been for several years past extensively engaged in the Lumber Trade on the Ottawa River and its tributaries ; that in the summer of the year 1845, several persons who were engaged in the Trade, and amongst others this deponent, requested Ruggles Wright, of Hull, Esquire, to construct Slides over his property at the " Chats," on the north side of the Ottawa, for the purpose of facilitating the passage of Lumber from the " Chats" to the Chaudière Lake ; that this deponent was induced to urge the construction of these Slides the more earnestly from the knowledge he had obtained of the advantages of the locality which he had surveyed,

with a view to having a canal opened to connect the two lakes, and also on account of the inefficiency of Buchanan's Slide on the opposite side of the rapids, at the time; that this deponent, although he had no pecuniary interest in the matter, but solely with a view to facilitate the Lumber Trade generally, assisted Mr. Wright in procuring a loan of money, and actually made arrangements with Mr. George B. Symes, of Quebec, so far back as the month of July, 1845, by which the latter agreed to lend Mr. Wright a sum of £3,000, to be employed in constructing the Slides in question.

That this deponent is persuaded that Mr. Wright had no reason to believe, when he made the arrangement in question, that the Board of Works were about to construct a Slide at the "Chats," on the south shore of the Ottawa.

That having entered into the arrangements above alluded to, and purchased tools and materials and provisions, to carry out the undertaking during the Summer and Autumn Season, of the year 1845, Mr. Wright could not have abandoned the enterprize without sustaining loss; and moreover, this deponent is of opinion that the Slides constructed by Mr. Wright at the "Chats," are required by the trade, in addition to those constructed by the Government at that place.

That Mr. Wright's Slides, as well as the entrance to them, are safe at all times, while the rapids through which Cribbs must pass to enter the Government Slides, are difficult and dangerous in stormy weather. And further, this deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JOHN EGAN.

Sworn before me at Montreal,
7th day of July, 1847.

(Signed,) D. Masson, J. P.

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Letter from Simon Hill, dated

HULL, 26th August, 1847.

RUGGLES WRIGHT, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—Having just seen Mr. Graham, Collector of Government Slide Dues, I take the earliest opportunity to apprise you of the same, agreeable to promise, and regret to say, that he would make no deduction in consequence of my Rafts passing through your Slide at the Chaudière, but insisted on my paying the same rate as if I had passed all the Government Slides, with the exception of one raft I passed on the north side of the Portage DuFort, that he allowed the deduction of 2s. 6d. per Crib. I offered to pay him the usual Tariff for the Slides I passed through, and that I would leave it to the decision of the Executive, whether I should pay Government for the slidage of the Timber at the Chaudière that I passed, through your Slides; he said he could do no such thing, that I must settle for the whole. This I consider to be unjust; that the Government might with the same propriety build steamboats to run between Quebec and Montreal; if it was not convenient for me to take a passage in their boat, and should take it in another, I would be compelled to pay the fare of both; this is a new feature in the transaction of business in this country.

Prior to my leaving for Quebec, I will call and settle for the slidage of my two rafts. I consider, although compelled to pay Government, I received an advantage by passing your Slides, more than sufficient to remunerate me to pay your slidage, and that of the Government.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) SIMON HILL.

Copy of a Letter from William Stewart, dated

MONTREAL, September 1st, 1847.

MY DEAR SIR,—In reply to your enquiries of me, “if it would be advantageous to the Lumber Trade to have Slides at the Rapids on the Ottawa, on both sides of the river?”

I reply without hesitation, that I think and believe it would be of the utmost convenience to the Trade, and increase the facilities of descending timber, (entirely irrespective of the rate which should be charged for sliding,) and I base my opinion upon twenty years experience.

A river like the Ottawa, fluctuating in its rise and fall, from 12 to 18 feet, during four or five months—it will occur to any one versant with the Timber Trade, the advantages of having facilities of passing Timber through quickly,—besides, the safety it ensures parties interested. For instance, when the water is high, and a large accumulation of Timber takes place at the head of any Slide, the fastening of Timber, one outside the other, when from storms, or the breaking up of ropes or chains, (as you must have often experienced,) the losses have been serious. Whereas, by dividing the quantity by passing on both sides, this can be avoided; and an increased facility given in landing, sliding, and banding up Timber.

I look upon it, that every detention at the “Calumet” or “Chats,” of forty-eight hours, is for each and every such detention, a week’s difference in the arrival of rafts at Quebec, which is no unimportant item to Lumbermen, in provision and men’s wages.

Believe me, my dear Sir, yours, very truly,

WILLIAM STEWART.

Ruggles Wright, Esq.,

of Hull, Ottawa River.

Copy of a Letter from Hiram Colton, dated

BYTOWN, 25th June, 1847.

RUGGLES WRIGHT, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—I passed one raft through the Government Slides from the head of the Calumet to the foot of the Chats Slide, and from the great number of rafts passing the Government Slide at the Chaudière, I was induced to go through your Slide in order to gain time, which I accomplished in at least one day sooner than those who I was in company with at the DuChêne Rapids, and they having much smaller rafts than mine; for which the Government Slide Collector compelled me to give him a *Bon* for the full amount, which leaves me the loser the amount for passage through your Slide.

Allow me to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HIRAM COLTON.

Copy of a Letter from Gilmour & Co., dated

MONTREAL, 13th July, 1847.

SIR,—In reply to your enquiries, respecting the Slides at the Chats and Chaudière Falls, on the Ottawa River, we beg to state that it is our opinion and belief that two Slides are necessary at both these places, to prevent detention in passing the Timber, which, with only one Slide, must frequently occur, to the injury of parties engaged in the Trade.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

GILMOUR & Co.

To Ruggles Wright, Esq., Hull.

Copy of a Letter from James Deacon, dated

HULL, 19th June, 1847.

RUGGLES WRIGHT, Esq.

SIR,—I was detained at the head of your Slide, at the Chats, three days, in consequence of your not having completed the works; but as soon as the water was let in I had no difficulty in getting through, and must say that it works extremely well, and should rafts be manned as they usually are, I feel confident that they can pass the whole of your Slides at the above place in one day, without any injury to the Criba.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES DEACON.

Copy of a Letter from Edmund Edey, dated

WELLINGTON SLIDE, 24th June, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to yours of the 19th instant, I have to inform you that the Slide is working well; 297 Criba's have passed to this date, and six rafts came in this morning. I am informed that a number now at Portage DuFort intend coming on our side. All who have passed seem well satisfied.

I remain, Sir,

Your humble servant,

EDMUND EDEY.

Ruggles Wright, Esq., Hull.

Affidavit of John Poupare.

JOHN POUPARE, of Westmeath, in that part of the Province heretofore called Upper Canada, being duly sworn, deposes and saith:

That I have been engaged in the Lumber Trade during fourteen years, and have seen the Slides recently constructed on the Ottawa River at a place called the "Chats," by Ruggles Wright, Esquire, of Hull. I do declare and say that the place where the said Slides are built is superior and more convenient and safer for the trade than the Slides constructed by Government, from the fact that the Slides of the said Ruggles Wright receive the timber at the foot of the Chats Lake, thereby avoiding the risk and danger of running the rapids, and then passing the timber safely to the lake below the Falls.

I am aware of many losses of timber occasioned by heavy gales forcing rafts and portions of rafts into the rapids previous to their reaching the Government Slide, and which would have been avoided if the rafts had been run through the Slides of the said Ruggles Wright.

I declare that the Slides erected by George Buchanan, Esquire, now a part of the Government Slide at the "Chats," was at the time the said Ruggles Wright commenced constructing his Slides on his property on the north side of the river, in a very bad state, and it was with the utmost difficulty timber was passed through the said Slide; and I verily believe that it was owing to the bad state of the said Slide, he, the said Ruggles Wright, was induced, after being requested by many persons interested in the Lumber Trade, to construct or build Slides on his property on the north side of the River Ottawa.

On or about the 26th June, 1847, I called on Duncan Graham, Esquire, Collector of the Government Slidage, and requested him to say whether or not, on account of the great number of rafts which were then about passing through the Government Slide, he would make any reduction of prices from the established Tariff, if I would pass through Mr. Wright's Slide; and he answered that he could not; and I consider that is the cause why a very great portion of the lumber merchants pass their rafts through the Government Slide instead of Mr. Wright's Slide; being obliged to pay the same price whether they pass through the Government Slide or not. Although that rule has been established, I consider that it has been advantageous to me in passing part of my timber through Mr. Wright's Slide, notwithstanding his charges of Slidage being over and above what is exacted by the Government in passing to the foot of the Chaudière Slides. I am also aware that a few days ago, twenty-three Cribs belonging to William Stubbs broke away from the head of the Government Slide, and passed through the Chaudière falls, on account of the immense quantity of rafts which were in attendance at the Government Slide, and occasioned great loss to the owner.

(Signed,) JOHN POUPARE.

Sworn at Montreal, this thirteenth
day of July, 1847.

P. H. KNOWLTON, J. P.

Copy of a Letter to Hon. D. B. Papineau.

HULL, 6th April, 1847.

HON. D. B. PAPINEAU,

DEAR SIR,—I am compelled to trouble you once more on the subject of my Slides, in consequence of a Tariff

emanating from the Inspector General's Office, dated Montreal, 16th March last, which is evidently calculated to take an undue advantage of me, and which I consider has been got up by the *under* officers of the Board of Works. The truth is, the want of experience and practical knowledge in direction of the first Slides erected by the Board, did not operate to the purpose so well as those erected by me, and many individuals, on passing the same, remonstrated with those Officers, and at the same time referred to my Slide as a justification in support of their remarks; this called forth a hard feeling towards me, and doubtless, excited many representations which have resulted to my disadvantage, and which have since been adopted by the Council, without mature reflection, as I feel confident that Honourable Body never would have given their assent to this Tariff, had they been aware of its effect on me. You are aware that the Tariff for the "*Chaudière*" and "*Chats*," Slides has always been 5s. per Crib for all descriptions of lumber; by this Tariff you will perceive there is a deduction of 2s. 6d. per Crib, which is calculated to draw an advantage in favour of the Slides erected by the Board of Works at the "*Chaudière*" and "*Chats*;" this I view as an extreme hard case, inasmuch as I was the *sole inventor of the Slide*. You are aware that I erected my Slide at the "*Chaudière*," in 1829, and expended a large sum of money, and that it was of great advantage to the Lumber Trade. At this time there were little or no improvements on the "*Ottawa*," to facilitate the descent of Lumber. You are also aware of the situation of this country, when my father first settled here, and his and the family's operations to the present time; and upon reflection, you will admit that we have done a good deal for the settlement. I say and feel confident, as you are aware, we have expended our means

as fast as we could realize, and sometimes faster, in improving and bringing it forward ; in fact, we have always kept ourselves poor, as to money matters : and now it would appear that all my former exertions must go for nothing, as I am perfectly aware it is futile for me to endeavour to earn money, or to finance in any shape to raise money, to compete with the Board of Works, while they have the power of borrowing money on the credit of the Province, and pledging my property with others as a guarantee, and expending a portion of this money in opposition to my undertakings. I have had to contend with a great many difficulties since I first commenced business, but nothing had the effect to check my feelings equal to this. For I must confess, I had the vanity to suppose that I should have met with every encouragement from Government, and cannot help but think, upon reflection, that I am still entitled to that encouragement. If individual enterprise is not to be encouraged, from what source is the Government to rely upon? Is it the people that have got to depend on the Government for their support, or the Government upon the people? What is a country or Government where there is no enterprise, or where a Government will oppose individual enterprise? It would bear something of the aspect of Ireland at the present time, when Government has to advance millions to prevent starvation. I would ask after a series of this kind, where the Government would find a capital to meet such demands, if it is not earned through the energy of enterprising men? Is it not the foundation on which England and every other country has to depend upon for its existence as a nation? From these observations you will perceive the principles I have been actuated by, and it is my confirmed opinion, that I ought to be supported in these my undertakings, or so far, at least, as to leave the

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"*Chaudière*" and "*Chats*" in fair competition, without reference to any of the Slides above, and at the heretofore established rates, allowing the public to use either, at their own option, or as circumstances may require. Even then the Government Slides will possess great advantages over mine, in consequence of the influence they possess over mine, relative to obtaining Licenses. I suffered greatly last season in consequence of the Slide Master at the "*Chats*" having assured many individuals that if they passed through the Slide of the Board of Works at the "*Chaudière*," they would only have to pay 7s. 6d., whereas, if they passed through my Slide at the "*Chaudière*," they would have to pay 5s., and also, 5s. for the Government Slide at the "*Chats*," forming together, 10s., thus offering an encouragement of 2s. 6d. per Crib on passing through the Government Slides; having passed through the Slides, and upon settling their account with Mr. Graham, the Slide Master at the "*Chaudière*," he refused to make the deduction, and insisted upon the individuals giving their notes for the full amount, which they did under a promise that he, Mr. Graham, was to recommend to the Government the deduction of 2s. 6d. per Crib, and on payment of those notes at Quebec, to the agent, Mr. McLean Stewart, that officer would make no deduction, so that the individuals found themselves imposed upon. I myself, injured, gave the agent a great deal of trouble. Should there be any doubt as to the correctness of these assertions, I beg to refer you to the Agent at Quebec, or should you require it, I can furnish you with affidavits from the individuals themselves. You will also observe there have been heavy sums of money expended in blasting and removing rocks and Islands, both in the "*Chats*," and "*Chaudière*" rapids, to render the works in opposition to me as formidable as

possible. Whereas, the *Ottawa* itself, the *Gatineau* and many other tributary streams to the *Ottawa*, are requiring improvement, and where there is nothing done, how is it possible that an individual like myself, and being the only one who has private Slides on the *Ottawa*, can compete with such a formidable opposition? It must be apparent to yourself, as to me, that there is only one resource left—that is to throw myself upon the liberality of the Governor and Council, and claim their protection. Should the Board of Works be desirous of having the whole control of the Slides on the "*Ottawa*," they can have mine by giving me a fair remuneration, as I can see no good that can accrue to the Lumber Trade, myself, or the Government, unless they are regulated upon some fair principle, and I must most respectfully request your assistance in my behalf.

