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SIR, Quebec, 10th November 1864.

In reply to your letter of the 18th, containing several questions relating to the defence of Canada, upon which the Executive Council request my views in writing, I have the honour herewith to transmit a Report for the information of the Government of Canada, embodying the answers to those questions.

Annexed is a copy of the questions, and opposite each is noted the paragraph in the Report in which the answer to it may be found.

In a previous Report on the defence of Canada, dated February last, which has already been laid confidentially before the Council, the defensive measures proposed extended only as far westward as Montreal, whilst the present Report includes a scheme for the defence of the western districts.

It should, therefore, be observed that the circumstances under which the first Report was prepared differ from those which now exist.

Last year there appeared to be no probability that measures would be taken by which a Naval force could be placed on any of the lakes, and without such force it would be impossible to suggest any plan for the defence of Upper Canada.

Now, however, it is understood that the Government of Canada contemplate making provision for a fortified Harbour and Naval Establishment at Kingston, with a view to a Naval force being placed on Lake Ontario for the protection of the western districts,—a plan of defence for which is therefore included in the present Report.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Signed) WM. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS.

The Hon. Wm. McDougall,  
Provincial Secretary.

Secretary's Office, Quebec,  
18th October 1864.

SIR, REFERRING to the interview which took place on the 14th instant, between yourself and the members of the Executive Council, when the question of the Defences of Canada was discussed, I am directed to inform you that there are several important points connected with that question upon which the Government would be glad to be favoured with your views in writing. The principal points referred to are involved in the list of queries herewith submitted.

- 1. In the event of a war between Great Britain and the United States being seriously threatened, what preparatory steps for defence should be taken by the people of Canada? See par. 88.
- 2. What do you consider the principal points of strategic importance in Canada? See par. 4 to 10 inclusive.
- 3. You appear to consider Montreal as the key to the defence of Canada. Please state briefly your reasons for so regarding it. Par. 4 to 7.
- 4. At what point or points in Canada would the main attack of the enemy be probably directed? Par. 7.
- 5. What are the principal points at which defensive works should be erected in Lower Canada? Montreal, Kingston and Quebec.
- 6. State the nature and probable cost of the works required at each point, and the probable extent of land necessary at each? Par. 82 and 86.
- 7. What number of troops would be required to defend these works, and what proportion (if any) should be regular troops? Par. 68.
- 8. Under ordinary circumstances how long might Montreal (with the requisite works and a sufficient force) be expected to hold out against such force as the Americans would be likely to bring against it? Par. 15.
- 9. Is it probable that an attack would be made on Quebec before or at the same time with Montreal? If both cities were attacked at the same time what force would the enemy require for both operations? Par. 6, 7.
- 10. Would not the defence of Upper Canada depend mainly upon our having the Naval command of the Lakes? If so, what measures should be taken to secure that end? Par. 10, 21, 77 to 79, &c.