

agement was, that the board allowed itself to be influenced by members of the legislature, each of whom wanted a portion of the money spent in his district, without regard to the general need. My proposition was, in effect, that the state should not be held liable for expenses attending the completion of the improvement, but that the tolls and the sale of lands should supply the means to reimburse me. The governor, in his message to the senate, said: "It is believed that the proposition of Mr. Martin is a very favorable one for the state, and, if accepted, will ensure the final completion of this important work at a much earlier day than the state can possibly accomplish it, in any other constitutional manner. * * * The early completion of this improvement will be promoted by its acceptance and would be economical."

The legislature of 1851 accepted my proposition¹ and I went to work with about five hundred men, commencing at Kaukauna. Operations were carried on throughout that season, along the entire distance from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago. By the terms of my contract, the governor was to give me scrip, to be paid from the sale of lands and from the tolls on the work.² Governor Farwell came into office on the 5th of January, 1852. On the 16th, in his message to the legislature,³ the governor reported that \$26,000 had been paid to me for the season's work, in state scrip, and intimated that my contract was unconstitutional. He afterwards refused to give me any more of the scrip that had been lawfully earned; and I was obliged to secure the

¹ Act approved March 11; contract was signed May 14.—Ed.

² The contract read: "I propose to complete the whole work on or before the first day of May, 1853, the same to be accepted as fast as completed. The work to be paid for, from the sales of land granted (and to be granted) in aid of the improvement, so far as the funds can be raised from that source. The amount due for the whole contract when completed, and remaining unpaid, to constitute a debt against the improvement, the interest of which, at twelve per cent., shall be paid from tolls to be collected on the work, and whenever the state shall realize funds, either from sale of lands or any other source, and pay the balance due on the contract, debt to be discharged."—Ed.

³ *Wis. Senate Jour.*, 1852, pp. 14-16.—Ed.