I beg leave to remark that I have petitioned the Governor in Council this day, upon the subject, and trust you will give it that support it merits.

Please write me at your earliest convenience on receipt of this; in the meantime,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours, respectfully,

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

Copy of Letter to L. T. Drummond, Esq., dated

HULL, 6th April, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—I am once more in trouble, and cannot do without your assistance. Herewith enclosed, you have the subject for your inspection, and I must request your giving it your immediate attention; it is a matter of that

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importance to me that I must have it attended to immediately ; the period is near at hand when the Slides will come into active operation. This matter ought to be settled if possible previous to the Slides opening, and I know of no other friend that I have confidence in that is capable to manage this business so well as yourself. I hope and trust you will not allow your other business to cause any delay in the matter. The Petition enclosed I wish you to read in person to His Excellency, if consistent, and from the knowledge you have of me and our family, perhaps, as my counsel, you may have an opportunity to state to His Excellency, your opinion as to its merits ; I should have been down myself, but my presence is so much required at home, with my Slides and Lumber business, I could not leave at present ; but if you should find it necessary I will come down, but I hope you will be able to do as well as if I was there. I have written to Mr. Papineau and Mr. Daly on this subject, soliciting their assistance ; their letters are nearly the same. I send you the copy of the one sent to Mr. Papineau ; the contents will fully explain my views.

I regret much the Government interference with these Slides, as they would have yielded me, at least, £4,000 a-year ; as matters now are, God only knows the effect it will have ; they may open them *free* ; therefore, to put an end to further trouble, perhaps it would be best to sell out to them. Doubtless, they would allow me their actual value.

The "*Chats*" is now all complete and ready to pass Cribb, and I do not fear the Government Slides in the least, were they at present in individual hands ; the Canal takes the Cribb from the Lake and passes them the distance of three miles by the "*Chats*" rapids, and shoot into a beautiful Bay below for banding up, and no possi-

bility of losing one stick of timber ; whereas the loss is great in passing the rapids to get to the Government Slide ; besides the rafts anchor out in the Lake above, and are frequently driven from their anchorage into the rapids, and at nearly a total loss; the truth is, I cannot see but my Slides must have a great preference, should I succeed in getting an honest Tariff established, as set forth in my Petition. You will say my communication is lengthy, but do read the whole, and recollect I am fifty three years of age, and that all my means are at stake. I am in the hands of the Government; they can ruin me, or allow me to make something that will support me in my old age, as I am not able to do much more myself.

I must beg you will deliver this Petition in person without delay, and write me on the subject as soon as possible, and you shall be remunerated for your trouble, if God spares my life.

I remain,

Yours, truly;

(Signed,) RUGGLE WRIGHT.

Copy of Letter to the Hon. P. McGill, dated

HULL, August 6th, 1847.

To the Hon. PETER MCGILL,

DEAR SIR,—Since I last had the honour of seeing you, I waited on several of the Executive Council on the subject I laid before you relative to my Slide. I was advised by them to delay this business until the House of Assembly rose, which I acceded to, although daily would sustain a heavy loss in consequence of the effect of the Government Tariff, as you will perceive on reference to

that Tariff that individuals passing through any portion of the Government Works above my Slides, are compelled to pay the full rate of the Government Slides, whether they pass through private Slides or not; thus securing to the Government the full rate of Slidage, and leaving nothing as a remuneration for me, except the superior construction and locality of my Slide, and that under the disadvantages above enumerated, which your experience as a business man must see the injustice of.

I was informed last November that the Government was going to establish this Tariff, but I placed no confidence in it, feeling that my father, myself and the rest of the family, had expended so much in settling this section of the country, and I feel now that it is not the desire of the Government to injure me, and that this circumstance has occurred in consequence of representations received from the Slide Masters, and adopted by the Executive Council, without knowing the effect it would have on my operations. I also perceive, on reflection, should I not make a sale of my Slides to the Government, there will be difficulties constantly arising, and doubtless false representations made, calculated to injure me in the opinion of the Government, and my interest; for instance, the Slide Master at the *Chats*, in case of rafts passing their Slides at the *Chaudière*, said there would be a deduction of 2s. 6d. per Crib from the regular Tariff, which was not allowed by the Government; this Mr. M'Lean Stewart, Collector of Slide dues, can prove, if required; it had the effect of preventing me getting many rafts, as I would not lower my Tariff, and there will be always something calculated to injure and annoy me should I hold the Slide; therefore, I have come to the conclusion that it would be best for me to sell them to the Government at the praisal of men, or otherwise as we can agree, as the

Government may at some future period, open their Slides as free Slides, through some private pique against me; besides the Slides cost little or nothing to keep them in repair when erected. Should I reduce my Slidage to 5s. I might get nearly all the rafts passing, which would lessen the revenue of the Government Slides; in fact I see no other means to prevent difficulty than for the Government to purchase mine; when they have the whole, the Supervisor's Office would form a check upon the different Slide Masters; whereas at present, it would be extremely difficult to keep them honest; the Government would then regulate the whole Tariff at their will and pleasure, and I certainly consider that the Government are in duty bound to do something in consequence of my having invented, and carried into successful operation, the Slides at my own expense, which has been so great an advantage to the Lumber Trade. In fact, it looks like a hard case that my property, yours and others, should be pledged to borrow money laid out to check individual enterprise. For many years we have anxiously solicited the Government to make improvements on the Ottawa for the descent of Timber; we could get nothing done. I was led to believe that they would do nothing, and made my improvements. Here is the Gatineau that has yielded yearly a large revenue to the Government, and nothing by them expended, and although Booms, Slides, &c. have been erected and kept up by Messrs. Wright and Hamilton, without receiving anything as a remuneration from other individuals lumbering on the river, or from the Government, which I consider to be a great hardship. You are, doubtless, aware, from your extensive commercial operations, of the financial situation of most all business men in Canada, in particular, ourselves; you are aware that we have kept ourselves nearly always

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poor in money matters; that our object has been to create a permanent value in our real estate, and bring the country forward, and all I want is justice, which doubtless would enable me to live amongst my neighbours and friends for the few remaining years I may be spared. I should not have taken the liberty to write you thus lengthly only from my own knowledge of your character for twenty years past; from that and many other instances I was led to believe you would pardon me for this liberty, and rest assured, I will feel myself under the greatest obligation if you should see cause and justice to interest yourself on my behalf, to bring this business to as speedy a termination as possible. I shall be in Montreal in a few days, when I shall do myself the honour of calling upon you. With respect,

I remain,

Your obdt. servant,

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

MEMORIAL.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable JAMES, Earl of ELGIN and KINGARDINE, Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

The MEMORIAL of the undersigned Merchants, Lumber Dealers, and others interested in the Lumber Trade of the Ottawa,

HUMBLY REPRESENTS,—

That Your Memorialists have reason to complain of the Tariff, establishing the rates to be paid for passing lumber through the Slides constructed on the Ottawa by

the Provincial Government, inasmuch as the effect of that Tariff is to compel those who may pass any portion of their Lumber through the Slides constructed by Ruggles Wright, Esquire, at the Chaudière and Chats Rapids, to pay to the Government Collector at Bytown the same charge as if such lumber had been passed through the Provincial Works at both of the above mentioned places. That at certain times, and especially when the wind blows off the south shore of the Ottawa, it is much more convenient, safe and expeditious, to pass lumber through Mr. Wright's Slides, lying as they do upon the north shore; so that Your Memorialists will be exposed to serious loss and inconvenience if they be not allowed to pass their lumber through these Slides when occasion may require, without being liable to an extra charge for so doing.

That, under these circumstances, apprehending as they do, that various other inconveniences and difficulties may arise out of the holding of two of the Slides on the Ottawa by a private individual, while the greater part of them are in the possession of the Provincial Government, being aware that the position of Mr. Wright's Slides at the Chaudière and Chats, but especially as the latter place, is better and safer than that of the Government Slides, and being convinced that Mr. Wright's Slides are required by the Lumber Trade, in addition to those constructed by the Government, Your Memorialists firmly believe that it is a matter of great importance to the Lumber Trade that the said Slides should be purchased by the Government from Mr. Wright.

That Your Memorialists would sincerely regret, that Mr. Wright, who has evinced so much energy, enterprize and capacity, and who has conferred such incalculable benefits upon the Lumber Trade, by inventing the sliding

system, and applying it to the transportation of lumber down the dangerous falls of the Ottawa, should be treated unjustly, or that his interests should suffer on account of his having constructed his Slide at the Chats about the same time the Government Works were undertaken,— Your Memorialists being aware that he had been frequently requested by some of Your Memorialists, and by many others interested in the trade, to construct that Slide, and had made arrangements for that purpose before it became known that the Board of Works was about to construct a Slide upon the same rapids, and at a time when it was generally believed that no part of the public moneys would be employed for that object.

Wherefore Your Memorialists humbly pray that Your Excellency will graciously deign to cause the Slides at the Chaudière and Chats Rapids, now the property of Ruggles Wright, Esquire, to be purchased by the Provincial Government, in order that all the Slidage on the Ottawa be placed under the control of the Collector at Bytown. And Your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Montreal, September 20, 1847.

(Signed,)

Gilmour & Co.,
 Stephens, Young & Co.,
 Lemesurier Routh & Co.
 McPherson, Crane & Co.,
 Joseph Aumond,
 Robert Conroy,
 Hugh Carmichael,
 Wm. Morris,
 Coll. McDonald,
 Jas. Martin,
 Wm. Rodgeron,
 Joshua Smith,

Arthur McArthur,
 Elliot Johnson,
 Danl. McLauchlan,
 Michl. Lasor,
 Wm. Petry,
 Geo. Burns, Symes & Co.
 D. R. Steuart,
 Jno. Thompson,
 Allan Gilmour & Co.
 Geo. Black,
 Forsyth & Bell,
 G. W. Osborne,

Chs. Hersey,
 Geo. Morris,
 — Mason,
 Hiram Colton,
 Charles Colton,
 Isaac Smith,
 John McDona'd,
 John McPherson,
 A E. Montmarquet,
 J. D. Bernard,
 John Hall,
 John Poupare,
 L. M. Coutlée,
 Thos. C. Brigham,
 Edward Malloch.
 Edwd. Burke,
 John Stubbs,
 Saml. Crane,
 Thos. Stubbs,
 F. Wilson,
 Ewan A. McDonald,
 James McCaul,
 Geo. Stubbs,
 Saml. Adams,
 Saml. A. Huntingdon.
 T. H. Johnson,
 Nathl. Chamberlain,
 Chas. L. Brigham,
 C. C. Brigham,
 Tiberius Colton,
 T. S. Read;
 Jos. Smith,
 Jas. McCrakin, per J. O. B.
 Jas. Robinson,
 H. & A. Hopper,
 J. B. Poupare,
 Cotulée & Aird,
 D. Bourgeois,
 Alexr. McDonell,
 Thos. McGoez,

Duncan Patton & Co.,
 Thomas C. Lee,
 Provan & Anderson,
 Jno. P. Chrysler,
 H. & E. Burstall,
 Sharples, Wainwright & Co.
 Pickersgill, Tebbitt & Co.
 Donald Frazer,
 LeMesurier, Tilstone & Co.
 Anth. Cullen,
 Gillespie, Greenshields & Co.
 E. W. Hall,
 Edw. Smith, & Co.,
 Wm. Price,
 Robt. Roberts,
 Simon Hill,
 Rod. McDonnell,
 R. McLaren,
 Edwd. McGillvery,
 Jas. Wadsworth,
 J. B. Hyde,
 Wm. McKay,
 Wm. McArdle,
 James Browne,
 H. W. McDonell,
 Edwd. Griffin,
 John Bennett,
 James Leamey,
 P. R. Poutras,
 Jno. Thompson,
 Ross, Shuter & Co.,
 Pemberton, Brs.,
 D. Burnet,
 Robt. C. Wilkins,
 James Young,
 R. M. Harrison,
 Chas. E. Levey & Co.,
 Gordon, Nicol & Co.,
 Joseph Shuter,
 Jas. Turnbull,

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Jas. McGoez,
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 Jno. D. Tripp,
 Alexr. Grant,
 Thos. McCaw,
 D. F. McLaren,
 J. B. Poupare, senr.
 Willm. Byres,
 Gerrard McCrea,

G. H. Park & Co.,
 John Bonner,
 T. Kelly,
 Charles Poston,
 Wm. Henry,
 W. & C. Benson,
 Wm. Dawson,
 John Jamieson.

MEMORIAL.

*To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl of
 ELGIN and KINCARDINE, Governor General of Bri-
 tish North America, &c., &c., &c.*

The Memorial of the undersigned Merchants, Lumber
 Dealers, and others interested in the Lumber Trade of
 the Ottawa,

HUMBLY REPRESENTS:

That Your Memorialists have reason to complain of
 the Tariff establishing the rates to be paid for passing
 lumber through the Slides constructed on the Ottawa, by
 the Provincial Government, inasmuch as the effect of
 that Tariff is to compel those who pass any portion of
 their lumber through the Slides constructed by Ruggles
 Wright, Esquire, at the Chaudière and Chats rapids, to
 pay to the Government Collector at Bytown, the same
 charge as if such lumber had been passed through the
 Provincial Works, at both of the above mentioned
 places.

