

Transcription of John Turner Letter of Claim against the Post Office 1897

Claim of John Turner of Rivière du Loup against the P.O. Dept. for conveyance of mails fixing roads
etc., Governor General's Office 1897/03/08

Order-in-Council Number: 1897-0564 Date Introduced: 1897/03/09

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<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/orders/index-e.html>

ICR Station Rivière du Loup
March 4th 1897

To His Excellency Governor General of Canada

Dear Sir

As an old employee in Her Majesty's Service for fifty years, I think I am entitled to a small share of British fair play which I am sorry to let you know I could not get from where I should the late Government.

In 1841 I joined the British Boundary Commission at settling the boundary line between the United States and the British provinces under Col. Escort [James Bucknall Escort] and Royal Engineers and after it was finished I joined the Exploration Survey of the Intercolonial Railway under Capt. Ripon and in Oct. 1847 finished.

In 1850 I joined the Post Office Department in Fredericton my native place. And followed it up till 1868. And this contract being open to competition got and moved up here to Rivière du Loup and kept the same till the Railway was built across to Edmonson from here. In July 1891 my contract was taken away from me and given to the Temiscouata Railway. And with short notice not according to contract which is or was three months' notice from either parties but the mail is going tomorrow by the Temiscouata RR. And my contract was not due for nine months but I was promised something else in the Department or in the Government which I never got. I had a letter from Ottawa to go to the ICR Station and pick out a job which I did and on answering that I had the job. I did not get it after all. So that is the way that they used me. And I have a claim against the Department which I never could get settled up by obeying orders from the P. O. Inspector Mr. Shepard on keeping the road in proper order as sometimes in the spring of the year the (illegible) holes caused by the trains hauling wood from 10 to 12 miles back used to be a great annoyance as you could make no time when the road was in that way. Now the reason of the thing not being settled is after Mr. Shepard told me to send my papers to his office Quebec which I did and he would see me all right. He went to New York to see a doctor on some business and he died sudden. So I thought no more about the affair till I got word to bring or send them to Ottawa. So when I went for them at Quebec they could not be found. So I had to get a copy of them and brought them to Ottawa. At the time the Royal Commission was sitting and the Deputy told me that I had better wait till that passed. So the next session I was up and had an interview with the then P.M.G. and got no more satisfaction as the affair was too old or something to that effect. I tried to make it understood that it was not my fault but it made no difference so I gave it up.

Now Dear Sir I hope you will excuse my boldness in trouble you with the document but I know you are lover of honesty and fair play. I thought I would write you. I never have any trouble of neglect of duty in any way in the Dept. which of course is known there as far as contractors (illegible) are concerned. If I had been told that my services was not required any longer I would been in a better position. I am out over two thousand dollars anyway the way that I have been used.

My old friends at Ottawa are all dead so I have not the chance that I had although the Minister of Railways Hon. A.G. Blair knows me very well. I met at Ottawa and told him about the business but I suppose he has had too much business on hand or maybe forgot. So if you will please look over the document you will confer a great favour on an old veteran that has been out in all kinds of wether since 1841.

Yours respectfully

John Turner, ICR Station Rivière du Loup PQ

