

is being widened. Any vessels of war that were brought into Lake St. Louis would also be of assistance in the defence of the left flank of the works at Vaudreuil; and if the St. Ann's Lock and the passage near it, between St. Louis and the Lake of the Two Mountains, were made sufficiently large to take such vessels through, they could also aid in the defence of the right flank of those works. They could, moreover, operate in the channel on the north side of Montreal Island, or proceed up the Ottawa and down the Rideau Canal into Lake Ontario.

For the protection of communications by the Lachine Railway and Canal, works should be constructed at Caughnawaga, on the right bank of the St. Lawrence, nearly opposite the junction of the Lachine Canal with Lake St. Louis, and near the terminus of the railway from Plattsburg. These works would also afford the means of throwing a force across the river to act upon the left flank of the enemy operating against Montreal, should circumstances be favourable for such a movement, they could also guard against the entrance to the Beauharnois Canal.

The Island of St. Helen's, upon which rifled guns should be mounted, would form a keep to an intrenched camp covering Montreal and the Victoria bridge. On this island is also the main dépôt for tools, stores, guns, arms, and munitions of war for Montreal and the neighbourhood; it is unfortunately without protection since the barracks formerly occupied by a detachment from the Quebec Gunnery School were burnt. Many thousand stands of rifles, as well as a considerable amount of powder in the magazine are at the mercy of a handful of raiders, who might carry off the arms and blow up the magazine before the militia of Montreal could be assembled and transported across the river.

The cultivated classes of the United States are friendly in feeling towards Great Britain, and the Canadian population are full of loyalty, which could be at any time rendered active in the defence of the country, provided the principal expense and direction was taken by Great Britain, or the council of a federated Empire.

Offence.

Often the best defence is offence, but Canada being a colony does not contain within herself the elements necessary to the initiative in war, though her localized militia system and the character of the country, which is a riband of interior lines, land and water communications, would facilitate the concentration and launching of an offensive force which might surprise even 40,000,000 of unarmed people who have hitherto relied upon their ever successful diplomacy. Parliamentary Governments are not, however, suited to a decisive initiative; and when the expenses would have to be shared by the Imperial and Dominion Governments, divided control would be a natural result, rendering initiative perilous if not impossible. Great Britain's natural base of operations (the sea) gives the advantage of enabling her to shift her secondary bases almost at will. A combined military and