That at certain times, and especially when the wind
 blows off the south shore of the Ottawa, it is much more
 convenient, safe and expeditious, to pass lumber through
 Mr. Wright's Slides, lying as they do, upon the north

shore, so that Your Memorialists will be exposed to serious loss and inconvenience, if they be not allowed to pass their lumber through these Slides, when occasion may require, without being liable to any extra charge for so doing.

That, under these circumstances, apprehending as they do, that various other inconveniences and difficulties may arise out of the holding of two of the Slides on the Ottawa by a private individual, while the greater part of them are in the possession of the Provincial Government, being aware that the the position of Mr. Wright's Slides at the Chaudière and Chats, but especially at the latter place, is better and safer than that of the Government Slides, and being convinced that Mr. Wright's Slides are required by the Lumber Trade, in addition to those constructed by the Government, Your Memorialists firmly believe that it is a matter of very great importance to the Lumber Trade that these Slides should be purchased by the Government from Mr. Wright.

That your Memorialists would sincerely regret, that Mr. Wright, who has evinced so much energy, enterprise and capacity, and who has conferred such incalculable benefits upon the Lumber Trade, by inventing the sliding system, and applying it to the transportation of lumber, down the dangerous falls of the Ottawa, should be treated unjustly, or that his interests should suffer, on account of his having constructed his Slides at the Chats about the same time the Government Works there were undertaken,—Your Memorialists being aware that he had frequently been requested by some of Your Memorialists, and by many others interested in the trade, to construct that Slide, and had made arrangements for that purpose before it became known that the Board of Works was about to construct a Slide upon the same

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rapids, and at a time when it was generally believed that no part of the public moneys would be employed for that object.

Therefore, Your Memorialists humbly pray, that Your Excellency will graciously deign to cause the Slides at the Chaudière and Chats rapids, now the property of Ruggles Wright, Esquire, to be purchased by the Provincial Government, in order that all the Slidage on the Ottawa River may be placed under the control of the Collector, at Bytown. And Your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c., &c.

Montreal, 20th September, 1847.

(Signed,)

John Egan & Co.,
E. Bourke,
Alexander McLaren,
Charles Colton,
Jas. Blackburn,
Thomas H. Day,
Jno. R. Woods,
W. H. Gibson,
M. Coglan,
John Coglan,
C. R. Symes,
N. Sparks,
Jas. McDonell,
Augus McDonell,
John Thompson,
Edwd. Mosse,
Danl. McLachlin,

E. B. Dyde,
James Doyle,
Roderick Ryan,
Geo. B. Lyon,
Thos. Corcoran,
Jos. Belle,
A. P. Lesperance,
J. S. Johnson,
H. V. Noel,
Alexander Dunlop,
John Porter,
Geo. J. Marston,
Jno. Foran,
C. O'Kelly,
Charles Aumond,
Wm. Stubbs.

Total number of signatures to the two Petitions, 154.

*Copy of Letter to L. T. Drummond, Esq., dated
QUEBEC, 1st Oct., 1847.*

L. T. DRUMMOND, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—Herewith you will receive a Petition signed by all the Lumbermen and Merchants directly interested in the Lumber Trade that was in Montreal and Quebec ; the other sent to Hull and Bytown I am informed has also been numerously signed and returned to you. I wish you to cause the same to be copied prior to your presenting it. I have a copy of the one I send you, thinking it might be lost or mislaid, and it would be best to have a copy in case we might be compelled to bring this before the House of Assembly next session, in case the Government does not accede to our views. You will perceive that all the respectable merchants have signed the petition ; this I would wish you to explain to His Excellency, if possible, and those of the Council you would deem proper, the Hon. Peter McGill and D. Daly in particular. Rest assured that this opposition to private enterprise has been extensively circulated ; on my meeting those that was formerly acquainted with me, I found they had the whole story and regret my misfortune. Possibly there might be some individual's names put down by their friends in both Petitions, but there cannot be many. I wish you would look over the Petitions ; should there be, strike them out ; you will see two John Thompsons—one is of Quebec, the other of Nepean, C. W. Perhaps there may be some others situated the same way. You cannot imagine how anxious I am to come up, but it is impossible for me to leave this till I do something with my timber. The markets are bad ; it will hardly pay the cost of transport to Quebec, and my only resource is to push the sale of my Slides, if possible, to meet

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my engagements ; how much I regret ever having entered into that speculation; but could I have thought that I was to be opposed by Government, after having so repeatedly, with others, asked the Government to improve this river, and to no effect? I thought what I could do would meet with the greatest applause, but how mistaken have my views been! Unfortunately, situated as I am, I must insist on your friendship, and that you use every possible exertion in your power to extricate me from this unfortunate situation. Had I, through dissipation, idleness, or want of honesty, been reduced to this necessity, I then would never have asked any man's friendship or assistance; but feeling that I have acted justly, I must insist that you do all you can to bring this business to as speedy a close as possible. I think you had better see the Governor, and explain the respectability of the signatures, as you are personally acquainted with the most of them. Say, as an apology, that it is to serve an old settler nearly worn out in subduing the forest of Canada, and bringing them into fertile fields, &c. Rest assured that your kindness shall be rewarded. Now don't forget, and please write me soon after the receipt of this, and

Believe me to remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed,)

RUGGLES WRIGHT.

*To His Excellency the Right Honourable JAMES Earl of
ELGIN and KINCARDINE, &c. &c.*

MY LORD,—The high principles enunciated by Your Lordship since Your assumption of the Office of Governor of British North America, and Your manifest desire to promote the peace and prosperity of all Her Majesty's

subjects in these Colonies, assure me that you will pardon the liberty I take in now addressing you, especially as the occasion is one of the greatest importance to me. My future happiness or distress is involved in the question to which I am about to refer. I have now, My Lord, attained the age of fifty-four years, and am nearly worn out by the constant hardship and fatigue attendant upon the settlement of a large tract of country, and upon the prosecution of the Timber Trade. What have I not suffered in these laborious engagements' nights and days spent in the lone forests, without shelter, often without food, obliged to resort to the hardest labor as a protection against death by cold. This, and more, myself and kindred have had to suffer, yet we persevered, and by dint of exertions, unaided by Government, have brought the settlements on the Ottawa to what they now are. Before the period of our labours the Ottawa region was considered of little or no value; the fact is now otherwise, and sorely have my family suffered in effecting the change. Three brothers were cut down in comparatively early life, (their ages being from 35 to 48,) leaving each a large family. These misfortunes did not prevent the remaining branches from pressing onward for the advancement of the country, and in particular for the promotion of the value and importance of that part in which our lot was more immediately cast. During all this exertion, My Lord, we flattered ourselves, and the presumption afforded us no mean support, that we had the approval of the Government of our country. We particularly looked for this approval in the erection of the "Chaudière" and "Chats" Slides, (a particular to which Your Excellency's attention has been solicited in another form.) Frequently had the Government been requested to improve the river for the facility of the Lumber Trade, but as frequently was the question

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overlooked or neglected. At length did I venture, at my own risk and expense, to supply what the Trade, and the interest and safety of the population of the Ottawa so much need; and, My Lord, I exaggerate not when I state, that the works on the "Chaudière" and "Chats" cost me not less than £20,000. Had I not been opposed by the Works of the Government, (in the way in which Your Lordship has already been informed of,) this outlay would produce at least £3000 per annum, and the result, as regards the accommodation of the public, would, I am persuaded, have been most satisfactory. As it is, my late expenditure has been rendered almost fruitless by means of the Tariff established, so ingeniously constructed by the Executive. This injury, together with the unfortunate state of my affairs generally, (occasioned chiefly by borrowing money to erect these Slides,) and the present depressed state of the Trade, will oblige me to sacrifice all I possess to meet my engagements, unless the Government see fit to purchase my Slides at a fair price. Believe me, My Lord, these Slides are required by the Trade, and would pay Government well. The signatures of the numerous and respectable parties connected with the Ottawa Trade, which are attached to the Petition in favor of my request, (some time since presented to Your Lordship) is good proof of the correctness of my statement, and also of the favourable position towards the country which I occupy in reference to the origin of these works. I wish not, My Lord, to impugn the motives of the Executive, in determining to erect Works on the "Chaudière" and "Chats", in opposition to those which individual enterprise had already supplied; but I am constrained to say that it was an untoward proceeding. It has all but overwhelmed me in ruin, and it cannot afford confidence or encouragement to those who may be dis-

posed to embark their fortunes and enlist their best energies in promoting the material welfare of the country. The policy of the Government in entering upon the Works in question, appears still more strange, when we consider the fact of their neglect to make necessary, but infinitely less expensive, improvements in other parts where individual effort is doing nothing. On the "Long Sault," "Carillon," "White Horse," "Isicore" and "La-prairie Rapids", a small expenditure would be of the greatest benefit. To shew the greater necessity for these latter improvements, I may mention that the North and South Nation Rivers, the two "Blanches," the Rideau Canal and the Gatineau River, are passages for large quantities of square, and a still larger amount of sawed timber, (the latter supplied by the many saw mills on these rivers,) to the rapids referred to, in addition to that which comes from above the Chaudière. At low water it is impossible to pass Cribs of deal over these rapids in their present unimproved state, which is, of course, a serious drawback to the Trade.

Certain improvements made on the Gatineau River, by the Messrs. Hamilton and the Messrs. Wright, have been offered to the Government, in order that they might establish a Tariff to cover all expenses; and under the operation of which, all concerned would pay according to their respective trade. This important proposition has also been neglected. I am informed that the Government are now expending a further sum of money at the Chaudière, thereby making their operations so much the more formidable against me, that it would almost appear that no chance was left by which to extricate myself. I am almost confounded, My Lord, when I reflect on the whole affair. I know not what to attribute it to. It cannot be meant to injure me, and yet how palpably calcu-

lated it is to do so, without at the same time tending to that amount of public good which should alone be the object of a Government in interfering with the rights of individuals. I have never refused to do my best towards aiding the Government of my country in furthering the public good, and, as one instance, I may here mention that the Railroad, on the north side of the "Chats", which I took part in starting, and one third of which is my property, has been the means of saving to the country an expenditure of at least £60,000, by rendering it unnecessary for the Government to undertake the improvement of the navigation of the "Chats" on the south side of the Ottawa, which had been so much advocated by Mr. Sheriff for several years through the public press, and which could not have been avoided if this Railroad, or some other means of improving the navigation between the two lakes had not been resorted to. I have thus lengthily, My Lord, endeavoured to support my recent application to Your Lordship and Council, to extricate me from the difficulties which the unfortunate circumstance of my interests having come in collision with those of the Government, has placed me. I have again to beg Your Lordship's indulgence, and to assure Your Lordship, that in all I have done in reference to the business in question, I was governed by no unworthy motive, either towards the Government of my country, or a solitary individual of its inhabitants.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's obedt. humble servt.,

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

Copy of a Letter from Thomas A. Begly, Esquire, Secretary, Board of Works, in answer to my Letter respecting an Arbitration, dated

PUBLIC WORKS,
MONTREAL, 2d December, 1847.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you, with reference to your proposal to sell your Timber Slides at the "Chats" and "Chaudière," that His Excellency in Council has been pleased to authorize, in order that the Government may judge of the expediency or in expediency of purchasing these Slides, that their value be ascertained by Arbitrators, one to be chosen by this Department and the other by you, such Arbitrators to have the power to choose an Umpire; but it is to be distinctly understood, that in authorising the value of the Slides to be thus ascertained, the Government do not intend that they should be bound to purchase them, reserving the question of purchase for subsequent consideration. I am, therefore, directed to request that you will please communicate the name of the gentleman to act on your behalf, and in a few days you will be informed of the Arbitrator chosen on the part of the Government.

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

(Signed,) THOMAS A. BEGLY,
Secretary.

Ruggles Wright, Esq.,
Ottawa Hotel,
Montreal.

*Copy of a Letter in answer to T. A. Begly, Esquire,
Secretary Board of Works, dated*

MONTREAL, 3d December, 1847.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of yesterday, informing me that His Excellency in Council has been pleased to authorize the appointment of Arbitrators, for the purpose of ascertaining the value of the Slides at the "Chaudière" and "Chats", which I have proposed to sell to the Government, and requesting me to communicate the name of the gentleman to act on my behalf.

I beg to say in reply, that the gentleman whom I have chosen as my Arbitrator in the matter is John Egan, of Aylmer, Esquire.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

T. A. Begly, Esq.,
Secretary, Public Works.

Copy of Letter to John Egan, Esquire, dated

MONTREAL, 4th Dec., 1847.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have at last an answer from Government relative to my Slides; their value must be ascertained by arbitration; the Government has appointed Thos. McKay; I have named your honour. This is different to our former understanding, but I could not help it; Mr. Drummond insisted on it; and Mr. A. Gilmour was suggested by the Honble. Mr. Robinson as a proper

person as Umpire, which I assented to, knowing, should I succeed in getting you three appointed, that justice would be done without unnecessary delay, which my situation so much requires at the present time. Now, my dear friend, you must not refuse; you know my situation, and it is in your power to render me a service; I ask no more than I am in justice entitled to, and that I feel confident I shall receive when your judgment is rendered. I am aware that your extensive business has caused you to make improvements nearly similar to mine, and doubtless have carefully calculated the costs and know well the actual value; besides, none have a better knowledge of the value of my Slides than you have, more especially at the present time when they are buried in snow and ice. It is impossible that the works can be estimated by individuals who have no prior knowledge of the work. Thousands of pounds are there expended in rock excavation, removing and blasting boulders, and other work which cannot be seen now or at any other time, without turning off the water, which would cost a large sum at any time; therefore, I presume that you will doubtless come to the conclusion to estimate their value from a general knowledge of the amount expended, the value of the location, and the probable revenue of the Works; the latter may be ascertained from Messrs. Russell and Teasdale, my clerks; at all events you must not say no, but answer this at your earliest convenience, as I shall not leave this until I get this business settled, if possible. The Government requires an answer from me whether you accept or not. I wish you to see Mr. McKay; don't let him refuse on any account, and don't let him know that I said anything about Mr. Gilmour; he will get instructions from Mr. Robinson relative to the same; presuming that you

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would have no objection to his appointment as Umpire. Now don't forget me, and perhaps I may yet be of service to you.

