

Regulations were then promulgated by which all American citizens who refused to take the oath of allegiance and bear arms were required to leave the country.

The exportation to the United States of arms, ammunition, military stores, saddlery, blankets, certain enumerated articles, used in the manufacture of military clothing, and bullion or specie of any description exceeding fifty dollars for reasonable travelling expenses, was prohibited in a proclamation by which the exportation of all other articles was expressly sanctioned on the condition that it was carried on by the road leading through La Prairie and St. Jean to Odelltown.*

Five other well travelled roads from the United States entered the district of Montreal. The best of these, coming from the east side of Lake Champlain and passing round Mississquoi Bay, followed the Valley of the Richelieu to St. Jean and went on to Laprairie. Another, also beginning in the State of Vermont, ran through the township of Sutton to St. Armand and Mississquoi Bay where it joined the first. A third from the east side of lake Magog, passed through Stanstead to Gibraltar point and St. Armand. A fourth led from Gibraltar Point to the Yamaska and a fifth ran to Three Rivers along the St. Francis river from its forks in the Township of Ascot. All of these became channels for smuggling.†

An advanced line of defence extending from Laprairie on the St. Lawrence to St. Jean on the Richelieu was occupied for the protection of Montreal. A battalion of embodied militia was stationed at Laprairie and another at St. Jean while the flank companies of four regular regiments with six light field guns were quartered at Blairfindie or the Halfway House where there was a fine commanding position which could be easily be made very strong by earth works and abatis as the adjacent country was swampy and covered with impenetrable thickets of cedar and hemlock. From this point roads diverged to Laprairie, Chambly, St. Jean and Odelltown and it naturally became the headquarters of the advanced force. The third battalion of embodied militia occupied the villages of Longueuil and Boucherville. The 100th Regiment was posted at Sorel with a detachment at Yamaska. The whole number of troops distributed along this line slightly exceeded 2,500 of all ranks and arms.‡

Considerable supplies of ordnance and military stores were steadily forwarded from Montreal to Upper Canada guarded by very weak escorts without the least molestation during the month of July, but as a transport which had sailed from Bermuda bound for Quebec, with a

*Regulation, July 10.

†Report of Captain P. Hughes, R.E., Dec. 16, 1808.

‡Baynes to Brock, July 10.