

APPENDIX No. 12.

Letter from Mr. Woodruff, Superintendent of the Welland Canal.

Welland Canal Office, St. Catharine's,

June 2nd, 1862.

Sir,

I submit my answers to the following questions, conveyed to me in your favour of the 7th, by direction of the Commission appointed to report on the Defence of Canada.

Question 1.—Which points on the Welland Canal do you consider the most vulnerable in the event of a war with the United States?

Answer.—Allanburgh, Port Robinson, the embankment of the Canal bordering on the Chippewa Creek, the Aqueduct, Port Colborne Lock, Port Maitland Lock, the dam at Dunnville, and the lock at Dalhousie.

Question 2.—How could the canal be most readily and easily rendered unserviceable?

Answer.—By destroying the works of the canal at either of the places mentioned in answer to Question 1.

Question 3.—What would be the expense of enlarging all the locks on the canal to the dimensions of the largest lock at the entrances? What time would it require to make such enlargement, and would there be any engineering difficulty or commercial objection in the way of making such enlargement?

Answer.—The enlargement of the canal to the size of the largest lock at the entrances would cost from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000.* The probable time occupied in making such enlargement, about two years. The first year would be occupied in preparing and delivering the materials. There are no engineering difficulties to contend with in making such enlargement; but great commercial objections to it, as it would be necessary to suspend the navigation at least one year during such enlargement. To obviate this, a partially independent canal should be made; the probable cost of such work would be near \$4,000,000.

Question 4.—How many men and horses are employed on an average daily on the canal, and how many of the same are paid by the Province?

Answer.—225 to 250 men; 350 to 400 horses. 150 of the men are paid by the Province and 8 horses.

Question 5.—What means would you suggest for organizing these men as police, or otherwise, for the protection of the canal, in event of war?

Answer.—In answering this question, I presume that the employment of the Staff connected with the canal, would be as a description of detection and watch-body; their limited number would prevent their being of much value as a military body in such a length of canal. I consider that their being furnished with suitable arms, enrolled and well instructed in the nature of their duty, and under an officer of the establishment, to whom they have been in the habits of obedience, would be the very best and most effective manner in which their services could be made use of.

Question 6.—Do you think the men on the canal, whether paid by Government, or in private employ, would readily fall into any scheme of organization that might be proposed.

Answer.—I have every reason to believe that they would, as their means of living is derived from the successful maintenance of the canal; and the readiness

About £500,000 to £600,000.