Yours truly,

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

Copy of a Letter to T. A. Begly, Esq., dated

MONTREAL, 11th Dec., 1847.

SIR,—In accordance with my letter to you dated the 3rd inst., in which I stated that I had appointed John Egan, Esq., to act as Arbitrator on my behalf in the matter of my Slides, I immediately wrote to that gentleman, requesting his consent to that appointment, and I this morning received his official answer consenting to act as Arbitrator, and of which the following is a true copy.

AYLMER, 9th Dec., 1847.

RUGGLES WRIGHT, Esq., Montreal,

DEAR SIR,—I am this morning in receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., informing me that you have named me as your Arbitrator to act with others appointed by the Government, to value your Slides. I beg to say I am prepared at any time to go into the matter.

I am, yours truly,

(Signed,) JOHN EGAN.

*Copy of a Letter from T. A. Begly, Esq., Secretary,
Board of Works, dated*

MONTREAL, 17th Dec., 1847.

SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of the Commissioners, to inform you that the Honble. Thomas McKay has consented to act as Arbitrator on the part of the Government, to ascertain the value of your Slides at the "Chats" and the "Chaudière," and that full instructions will be sent to him by to-morrow's post, so that the investigation may be commenced at once.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obt. servt.,

(Signed,) THOMAS A. BEGLY,
Secretary.

Ruggles Wright, Esq.,
Hull, near Bytown.

Copy of a Letter from T. A. Begly, Esq., dated

MONTREAL, 22d Dec., 1847.

SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of the Commissioners, to inform you that the necessary instructions have been forwarded to the Honble. Thomas McKay, which will enable him to commence the investigation as to the value of your Slides at the "Chats" and "Chaudière," whenever the Arbitrators may meet for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obt. servt.,

(Signed,) THOS. A. BEGLY,
Secretary.

R. Wright, Esq., Bytown.

Copy of Letter to John Egan, Esq., dated

HULL, 31st December, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—Prior to my leaving Montreal, I had an interview with the Honorable Mr. Casgrain, one of the Commissioners of the Public Works; he informed me that it was not necessary to join in a Letter of Instructions to the Arbitrators, as the Commissioners of Public Works would on their part send the proper Instructions to their Arbitrator, the Honorable Thomas McKay; that on my part, it would be necessary that I should give such Instructions to my Arbitrator (J. Egan, Esq.,) as I should conceive necessary, to enable the Arbitrators to ascertain the correct value of the Slides. Therefore, permit me to add for your information, that I consider it next to impossible to go into any actual measurement and calculation of the different descriptions of work composing those Slides, they being at present covered by ice and water, which, at the present time, it is impossible to remove; but to give you an idea of their value, I beg to enclose the annexed documents. Nos. 2 and 3 contain the correct amount of what the Slides cost me, the paper marked No. 4, is calculated to shew their revenue for 1845-6, and No. 5, (*vide page 11,*) the average for the last eight years. The actual business done on the Hull Slide in 1845 and 1846, must fall short of a general average for the time to come; the future increase and importance of the Trade will of course cause a corresponding increase in the Tolls of the Slides; the present year may, however, be called an exception, owing to the unprecedentedly depressed state of trade generally, and cannot be taken as a criterion by which to establish their probable average Revenue; neither can the amount of this year's Revenue, as the Tariff establish-

ed by the Government in April last, has been the bone of contention, and has in a comparative point of view, nearly destroyed the whole Revenue of the Slides for this year. I would also observe, that in the year 1846, the Government Slide Masters at the Chats, gave the Lumberers to understand, that there would be a deduction of 2s. 6d. per Crib, on rafts passing through the Government Slide at the Chats and Chaudière, which was the cause of many rafts passing through them, which otherwise would not, had it not been for this encouragement; this consequently had the effect of lessening the number of Cribs which would have passed through my Slide, and plainly demonstrates that, in estimating their value from their work in 1846, I am still sustaining a great disadvantage, as I have no possible means of ascertaining the difference, but am aware it was a great deal, and I most humbly submit it for your consideration. I would also further observe, that the Government now, and the public in general, view this Tariff as unjust and oppressive. The present Executive have, however, promised, in case they should not purchase the Slides, to remodel it, and place it on a more fair and equitable footing; this I mention as another instance, to show the injustice of taking a comparison from this year's business, therefore I have come to the conclusion, after you have examined the present condition of the Slides, that you would require to ascertain the actual amount expended in erecting them, as also the amount of their Revenue; from this and the position they occupy, together with the facilities they afford the Trade, I should consider, would give you sufficient information to arrive at a fair and just conclusion as to their actual value; together with the general knowledge you possess of their advantages, as both you gentlemen, Arbitrators, have seen the position

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that they both occupied prior to their being erected. The immense expense of blasting and removing large boulders, as also the great cost of coffer dams, and heavy rock excavations at the entrance of the Chaudière Canal; also the rock excavation for the large Guard Gate, 33 feet, and 27 by 6 feet breast, for regulating the rise and fall of water at the entrance of the Canal to the Slide, together with many other and expensive descriptions of work, which are not now visible to the eye, but present one smooth surface of water, which individuals at present could not make any calculation upon, except they had seen the place in its original state, and hardly then, unless they had been present at the Works, and disbursed the expenses. This work was not performed with an idea of selling it to Government, or any individual. It was under the impression that it would be inherited by the original proprietors, and their heirs forever, presuming that they would not be opposed or coerced by Government, and compelled to part with the same, as it would appear is the case at present. However much I regret the necessity which compels me to part with this property, I still must confess, that I am not endeavouring, neither do I wish to create any sympathy to influence the gentlemen Arbitrators, in giving an award that should exceed the actual value of my property, as I am aware of the high and honorable principles you both entertain, together with your general knowledge and practical experience in such works; but at the same time, permit me to impress upon your mind the great necessity I feel in calling your particular attention to the locality and position of the Slides at the Chats in particular, as I am aware that the Arbitrator on behalf of the Government, the Honorable Thomas McKay, is not so well acquainted with the

advantageous position of the Chats Slide as that of the Chaudière; therefore permit me to call your attention to the advantageous position which my Slides possess over those of the Government. In the first place, a Raft can sail down the Chats Lake into a Boom at the entrance of my Slide, there detach their Raft into Cribs, one following the other through the Canal and Slides in perfect safety, until they enter the large and commodious Bay below the Rapids and Falls, where they reassemble their Cribs into Rafts, also in perfect safety, and in a much shorter time than can be done through the Government Slide on the south side of the Ottawa. For instance, a Raft descending the Chats Lake, passing through the Government Slide, must first come to anchor in the Lake above the Rapids or site the entrance of my Slides. In fine weather they sh it into Cribs or bands according to the height of water, and run the rapids a distance of about three miles, when they land in a Bay at the head of the Government Slide, and put it over Crib by Crib and land them promiscuously where they can, to be re-collected and banded up on a heavy current with a good deal of expense and difficulty; besides it often occurs while running these rapids, that pilots are deceived and their Cribs broken up by coming in contact with the rocks, as also from heavy squalls which drive them out of the channel, and a portion of their timber passes into different channels, between innumerable Islands, into the great Chnte, and are seldom or never afterwards collected by the lawful owners; it has also often happened that Rafts anchored in this exposed situation have been driven from their anchorage by gales of wind into the rapids and passed through the different positions above described, and the owners in consequence sustained immense loss. Last June I was in the Rail-

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road Station-house at the head of the Chats with some thirty others; there was a heavy squall from the north west which parted Centre's cables, his raft went adrift in the gale and ran foul of Poupare's, parted his cable, and with the greatest exertions, the gale continuing, the men succeeded in reaching the south shore just above the head of the rapids; had the gale not slackened a little, or the men not exerted themselves, God only knows what the result would have been; the night was dark and in the confusion, doubtless they must have passed through the great Chûte, and perished. Besides it is not unfrequent that rafts have been detained at this anchorage from eight to ten days in consequence of contrary winds, heavy fogs &c., whereas there is no fog, wind, or foul weather, can preventrafts passing through my Canal and Slides; neither is it possible, by passing through them to lose any timber as you will easily perceive on examining their localities. There ought to be some two or three hundred pounds more expended to perfect the work for its operation at low water; this has occurred in consequence of an error in the first levels, and was not ascertained by me until the water was let in; when that is done I would not hesitate to guarantee that I could take the charge of any raft and pass it into the Lake below, then re-band it ready for departure in one day and a half, and guarantee no loss. I feel confident that it will be done in one day, If this be true, as I conscientiously say it is, you must perceive the great and important benefit it will be to the Trade, and from that you can derive a near calculation as to its value; besides should the Government wish to connect these two Lakes by means of a Canal the greater portion of the work is already completed by my operation, with the exception of Locks, which doubtless will be the case sooner or later, more especially should that great and advantageous design be carried into effect of im-

proving the navigation of the Ottawa through to Lake Huron; it is the heart and centre of our country, and must be done sooner or later; nature has so designed it and it cannot be obviated. The surplus population of Great Britain, possessed of British feelings and untainted with republican or revolutionary notions, must find a resting place; and where can they meet with the fruits of their industry with that advantage they can on the fine and fertile banks of the Valley of the Ottawa? It is a healthy and noble stream; from each bank the settlements may extend to an immense distance; and let me ask, why the Ottawa should not be improved? Why should not the people representing the mercantile interests of Montreal, come forward and use every possible exertion to forward the settlement of the Ottawa? It is our commercial town, and from us they must expect to derive their principal support in a commercial point of view. That portion of Upper Canada bordering on the United States principally transact their mercantile business across the line 45, and Montreal, our present seat of Government, derives little or none of these advantages. Our Emigration is principally transported to the Far West, then left to obtain a subsistence in the United States in the best manner they can, while Canada possesses millions of acres of wild and uncultivated land more advantageously situated for the settler than any other part of America; whereas for the want of a well regulated system to locate the Emigrants as they arrive, we and the Mother Country lose the advantages that might be derived from locating them on the Ottawa. Their industry would prove a source of wealth to us in subduing our forests and supporting our connection with Great Britain, add to our commercial interests as well as to the manufacturing interests at home. These considerations I mention to you in order

that the future value which must accrue to the Government should they purchase my Slides may be well weighed, and which perhaps would not occur to you at the present moment. I would also observe that, owing to the circumstance of my being the sole inventor of the sliding system, and which has been productive of so much advantage to the Lumber Trade, I humbly conceive it is not the motive of the Government or those connected with the Trade, to deprive me of the advantages of my invention, without giving me that protection and remuneration to which I am justly entitled; therefore I cannot conceive that the Arbitrators will confine their views to the simple expenditure or outlay in constructing the work, but that they will take a general view of all the circumstances bearing upon the subject, and give their award accordingly.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

N. B.—I beg to enclose herewith a small book containing all the correspondence, comprising letters, affidavits &c., which passed between me and the Executive on the subject of the Slides.

No. 2.

Statement of Costs and Improvements on Ruggles Wright, Esquire's, Slide in the Village of Hull, up to October, 1847, exclusive of repairs.

Amount of the original cost of Slide, as per Deed of separation rendered in the Court of Queen's Bench, Montreal, in June, 1844,.....	£9,008	17	6
Improvements on Dam at Lower Slide, 1844-5,....	28	7	5
Do. on Slide and Canal, in 1844-5,.....	2,091	11	3
Building Wharf and Apron, in 1847,.....	119	2	7
Blasting and removing Boulders in the Channel of above made Slide, in 1846-7,.....	15	0	0

Carried over,.....£11,262 18 9

Brought over,.....£11,262 18 9

No. 3.

Statement of Costs building *Wellington*
Slide at the Chats, in 1845-46-47.

Total amount expended in the above Slide, to this date,.....	8,050 0 11½
	<u>£19,312 19 8½</u>

Not charging any thing for the Timber to erect the works, or the lands flowed, or privileges.

Memorandum.

In making a proposal of selling my Slides, in the Village of Hull, to Government, together with all the rights and privileges heretofore used in passing Rafts, that is to say, free egress to and from them, the same are to be subject only to the conditions and restrictions contained in the Deed of Separation, of which the annexed are extracts, and also reserving the right of removing a portion of the lower part of the Stone Dam, and rebuilding it for the purpose of taking in sufficient water, separate from the Slide, to propel the different manufactures, which will give additional support to the present work and greater advantages in working the Slides.

My proposals also to the Government, relative to my Slides at the Chats, are as follows, viz: I sell to the Government my Slides at the Chats, together with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto, comprehending the free egress to and from them, either by land or water, as also the privilege of overflowing such adjoining land as shall be considered necessary by the Government for the efficient working of the Slides. The Government also to have the option of taking such building lots near the Slides as they may deem neces-

sary for their Slide operations, so long as the same shall not interfere with the Lands deeded to the Rail-road Company, together with the right of altering or enlarging the Slides for a Canal or any other purpose, if required, or making such other changes in them as the Government may deem fit and proper, with also the further privilege of moving Rafts below the upper *terminus* of the Rail-road station, and at the lower extremity of the Slide in Wellington Bay.

These Slides and Canal pass through and overflow a portion of Lots in the Township of Bristol, viz: Lots Nos. 28 and 29 in the first range, and Lot No. 29 in the second range of the same; also, in the Township of Onslow, Lots Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and part of Lot No. 5 in the first range.

NOTE.—From the regulating Gate of the Canal to the foot of the Slide on the north side, I propose giving the Government from 10 to 20 feet, as they may require, also a building lot 60 feet front by 40 deep between the cut stone store and the small red house to the west, extending to the north on a parallel line with the before mentioned buildings; westerly the same privileges as hitherto used by individuals when passing their Rafts through the Slide, that is to say; every privilege necessary for the working of the Slide which has heretofore been found requisite, or which may now be considered requisite by the Arbitrators.

*Extract from Copy of Deed of Separation granted by
the Court of Queen's Bench, Montreal.*

PROVINCE OF CANADA, } In the Queen's Bench.
District of Montreal. }

Friday, the twenty-eighth day of May, one thousand
eight hundred and forty-four.

Present:

The Hon. Chief Justice Vallières de St. Réal,

“ Mr. Justice Gale,

“ Mr. Justice Day.

RUGGLES WRIGHT, the elder, of the Township of Hull,
in the District of Montreal, Esquire,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LOIS RICKER, of the same place, widow of the late Tiberius Wright, the elder, in his lifetime also of Hull aforesaid, Esquire, as well in her own name as in her capacity of Tutrix duly appointed *en justice*, to the minor children hereinafter named: Jonathan Wyman Wright, of the Township of Onslow, in the said District of Montreal, Lumber Dealer and Farmer; Alonzo Wright, also of Hull aforesaid, gentleman, and Charles Symmes, of Aylmer, in the said District of Montreal, in his capacity of Tutor *ad hoc du'j* appointed *en justice* to George Franklin Wright, Joshua Ricker Wright, Alphonso, Nancy Louisa, William, Tiberius, and Philemon Wright, minor children, issue of the marriage of the said Lois Ricker with the said Tiberius Wright,

Defendants,

AND

The said GEORGE FRANKLIN WRIGHT, of the Township of Hull, in the District of Montreal, gentleman,

Intervening for himself, as one of the Defendants.

The Court having heard the parties by their Counsel on the motion made by the Plaintiff on the 21st day of May, 1845, tending to the homologation of the Report of Amie Lafontaine and James Finlayson Taylor, Es-

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quires, *Experts* named in this cause, the said Report dated the 14th day of September, 1844, and made in conformity to the Interlocutory Judgment rendered on the 27th day of July, 1844, and returned to this Court on the 17th day of September, 1844; and on the merits of the said Report, and on the merits of said cause, having examined the proceedings and proof of record, and the admissions made by the parties, seen the said Report, and having upon the whole duly deliberated, doth grant the said motion, and by and with the consent of the parties doth homologate and confirm the said Report according to its tenure and effect; and the Court, proceeding according to the said Report, to the division and partition (*partage*) of the several lands, lots of lands, tenements and hereditaments described and designated in the Plaintiff's declaration in the said cause made and filed, and referred to in the last will and testament of the late Philemon Wright the elder, and thereby by him bequeathed to the said Plaintiff, and to the said late Tiberius Wright the elder, together with all and every the buildings, rights, privileges, appurtenances, and members thereto belonging, and all and every the rents, *rentes constitués et foncières* due or to become due thereon, into equal shares and *moitiés*, with the exceptions hereinafter made between the said Plaintiff on the one hand and the Legatees of the said late Tiberius Wright the elder, collectively, on the other hand, according to the provisions of the said last will and testament of the said late Philemon Wright the elder, doth adjudge, accord, and allot to the said Plaintiff, Ruggles Wright the elder, to belong and appertain to him the said Plaintiff, Ruggles Wright the elder, the first share or *moitié* of the said property designated in the said Report by the letter A, and consisting of

[Clauses No. 1 to 92 inclusive, allot to Ruggles Wright, two portions of Township lands, &c.

Extract from clause 93, allots to Ruggles Wright—
 “Also the *Slide* property, being for the passing of timber by the Chaudière Falls, and together with the small island and the dam thereto contiguous, and also the dams, coves, wharves, and also the privileges to the same belonging and appertaining, for the use and working of the said Slide.”]

And the Court doth order, for the better and more convenient enjoyment and use, working and proper management of all the aforesaid lands, lots of land, tenements and hereditaments, buildings, rights, privileges, appurtenances, and members thereto belonging, by the said Plaintiff, Ruggles Wright, Senior, and the said Legatees of the said Tiberius Wright, their heirs and representatives, the same shall be hereafter and henceforward subject and submitted to the following basements, restrictions and servitudes hereby imposed and established, as expedient and necessary, to wit; at the Chaudière Falls, in extreme low water, if there is not a sufficient quantity and supply of water in the Canal to furnish the Slide, then the grist-mill shall not work nor use any water during the day, when the Slide is required to be used; for the working of the blacksmith's shop in extreme low water, no more water is to be used than has formerly been used at such times.

The aforesaid saw-mill shall not be worked or run to the prejudice of the said Slide or of the said grist-mill.

In the event of other buildings, mills, or machinery, being hereafter erected for the purpose of being propelled and worked by the waters of the said Canal, they are not to use or take any portion of said waters to the pro-

judice and damage of any of the mills and buildings now erected.

AYLMER, 3rd January, 1848.

DEAR SIR,—I am now in receipt of your Letter of Instructions, with necessary papers relative to the arbitration between you and Government as to the value of your Slides, and every privilege thereto connected.

If not too much trouble, you will oblige me by sending another copy, in order that I may transmit the same to the Hon. Thomas McKay, who has been appointed to act on the part of the Government: my doing so will put him in possession of all the facts, which I consider is necessary, and will facilitate business when we meet.

I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed,)

JOHN EGAN.

Copy of Letter to Mr. Egan, dated

HULL, 9th January, 1848.

DEAR SIR,—As the Arbitrators meet on Monday for the purpose of valuing my Slides, I would beg to call your attention to a few observations in support of my communication to you of the 31st December, respecting the valuation of my Slides. Firstly, I would observe that there has been no account kept of the expenditure to erect the Hull Slide until it fell to me on the settlement of the Estates of P. Wright, Esq., and P. Wright & Sons, when I received it at a valuation of £9008 17s. 6d. I have already furnished you with a statement of the expenditure in actual improvements

since that period, amounting in the whole to £11,262 18s. 9d. I have thought that perhaps you would think it advisable to give you some idea of the cost of my work to ascertain the amount expended by the Government to erect the opposition Slides at Point Nepean: there was first expended by Col. By between two and three thousand pounds; by Buchanan, a heavy sum of money—if not the whole, a part must apply to the account of this work; for instance, the heavy pier at the head of the Kettle, on the south, together with the dams at the head of the Islands, which back the water and form the entrance to the Slides; also, the expenditure of the Little Chaudière, all must be put to the same account to ascertain the actual cost of the work.

The Government may say, looking to the account of their expenditure of 1845, that their Slides only cost so much, whereas the items of expenditure mentioned above ought to be included, to arrive at their true cost. The same observations may also apply to the Chats Slide. You are aware that G. Buchanan expended an immense sum of money, and ruined several respectable houses in erecting the Chats Slide, Canal, Dams, &c. I would observe that prior to the above works being constructed by Mr. Buchanan at the Chaudière, that the draught was so heavy into the Kettle and the other surges that they had to swing their Cribs round the point by means of a rope, and oak timber and staves were drawn by and re-rafterd—Stave Cribs at an average cost of five pounds, which have since passed through my Slides at the rate of five shillings per Crib, which shows an immense saving to the trade, independently of calculating the delay or loss of time, as it was not unfrequent that rafts were detained three weeks for their turn to go through. I have endeavoured to ascertain the total cost of the Govern-

ment Slides, but could not succeed. I feel, however, confident that, could the whole expenditure be ascertained, it would amount to more than the sum submitted to you as the cost of my Slides. The extent of their work is nothing to be compared with mine, besides mine was an experimental operation, whereas the Government has had the advantage of copying from my experiment in constructing their Slides; consequently their works could be done cheaper. You will observe also, that, in taking the eight years' estimation of the work of my Slides, it cannot bear any proportion to that period of years to come, from the natural increase of the trade, and the great advantages my Slide at the Chats has over that of the Government when in complete operation, as, rest assured, putting them at an average rate, not a Crib will pass through the Government Slide, while in 1845 and 1846, the amount must have been immense, and I think it would be of essential benefit to ascertain that, to enable them to arrive at a fair valuation of my Chats Slide, as there has been no opposition at that place. At the Chaudière, I have had Mr. Buchanan's Slide in opposition, together with the unsettled state of the business of the firm of P. Wright & Sons, which deterred me from making those necessary improvements required to realize their benefits, which I should have derived, until I made the improvements in 1845, and which plainly demonstrates the difference, and would greatly enlarge the amount of a general average, which does not at present appear in my statement. It may be argued that the Government having reduced the Tariff to 2s. 6d. per Crib, that it is not proper to make up the average at 5s. You will also observe that this Tariff is so calculated to afford the Government the same advantage; whether they pass through my Slides or not, they also charge 2s. 6d. per

Crib for passing through the trifling Poupare's Slide at the *Portage du Fort*, which only cost Government between £400 and £500. I cannot conceive that these circumstances ought to influence the Arbitrators further than in justice they merit, as you will naturally perceive, the the design and effect they were intended to have, and which will further appear by calling to your mind that there has been nothing expended by the Government from the Chaudière to Quebec, although sixteen heavy saw mills are erected for the manufacturing of deals, and not a Crib can pass in low water, where a trifling expenditure would improve the navigation so that Cribs of deals might descend at any pitch of water with the greatest ease. There is not even a shilling laid out by the Government on the Gatineau River towards improving booming, &c., although that river pays a large yearly revenue to the Government from its Lumber operations.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours, very truly,

(Signed,)

R. WRIGHT.

Copy of a Letter from John Egan, Esquire, dated

Bytown, 2nd February, 1848.

RUGGLES WRIGHT, Esquire.

SIR,—Enclosed I beg to hand duplicate of the award of Arbitration between you and Government, as well as copy of letter transmitting the same to W. B. Robinson, Chief Commissioner of Public Works, Montreal.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed,)

JOHN EGAN.

Copy of Letter to W. B. Robinson, Esquire, dated

Bytown, 2nd February, 1848.

SIR,—Herewith we beg leave to transmit to you the award of arbitration between the Government and Mr. Wright, of Slides, at the Chaudiere and Chats, with the privileges thereto connected. The Plans and Sections of the same will be handed to you by your engineer, Thomas Keefer, Esq.

We remain, Sir,

Your most obd't serv'ts,

(Signed,) THOMAS M'KAY,
J. EGAN.

W. B. Robinson, Esq.,

Chief Commissioner of Public Works,

Montreal.

Award.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

We, the undersigned, the Honourable Thomas M'Kay, appointed by the Department of Public Works, and John Egan, appointed by Ruggles Wright, as Arbitrators, to arbitrate, adjudge, and settle upon the actual value of the Slides, works, improvements, and privileges connected with the same, belonging to the said Ruggles Wright, situated at the Chats and at Hull, and by the said Ruggles Wright proposed for sale to the Government of Canada, having taken upon ourselves the burden of the said Arbitration ; having carefully examined the plans and profiles of the said Slides, works and improvements, submitted to us by Thomas C. Keefer, Esq., Engineer of the Public Works ; having ourselves personally examined the said Slides, works and improvements ;

having carefully, maturely and deliberately considered, and duly weighed the said matters, so submitted to us; having given the subject so submitted every possible attention and consideration, and having attentively heard and duly considered all the allegations made by the parties, have come to the conclusion, and *do hereby declare*, *That* the actual value of the said Slides, works, improvements, and all privileges connected with the same, and all lands overflowed, or which may be overflowed by the said works, and all other privileges and rights proposed to be sold and conveyed to the Provincial Government by the said Ruggles Wright, amount to the sum of *Eighteen Thousand and one Hundred and Fifty pounds* of lawful money of Canada and no more, a detailed statement of which valuation is as follows, viz:—

Excavation already done, say, 11,000 cubic yards, at 7s. 6d. per yard, Chats,.....	£4,120
Lands and Privileges, Chats,.....	1,475
Piers and Slides, Chats,.....	1,500
Slide at the Chaudiere, Hull,.....	11,055
Total,.....	£18,150

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands at Bytown, this second day of February, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty eight.

(Signed,) J. M'KAY,
JOHN EGAN.

Copy of Letter to His Excellency the Right Honourable JAMES, Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, Governor General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.

MY LORD,—The high and honourable principles enunciated by Your Lordship since your assumption of the

cf. P 37

office of Governor General of British North America, and your manifest desire to promote the peace and prosperity of all Her Majesty's subjects in these colonies, assure me that you will pardon the liberty I take in now addressing you, especially as the occasion is one of the greatest importance to me ; my future happiness or distress is involved in the question to which I am about to refer. I have now, My Lord, attained the age of fifty-four years, and am nearly worn out by the constant hardship and fatigue attendant upon the settlement of a large tract of country, and upon the prosecution of the Lumber Trade. What have I not suffered in these laborious engagements ! Nights and days spent in the lone forest, without shelter, often without food, obliged to resort to the hardest labour, as a protection against death by cold. This, and more, myself and kindred have had to suffer, yet, we persevered, and by dint of exertion, unaided by Government, have brought the settlements on the Ottawa to what they now are.

Before the period of our labours, the Ottawa region was considered of little or no value ; the fact is now otherwise, and sorely have my family suffered in effecting the change. Three brothers were cut down in comparatively early life, (their ages being from 35 to 48), leaving each a large family. These misfortunes did not prevent the remaining branches from pressing onward for the advancement of the country, and in particular for the promotion of the value and importance of that part in which our lot was more immediately cast. During all this exertion, My Lord, we flattered ourselves, and the presumption afforded no mean support, that we had the approval of the Government of our country. We particularly looked for this approval in the erection of the Chaudière and Chats Slides, (a particular to which Your

Excellency's attention has been drawn in another form.) Frequently had the Government been requested to improve the River for the facilitating of the Lumber Trade, but, as frequently was the question overlooked or neglected. At length, did I venture, at my own risk and expence to supply what the trade, and the interest and safety of the population of the Ottawa so much needed; and, My Lord, I exaggerate not when I state that the works at the Chaudiere and Chats cost me not less than £20,000. Had I not been opposed by the works of the Government, (in the way in which Your Lordship has already been informed of,) this outlay would produce £3,000 per annum, and the result, as regards the accommodation of the public, would, I am persuaded, have been most satisfactory. As it is, my large expenditure has been rendered almost fruitless, by means of the Tariff established by the Executive. This injury, together with the unfortunate state of my affairs generally, (occasioned chiefly by borrowing money to erect these Slides), and the present depressed state of trade, will oblige me to sacrifice all I possess to meet my engagements, unless the Government see fit to purchase my Slides at a fair price. They have been estimated by valutors, appointed for that purpose, with the concurrence of the Commissioners of Public Works, and although the valuation given in the Report, which is now lying before Your Excellency in Council, does not cover the amount of my expenditure, and allows nothing for the value of the site of these Slides, the unfortunate position into which I have been driven by circumstances, over which I could have no control, compel me to say, that I am prepared to accept of the amount of this estimate, (say £18,150), either in current money, or in Debentures, in exchange for these Slides. If purchased at this price, they would

yield on an average, an annual income, amounting to at least fifteen per cent upon the outlay, as I have had the honour of shewing by the statements which accompany my Petition to Your Excellency. Believe me, My Lord, these Slides are required by the Trade, and would pay the Government well. The signatures of the numerous and respectable parties connected with the Ottawa Trade, which are attached to the Petition in favor of my request, (some time since presented to Your Lordship), is good proof of the correctness of my statement, and also of the favourable position towards the country which I occupy, in reference to the origin of these Works. I wish not, My Lord, to impugn the motives of the Executive in determining to erect the Works on the Chaudière and the Chats, in opposition to those which individual enterprise had already supplied; but, I am constrained to say, that it was untoward proceeding. It has all but overwhelmed me in ruin, and it cannot afford confidence or encouragement to those who may be disposed to embark their fortunes, and enlist their best energies in promoting the material welfare of the country. The policy of the Government in entering upon the works in question appears still more strange, when we consider the fact of their neglect to make necessary, but infinitely less expensive improvements, in other parts where individual effort is doing nothing; as for instance at the Long Sault, White Horse, Isicore, and the Laprairie Rapids, where the expenditure made to erect a Slide at the Chaudière, in opposition to mine, would have been productive of much greater benefit to the Lumber Trade. I am almost confounded, My Lord, when I reflect on the whole affair. I know not what to attribute it to. It cannot be meant to injure me, and yet, how palpably calculated it is to do so, without, at the same time tending to that

amount of public good, which should alone be the object of a Government in interfering with the rights of individuals. I have never refused to do my best towards aiding the Government of my country, in furthering the public good. As one instance, I may here mention that the Railroad on the north side of the Chats, which I took part in starting, and one third of which is my property, has been the means of saving to the country, an expenditure of at least £60,000, by rendering it unnecessary for the Government to undertake the improvement of the Navigation of the Chats on the south side of the Ottawa, which had been so much advocated by Mr. Sheriff, for several years, through the public press, and which could not have been avoided, if the Railroad, or some other means of improving the Navigation between the two Lakes, had not been resorted to.

I have thus lengthily, My Lord, endeavoured to support my recent application to Your Lordship and Council, to extricate me from difficulties which the unfortunate circumstance of my interests having come into collision with those of the Government, placed over me. I have again to beg Your Lordship's indulgence, and to assure Your Lordship, that in all I have done in reference to the business in question, I was governed by no unworthy motive, either towards the Government of my country, or a solitary individual of its inhabitants.

I have, &c., &c.,

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

Montreal, 18th February, 1848.

To the three Branches of the Legislature.

The Petition of Ruggles Wright, of Hull, in the District of Montreal, in that part of the Province of Canada heretofore constituting Lower Canada,

HUMBLY REPRESENTS :

That the late Philemon Wright, the father of Your Petitioner, emigrated to Canada in the year 1800, (when Your Petitioner was about seven years of age) and settled on the River Ottawa, in the Township of Hull, about 120 miles from Montreal, and then 80 miles distant from any settlement—and that his exertions, united with those of his family, were the chief means of forwarding that now extensive settlement.

That Your Petitioner shared largely in these exertions, suffered much privation and expended large sums of money in forming roads, erecting bridges, &c., to facilitate general business in that section.

That Your Petitioner, in prosecuting the Lumber Trade, in which he became extensively concerned, found that numerous and most trying difficulties attended the descending of timber down the Rapids and Falls. That with a view to obviate these difficulties, and to facilitate as much as possible the lumbering operations, Your Petitioner did in the year 1829 construct and erect an inclined plane, or Slide, near the "Chaudière" Falls, at very great expense, and that thereby the passing of Cribs of Timber was thenceforth effected with safety and expedition.

That before the erection of this Slide, Cribs of Hardwood Timber and Staves were usually broken up at the head of the Falls, and drawn past by means of teams, and were then re-rafted below the Falls at an enormous expense, whereas by means of the Slide above mentioned,

these and other descriptions of Timber were enabled to pass through in Cribs at the rate of 5s. per Crib.

That Your Petitioner has expended a further amount of money in erecting other inclined planes upon his own property at the "Chats," extending through a rocky country a distance of about three miles, and that these Slides are also highly beneficial to the Lumber Trade.

That on the 10th day of March, 1847, a Tariff was established by the Government, regulating the Slide Tolls upon the Ottawa, by the terms of which the use of Your Petitioner's Slides are virtually prohibited to the trade—inasmuch as by a note to said Tariff it is ordered that "The full rate for each separate Slide or other improvement shall be levied on all lumber which may pass through any private Slide, after passing through any part of the Provincial Works."

That Your Petitioner seeing that he could not by possibility compete with the Board of Works, and that the operation of the said Tariff would, if he attempted to compete, be utterly ruinous to his interest, addressed a Memorial to His Excellency the Governor General, shewing the injurious position in which he was placed by the arrangements of the Government, and submitting to His Excellency that if it were desired that the Board of Works should have the control of all the Slides on the Ottawa, he would forthwith dispose of his Slides at the "Chaudière" and "Chats" for a fair remuneration.

That accompanying this Memorial to His Excellency, was another signed by a large majority of the merchants connected with the Lumber Trade, praying that Your Petitioner should be relieved from the disadvantage to which he was subjected by the new Tariff, and bearing testimony to the advantage rendered to the trade by the erection of his Slides.

That on the 17th December, 1847, Your Petitioner was apprised by letter from the Secretary of the Board of Works, that an Arbitrator had been appointed on the part of the Government to ascertain the value of his Slides ; that immediately Your Petitioner obtained the consent of a gentleman to act in his behalf, and that on the 2nd February, 1848, these Arbitrators transmitted a detailed statement to the Commissioner of Public Works, certifying that in their judgment, the value of said Slides was £18,150.

That although this sum is considerably less than the original cost of these Slides, yet Your Petitioner readily consented, by letter addressed to His Excellency, to accept it as remuneration, and to withdraw from all opposition to, or controversy with, the Government of his country.

Wherefore Your Petitioner humbly prays that Your Honourable House will vote a sum of money equal to the above, for the purchase of his said Slides, or that justice may otherwise be done to Your Petitioner in the premises.

(Signed,) RUGGLES WRIGHT.

Montreal, 7th March, 1848.

(Copy.)

PUBLIC WORKS, MONTREAL,
10th January, 1849.

SIR,—With reference to your offer to sell to the Government your Timber Slides on the River Ottawa, I have the honor, by direction of the Commissioners, to inform you that His Excellency in Council has been pleased to authorize the following terms to be submitted to you for the purchase of your Slide at the "Chaudière," which is

designated in the Judgment in partition pronounced by the Court of Queen's Bench for the District of Montreal, on the 28th July, 1845, as "the Slide constructed for the " passing of Timber at the Chaudière Falls, on the " north shore of the Ottawa River, together with all the " dams, coves, wharves and also all the privileges there- " unto belonging"—Price to be £10,000, payable in De-
bentures, redeemable in five years, and a transfer made of all the rights and advantages secured by the above mentioned Judgment, for the proper working of the said Slide; also that you continue to repair the dam which makes the privilege available for the grist mill and blacksmith's shop, as well as for the said Slide, in so far as you are now bound to keep the same in repair under the above-mentioned Judgment.

Should you be willing to accept these terms His Ex- cellency will be prepared to recommend the purchase thereof to the favorable consideration of the Legislature; and with a view to take the necessary preliminary steps for effecting the purchase, I am to request you will state such security as you will be ready to give for ensuring due attention to the repairing of the Dam.

I have the honour, &c., &c.

(Signed,) THOMAS A. BEGLY,
Secretary.

Ruggles Wright, Esquire,
Montreal.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable JAMES, Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, Governor-General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Provinces of Canada, Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., in Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY IN COUNCIL :

Under the peculiar circumstances in which I am placed, I trust that you will pardon the liberty I take in addressing you upon a subject which has already been under Your consideration, especially as the question to which I am about to refer is one of considerable importance to the country at large, as affecting the principal branch of its commerce, and is of the most vital importance to me, as upon its final adjustment depends whether I shall in future be able to maintain my business and standing in life, or with my family be reduced to misery and ruin.

I have received notice from the Department of Public Works, that the purchase of my Hull or Chaudière Slide has been determined upon by Your Excellency in Council, allowing me only £10,000 for the same, in Debentures redeemable in five years. In this notice no reference has been made to my Chats Slides, which, nevertheless, I have understood are to be placed upon a footing of fair competition. This would not have been so unfavorable had I obtained the decision at a reasonable time after my application of April, 1847; for had fair competition never been denied me I would not now have been reduced to my present position. Since that time, however, you will observe, that two seasons have elapsed, from the business of which I have been prohibited from deriving any benefit, while the unprecedented and monopolising Tariff has had the further

effect of ruining my credit and stopping all my business ; and this, together with accumulation of interest, costs, losses, charges, and several compromises to avoid the Bankrupt Court, have swelled my liabilities to a large amount, and placed my affairs in a much more difficult position than they then were. Deduct the amount of £10,000, from the amount of my outlay of £20,000, with costs, &c., and there would still be a balance of more than half, which I am totally unable to meet in the present depressed state of the finances of the country ; and the remaining portion of my property would, consequently, have to be sacrificed to meet those demands, as money cannot otherwise be realised for property at the present time.

It is true that in offering my Slides for sale to the Government, under ordinary circumstances, I would have no right to refer to or seek to influence a decision by any reference to such matters ; and I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I do not mean to infer that the Government should be held liable for my misfortunes, further than the injustice of the Government has operated to my prejudice. All public bodies, as well as individuals, are bound to repair the damages they may cause to others ; and, surely, the Government ought to be the first to shew the example. For what, let me ask, should Government exist, unless to protect, not only the interests of the great mass, but also the just rights of every individual ? And the moment that the late Government stepped aside from the direct path to crush the fruits of my enterprise, although for the *ostensible* purpose of subjecting my interests to the interests of the public, that Government abandoned its legitimate functions, and became an instrument of oppression. That private interests must uniformly yield to the interests of the public, I readily admit ; but not without a just compensation to the individual the fruits of whose labour and enterprise may be

appropriated to the public use. This principle is admirably set forth in the eleventh Article of the new French Constitution, which decrees, that "Property is inviolable; yet the State may demand the sacrifice of property for a public utility, legally established, and in consideration of a just and previous indemnity." In my instance, however, there was not even the excuse of appropriating the fruits of my industry for the public behoof, or for any beneficial purpose whatever; my enterprise was merely crushed, as it were in the mere wantonness of power, and the fruits thereof annihilated, not appropriated. Although it might have looked worse, the real evil would not have been half as great had the Government seized upon my Slides, and made use of them for the public good, without paying me anything for them, instead of the course pursued of altogether prohibiting their use, by which so much actual capital possessed by the country was virtually annihilated.

Of what, let me ask, does the public consist? Each individual is a constituent part of the great mass, and the success of the mass depends upon the individual energy, the individual enterprise, and the individual success of its constituent parts. If then the whole weight of a Government is thrown into the scale to baffle the energies and crush the enterprise of an individual, with what confidence could individuals embark in undertakings of an extensive character either for their own or the public good? No such confidence would exist, and the whole community would sink into misery and ruin. And this I sometimes take occasion to picture to myself as my own position, after all the advantages my country and its trade have derived from my exertions, and after every honourable effort to realize something for the education of my family and the support of my declining years,

I readily admit, that the present Government is in a

peculiar position in regard to this question, and especially so with reference to the only sources from which official information can be obtained. I may presume, as a matter of course, that the decision of Your Excellency in Council has been influenced by the Reports of the Engineers, the Messrs. Keefer, who have been connected with the Ottawa Works. Now, I think, it will not be difficult for me to shew various sound reasons why the Reports of these gentlemen are the last which ought to influence the decision of this question, and the last which, under existing circumstances, the present Government ought to be guided by.

In the first place, the Messrs. Keefer, with the assistance of the Hon. Wm. Morris, and a minor tool of his, (for whom he *created* a situation in connection with the Public Works on the Ottawa,) were the parties who in fact originated and established the very evils of which I complain, and cannot, therefore, be considered as disinterested and impartial advisers in the matter now. No Magistrate or Judge is allowed to sit on an appeal from his own judgment ; and, I think, the same rule may well be applied to an Engineer or a *partisan*. In the second place, I have every reason to believe that they are actuated by feelings of personal animosity towards me ; and this I principally attribute to the unsuccessful results of their first attempts at Slide making on the Ottawa and Madawaska Rivers, and the consequent ridicule of all the lumberers, who used to refer them to the successful operation of my Slides, from which they were jeeringly told to take a lesson. In the autumn of 1844, while the Union Bridge was in course of construction, Mr. S. Keefer took advantage of his position and office to obtain satisfaction. The approaches to the Bridge pass through a portion of the village of Hull, dividing my factories from my mills ; he closed the passage to both, and also prohibited me from letting in water to propel the same, although the grist-

will had ground bread stuffs for the first settlers, before he was born. He also planted stakes, and notified me that he had taken ten feet off my canal, and prevented me from erecting my saw mills, which space of ten feet has never been used, neither is it necessary, as it extends to the east of the road leading to the Bridge. In erecting this portion of the approaches to the Bridge, as I had *given the land for nothing*, I did consider that, if no indulgence was to be extended to me, the Department which Mr. Keefer represented ought to have constructed the works with as little molestation to me as possible, or at least without marking me out as an object for persecution, which was done even to the extent of injuring the works, of which they are a standing record, and which Mr. Christie (the builder) could well testify. I was thus, in consequence of the abuse of his official power by Mr. Keefer, compelled to incur much trouble and expense in procuring a survey and plan of the works, which I forwarded to Government, and thereby got permission to let in the water. I mention this to shew the feelings by which the Keefers have all along shewn themselves to be animated towards me.

Again, Mr. Thomas Keefer examined and estimated the cost of my works and their value, at the time the arbitration was entered into by the late Government, and by his representations the Arbitrators were influenced in their award. I have, therefore, every reason to request that Your Excellency in Council would be pleased to institute the strictest inquiry into the opinions advanced and estimates made by Mr. Keefer now, as compared with those advanced in his former Reports, and the representations he made at that time to the Arbitrators, and upon which their award was based. I have also every reason to say that Your Excellency in Council ought to look upon Mr. Keefer's reports and his advice, if not with suspicion, at least

with the strictest caution, inasmuch as it is his interest in particular, and that of his party in general, to urge the Ministry to such a course as would meet with public disapprobation; and he, having received notice that his services are to be dispensed with, it is to be supposed that he has an additional interest in acting to the prejudice of those who have dispensed with him, and for the benefit of his patrons. I do not speak these things unadvisedly; and if Your Excellency in Council can find such discrepancies as I believe to exist between Mr. Keefer's late Reports and those of a former period, it will be for you to consider whether his Reports, which I presume you have lately had before you, are more reliable than the views he entertained at the time of the arbitration, when the merits of a just decision would inevitably have redounded to the credit of his *patrons*. I know it is the desire of the Government to act for the public good, and this with a due regard to the views expressed by public opinion. Now as to the propriety of purchasing the Chats Slides, can it be supposed that Mr. Keefer is as good an exponent of the feelings of the public and the trade as the petition got up and signed by the whole trade? I say *the whole trade*; and by reference to the Returns in the Crown Land Department of those paying timber dues, it will be seen that it is the petition of the whole trade, with a few individual exceptions, consisting of parties who did not happen to come within reach of it while it was in course of signature.

The Arbitrators who decided upon the value of my Slides are of the highest respectability, and are themselves largely interested in the trade and in the expense attending the transport of lumber to market. It was, therefore, their interest to reduce the price of my Slides to the lowest point they possibly could conscientiously, because, through the Government, they were themselves in fact the real pur-

chasers, in connection with their brethren and co-partners in the trade, and were well aware that, as the Tariff would be regulated by a per centage upon the gross sum they might award, they would, by awarding an undue amount, be enhancing their own expenses to a corresponding extent.

The Arbitrators themselves knew well that their award was under the value of my Slides, and I would not have acceded to it without calling an umpire, but for the peculiar position in which I was placed, being prohibited from using them myself, and on this account, and with *the view of getting an immediate settlement*, (which the state my affairs had been thrown into by the interference of the Government rendered of the greatest importance to me,) I was advised by my friends to accept it. But instead of an immediate settlement, more than eleven months have now elapsed, during which time I have been as it were banished from my wife and family, threatened with bankruptcy, and unable to attend to my business, and yet unable to get this question settled.

I would beg to call the attention of Your Excellency in Council to the fact, that the Government was a party to the arbitration, and appointed one of the Arbitrators. Now, is not the Government fairly bound in honour by the award? The time to object was when the arbitration was going on; either party might then have had an Umpire appointed, or stated their objections to the whole proceedings. Nothing of the kind was done however—the whole arbitration was brought to a close in a most regular and systematic manner. I gave, on my own part, all the information necessary to support my case, while Mr. Keefer in like manner attended on behalf of the Government, and gave such evidence as was necessary to enable the Arbitrators to scrutinize all sides of the question. If such an arbitration occurred between two

private individuals—even without an arbitration bond having previously been entered into—would not the award be binding upon them in honor? Is then the obligation of the Government less binding than that of an individual under similar circumstances? I would respectfully submit that the only grounds upon which the Government could fairly set aside the arbitration would be by a new one. If Your Excellency in Council have no confidence in the arbitrators, or the manner in which the arbitration was conducted by the late Government, let this be done, and then I would have an opportunity of again submitting all the details of my expenditure. This would surely be more likely to lead to an equitable result than being guided by the separate statements of an individual, *inimical to me, and inimical to, and interested in leading the Government into error.*

Let me here briefly advert to the advantages the trade and the country have derived from my Slides, *which were an invention of my own.* I undertook these works at a time when the Government, though deriving a considerable sum annually from the Timber Trade, would not make such improvements as were even then deemed practicable, and at a time when the very principle which I adopted, though it has since proved so eminently successful, was but an experiment. By the success of my attempt at the Chaudière, the great forests of the Ottawa were laid open to the enterprise of the commercial community, and the Timber Trade—the staple trade of Canada,—was facilitated and increased beyond the most sanguine expectations. Prior to the erection of my Chaudière Slides, hardwood and staves were drawn past at an expense of £5 0s. 0d. per crib, and upon the opening thereof I passed the same for 5s. per crib. Light floating Timber formerly cost 20s. per crib; I passed it also for 5s. The passing of a raft at the Chaudière formerly occupied twenty days; by my Slides five or six

rafts could pass in one day, thus saving a great deal of time, and admitting of Timber reaching the Quebec Market the same year, which could not otherwise have done so. Formerly we had to re-dress the Timber at an expense of £2 per thousand feet, while the average loss in breaking, bruising, and losing the Timber in the different Falls and Rapids, was estimated at a similar amount.

These direct advantages, derived from my Chaudière Slides, great as they were, cannot, however, be considered equal to the advantages derived from *the invention*, which is now in use over the whole country, *without any Patent right ever having been claimed by me to make its public utility subservient to my own profit*. By the invention of Slides, the whole forest of Canada has been brought within reach of market in one year, and, thereby, an increased permanent value has been fixed upon the standing Timber from which the Government derives a revenue of from £25,000 to £30,000 per annum. It may be said that if I had not invented the Slides, the thing is so simple that some other person would. The same may be said of any important invention, *which is very simple when it is known*; but, which, with less advantage to the public, has made the fortune of the inventor. The advantage derived by the public and the Government from my invention is beyond calculation, and many a man has had the highest honors of his country conferred upon him for a less important service and, at the same time, retained every advantage from his design, while I have been unjustly persecuted and deprived of that which honestly belonged to me.

To shew that I do not over-estimate the effect of the prohibitory Tariff of the late Government in causing my embarrassments, let any business man, for a moment, consider what the effects would be, if, after he had invested £20,000 in a Manufactory, and when he was just about

to derive a profit from his investment, a prohibitory duty of a hundred per cent should be placed upon its products? Such has been precisely my case ; my Slides were just on the eve of returning me the fruits of my investment, and my business was upon a very fair and creditable footing, when the *Official Gazette* appeared with the prohibitory Tariff, absolutely sinking my outlay of £20,000. What was the natural, the inevitable consequence? Bankers and business men took the alarm, and I was thus deprived of every possibility of relief, at a period of unexampled commercial distress. Prior to this I had yearly afforded employment to upwards of two hundred men, was actively engaged in business, and of service to myself and country ; but since the oppressive Tariff of March, 1847, my capital has been dormant, my credit annihilated, and I have been unable to attend to anything but the *attempt* to get a settlement of this question.

In referring, as I have done, to the Messrs. Keefer, I, of course, presume that Mr. Thomas Keefer is the only official source from which the Government could lately have obtained information. Now, even were Mr. Keefer desirous of rendering justice to me, I would ask how far his superintendence of the Bytown Slides could qualify him to decide upon the actual cost of mine, or whether it could have been done for less than it actually cost me? In the first place, even in connection with the Slide which Mr. Keefer has superintended, there are many old works, which, if they had not previously existed, he would have had to construct, and which he is totally incompetent to estimate the expense of, *unless he had seen the place in its natural state*. The same remark applies as to his competency to estimate the cost of my works, especially at the Chaudière, which are partly covered with water, while the whole features of the locality are changed. For example, when a mass of rock has

been removed, how is a person *who never saw it* to estimate the cost, unless he examine authentic documents to prove it? With regard to the Chats Slide, I think that myself, and other lumbermen, are better judges than Mr. Keefer as to the most practical position in which to construct it, as well as of its practical utility, and although he might estimate a cheaper mode of erecting it, the probability is that his *estimate* would prove, when expended, but a *preliminary* to a more practical mode of proceeding. The value of such estimates ought, by this time, to be pretty well known in the Province.

Having alluded to the Hon. William Morris, I would beg to explain that I attribute much of the persecution to which I have been subjected to that gentleman, and for the following reason. A sum of money was appropriated by the Provincial Parliament for the construction of a species of Canal at the Chats, not entirely to overcome the portage, but to allow the boat from the Upper Lake, and the boat from the Lower Lake, to come within sight of each other. Upon what engineering this absurd scheme had been proposed it is needless to enquire; but, if once commenced, although the sum voted was small, the work would doubtless have been completed, and a Canal, of practical utility, have been constructed, which would not have cost less than from £70,000 to £80,000. *This money was to have been expended upon the property of the Hon. William Morris!* but the construction of a Railroad by myself and partners at the opposite side of the River, obviated all excuse for this expenditure of the public funds, and thus, not only was an extensive work for the employment of the Engineers and the exercise of patronage, dispensed with; but the said property, instead of being enhanced by such an expenditure upon it, was actually deteriorated, in consequence of the route of travel having been altered by means of our Rail-

road to the opposite side of the river. Thus, then, the ire of the Hon. William Morris was kindled against me, in consequence of a proceeding by which I saved some seventy or eighty thousand pounds to the Provincial Exchequer.

It may be said that, in the present depressed state of the Lumber Trade, my Slides are not now of so much value as they would have been had the trade remained in its late prosperous condition. I am not, however, of those who believe, and I should be sorry if Your Excellency in Council entertained the belief, that the Lumber Trade will not again revive. This calls my attention to the years 1826-7, when a set of desponding people raised a cry that the country and trade were ruined for ever; but, notwithstanding these predictions, the trade revived, and extended, and such will be the case again; and the probability is that by the time the five year Debentures become due the Tolls on the Hull Slides will have amounted to the full sum required to meet them. The present depression has been simply caused by the over manufacture of 1846, and the state of European affairs, and will cease when the cause has been removed.

In conclusion, I would earnestly beg of Your Excellency in Council, to take my Petition into your serious consideration, and, seeing the hardship of my case, and the injustice to which I have been subjected, as well as the fact that it is for the interest of the Government to possess these Slides, that you will be pleased either to take them at the award of the Arbitrators, or, as I have no desire to receive a fraction more than they are really worth, establish a new arbitration to ascertain their value to your satisfaction.

And Your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Montreal, December, 1848.

Copy of Mr. Supple's Petition for remission of Slide Dues for the Chaudière Slide.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JAMES, Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, Governor General of British North America, and Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c., in Council.

The Memorial of JOHN SUPPLE,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

That a Tariff of Charges for passing the Government Slides on the Ottawa River was established, by which any timber, after having passed through any of the upper Government Slides, if it afterwards passed through any private Slide, was charged, not only for the Government Slides which it had passed through, but also for those it had not passed through; the owner being in such cases obliged to pay for the Government Slide which he had not used, as well as for the private Slide which he had used.

That Your Memorialist had a raft which he passed through all the Government Slides in its route until it arrived at the Chaudière, when, unwilling to pay for what he did not get, or to place himself in antagonism with the established regulations, Your Memorialist would have passed it through the Government Chaudière Slide also, had it been possible to do so; but that Slide being at the time unapproachable, he was compelled to take his raft to the other side.

Your Memorialist therefore passed his raft through Wright's Slide, and in giving bond to Mr. Graham for the Government Slide dues, required that he should only be

charged for the Slides his raft had actually passed through, and not have to pay for the Government Chaudière Slide, *which he had not been able to use*, while at the same time he had to pay for Wright's Chaudière Slide, which, *from the state of the River at that time, he had been compelled to use*. Mr. Graham admitted the fact, and, Your Memorialist believes, will have no objection to certify it, that the raft could not get at the Government Slide, but said that his instructions did not allow of his omitting to charge it.

Your Memorialist therefore gave bond for the whole, but would respectfully beg that Your Excellency in Council would be pleased to take the circumstances into consideration, and direct that the amount charged for the Government Chaudière Slide should be remitted.

And Your Memorialist will ever pray.

Montreal, 24th July, 1848.

No. 1.

I. G. O., CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,
Montreal, Aug. 18th, 1848.

SIR,—The Inspector General having had the honour of bringing to His Excellency's notice the Memorial of John Supple, (transmitted through your hands,) praying that a certain amount of Slide dues charged at the Chaudière Slide may be refunded, on the ground that he *had not used* the said Slide, but nevertheless was called upon to pay at that work, as well as all those Slides *which he had actually used*.

I have the honour to acquaint you that full enquiry having been made into the merits of the Petition, it appears that no Tolls have ever been claimed from any party for a Slide through which his timber has not passed. The intention and practical operation of the Schedule of Slide Dues

of 18th March, 1847, are to grade a progressive reduction of Tolls to parties using the Provincial Slides, but to exclude from such reduction those who use the upper Slides, and then afterwards give the benefit of their custom at the lower Slides to private individuals.

It, however, is stated, that Mr. Supple has always given a preference to the Government Slides when he could use them without loss to himself; but, at the period in question, there was too little water to allow his timber to approach the Government Slide, consequently he passed his timber through Mr. Wright's Slides; and, when settling for his Slide dues, claimed to be allowed the benefits of the reduction granted by the Tariff to those using the Povincial Slides, by reason that it was *not by choice* that he had used Mr. Wright's Slide.

On which I am to remark, that the Collector only insisted on Mr. Supple paying the full amount of tolls on his timber passing the Provincial Slides *which he had used*. No charge whatever has been made for the Government Chaudière Slide as regards the raft in question, as it did not pass that Slide. If it had, the reduction which Mr. Supple would have been entitled to by the Schedule of Tolls, on the Slides throughout, would have been equal to the charge on that Slide.

Under these circumstances, the Governor General declines acceding to the prayer of Mr. Supple's Memorial.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obediant servant,

(Signed,) J. W. DUNSCOMB.

BYTOWN, 12th November, 1844.

GENTLEMEN,—After the conversation I have had this day with your R. Wright, Esq., respecting your operations in the neighbourhood of the approach to the Union Suspension Bridge from the Hull side, I consider it my duty as the Engineer and Officer of the Board of Works, formally to protest against your carrying them to completion in the manner described by him, since, if so completed, they would destroy the said approach and render the Bridge useless.

I understand it to be your plan to make use of the approach in question as a retaining embankment for one side of the mill race which you are now constructing, when at the same time you are well aware that the water, if let into the race, would overflow the road two feet deep and more. This you must know would render the road impassable, and in the end destroy the approach.

It cannot be recognised that you have any right, now, to injure this approach, constituting as it does, a portion of a road which has been established by use for upwards of 16 years, and I must therefore forbid your connecting any part of your works with it, or constructing them in such a manner as to endanger it; and, finally, you are not to let in the water until you have sufficiently provided (by building an embankment, or an impervious wall of masonry,) that it shall do the approach no injury.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servt.,

SAMUEL KEEFER,
Engr. Bd. of Works.

Messrs. P. Wright & Sons,
Hull.

0 8 9
{ To clear through Macdawska Lower Improve-
ments to foot of Chaudière, }
Do. do. do. do. ... }
Red or White Pine or Hardwood, }
Macdawska improvements below High Falls, }
NOTE.—The full rate for each separate Slide, or other Improvement, to be levied on all Lumber which may pass through any private Slide after passing through any part of the Provincial Works.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Charles THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Baronet, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

The Memorial of RUGGLES WRIGHT, Senior, and ALONZO WRIGHT, of the Township of Hull, in the District of Montreal, representatives of the late Philemon Wright and Tiberius Wright, in their life time, of Hull, aforesaid,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

That certain differences having arisen between Samuel Keefer, Esquire, Engineer of the Board of Works, and Your Memorialists, relative to the construction of the Road leading to the Union Suspension Bridge, at the Chaudière Falls, on the River Ottawa, Your Memorialists are now obliged to lay the matter before Your Excellency.

That Your Memorialists and their fathers have, for more than forty years, enjoyed and possessed, as proprietors thereof, that tract of land immediately adjoining the said Chaudière Falls, where Mills and Machinery have been erected, and are worked by the waters of the said Falls, through certain Dams and Canals there constructed.

That in the year 1828 was completed a certain Bridge, built by the Board of Ordnance of England, at the place where the said Union Suspension Bridge now is, which Bridge landed at Hull, aforesaid, by a road passing

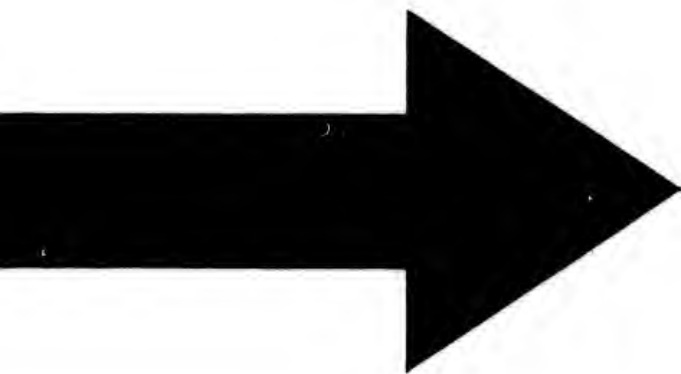
through part of the said tract of Land, which was then allowed by the said proprietors thereof ; and the said Bridge having afterwards fallen, by decay of the materials, the said road and approaches thereto were left vacant until the said Suspension Bridge was erected and completed in the fall of the year 1844.

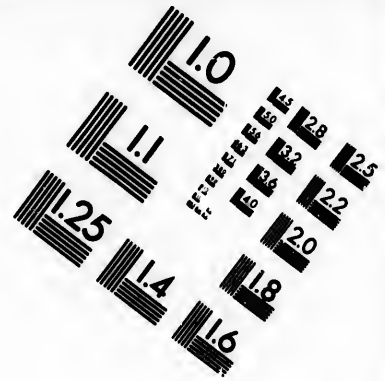
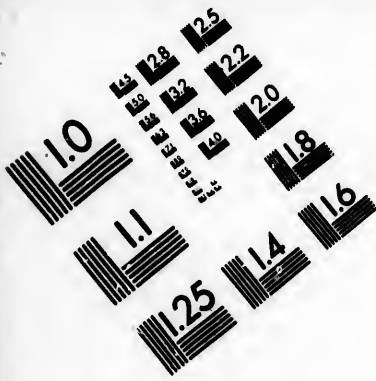
That certain improvements for the better management of the water privileges at the said Falls, contemplated by Your Memorialists and their fathers, were, in fact, partly made at a great expense, during the fall of this year, and are now nearly completed, which improvements were pointed out to the said Engineer of the Board of Works, (Samuel Keefer, Esq.) in the fall of the year 1843, by Ruggles Wright, one of Your Memorialists, who more particularly indicated unto him a certain Canal and Bywash to be left open (as it had been long before that time), 30 feet wide along the east side of the said Road, leading to the Union Bridge; and that, in consequence, the said side of the Road should be a cemented wall, in order to prevent the said Road being overflowed by the natural level of the waters of the said Canal.

That the said Road, without any permission from Your Memorialists, afterwards, to wit; during the summer last past, 1844, was made of the same width of the Bridge, with wooden rails on both sides, by means whereof Your Memorialists are deprived of their right of communicating with their respective properties on either side of the said Road, or any observance made to the streets of the villages intersecting the said Road, there being a Grist Mill, Carpenter's Shop, Blacksmith's Shop, Trip-hammer, Foundry, &c., much frequented by the public.

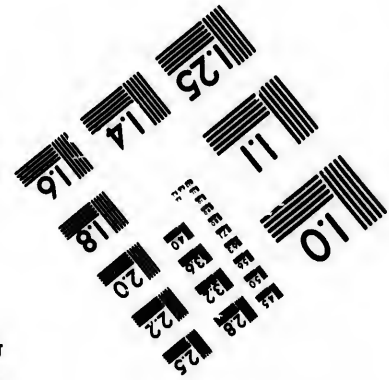
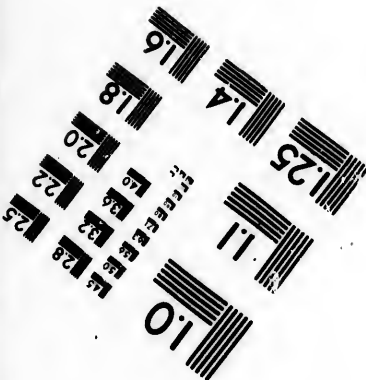
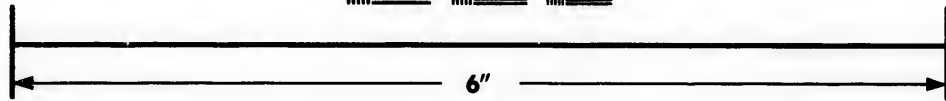
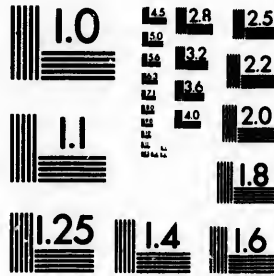
That, moreover, a strip of land of ten feet wide, forming a part of said Canal and Bywash, along the east side of the Road, was measured on the 19th November last,







**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

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by Mr. D. S. Walton, Engineer, employed by the Board of Works, with an intimation from him, that the said Road, besides the breadth it is now made, will henceforth include the said strip of land, which is several feet lower than the said Road.

That in connection with the Mill, &c., erected at the said Falls by Your Memorialists and their father, is a Slide or Canal by which the rafts of timber are made to run through, in order to avoid the said Falls; which said Slide has been in existence since the year 1829; and on the south side of the Canal leading to the said Slide there is a communication or opening to pass the surplus waters into the aforesaid Canal or Bywash, as was formerly done.

That Your Memorialists being desirous of completing the improvements and works by them begun in the fall of this year, and letting the waters run in the said Canal leading to the said Slide, which also furnishes the waters to work the said Grist Mill, Blacksmith's Shop, Trip-hammer, &c., are now prevented so doing by the said Engineer, (S. Keefer, Esq.) which is a great injury and inconvenience to the public, together with a great loss to Your Memorialists; and forbidding them to connect any part of their works with the said Road or side wall of the said Road, so that Your Memorialists cannot keep the waters of the said Canal leading to the said Slide within the same; a small recess alone only would be sufficient, (if erected to correspond with that made in the wall on the other side of the Bywash, until such time as the Road can be constructed, so as not to be injured by the water at its natural level, flowing into the Canal and Bywash) to keep the waters from entering the said Bywash and Canal.

That Your Memorialists being so prevented from completing their Improvements and Works as originally commenced by themselves and their fathers, will be grievously injured, and their individual enterprise will suffer great damage by reason of their not having the free enjoyment of their said water privileges at the Chaudière Falls.

That communications were had with different Officers of the Board of Works, and not having yet received any answer from the President of the said Board, and the season being so far advanced, Your Memorialists are forced to submit for Your Excellency's consideration, their present prayer, and beg to refer to the plan and copies hereunto annexed, of the communications whereby several of the above allegations will appear more fully.

Wherefore, Your Memorialists pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to take the matter into your consideration, and relieve Your Memorialists in the premises; and to order that the said Road leading to the Bridge from Hull, as it is now, be made so as to prevent the water at its natural level in the Canal or Bywash, injuring the approach to the Bridge, and to remove all obstacles preventing Your Memorialists from communicating on their respective properties (and enjoying the same,) and their water privileges at the Chaudière Falls, as of right belong to them.

And Your Memorialists, &c.

BOARD OF WORKS,
Montreal, 29th May, 1845.

GENTLEMEN,—With reference to your Petition to His Excellency the Governor General, praying for protection from an alleged infringement of your rights by the Public Works at Bytown, I am commanded to inform you that His Excellency in Council has taken the same view of the matter as the Board of Works.

The Board conceive that you are at perfect liberty to make whatever improvements you please on your own property, provided they do not prove injurious to your neighbors ; but, as in the present case, the improvements intended would destroy the public road, if not carried out in the manner required by the Board, it is for you and not for the public to bear the expense necessary to secure the road from injury.

I am further desired to state that there is not the least disposition on the part of the Board to obstruct you in the free enjoyment of your properties to the fullest extent compatible with the interests of the public, and they are ready to afford you every facility that shall not interfere with the safety and usefulness of the Public Works on the spot.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your very obedient servant,

THOMAS A. BEGLY,
Secretary.

Messrs. R. & A. Wright,
Bytown.

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