

works of one kind or the other, the Canadas cannot be considered safe. Well disciplined troops may defend a land frontier against a very superior number of troops of inferior quality, when the communications are sufficiently good to admit of concentration with celerity and accuracy of time; but the Canadian frontier resembles a maritime frontier, and our communications cannot be depended upon.

The proposed works would be bulwarks, behind which our small but superior force might move and act with promptitude and full energy.

This frontier resembles at present a long weak line of battle, liable to be pierced or turned, and overwhelmed at points decisive of the struggle.

The works proposed by the United States are evidently calculated to form a basis of offensive operations. What have they to apprehend from us on this frontier?

If permanent works on this border were proscribed on either side by treaty, or regulated as to number and quality, like the vessels of war on the lakes, the advantage would be wholly on their side; defensive works are absolutely necessary for the weaker party against such disparity of force.

I have scarcely mentioned the important subject of interior communications, or the positions, (according to the ordinary acceptance of the term,) because the former are changing every year, in an improving country, and positions vary with them. Neither have I adverted to the assistance to be derived from the Indians. It is a description of assistance that, from all I have heard of it, ought not, if possible, to be employed; but I understand that the Indian will not be quiet in war, and we may be obliged to submit to this necessity.

(Signed)

R. D. JACKSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Oldfield to Lieutenant-General Sir R. D. Jackson.

Sir,

*Commander Royal Engineer Office, Head Quarters,
Montreal, November 14, 1840.*

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands as communicated in your minute of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to submit a rough general estimate for the fortifications in Canada, as a sort of guide for the Secretary of State, made out as your Excellency recommended in reference to the proposed military districts, the outlines of which, agreeably with your desire, have been prepared.

2. With respect to the Quebec and Montreal districts, I have no observations to offer, beyond what I have submitted in Appendices 3 and 4, and upon the general insufficiency of barrack accommodation for the present force in Canada, a remark which applies to the four districts; if the present strength is continued in the Canadas, a considerable expense must be incurred in permanent or temporary expedients, to preserve the health and discipline of the troops.

3. I have not provided in my abstract for No. 3 district, any sum for Pentanguishene; the estimate would be nearly 60,000*l.* for permanent defences; a smaller sum might suffice for Goderich. In No. 4 district, I have endeavoured to meet your Excellency's views for the command of the passage between Lakes Huron and Erie. I have made inquiries as to a site for a barrack station in the vicinity of Chatham, and am assured that Chatham itself, from being more cleared of wood and bush, is less unhealthy than any site in its immediate neighbourhood.

4. I need not observe to your Excellency, that to prepare detailed projects, with the necessary plans, sections, and estimates, would be a labour of many months; that the summer is the only season in which sections can be taken, or accurate information of the country obtained, and that the present strength of my department is insufficient for such a duty; I trust, however, that the information which I have now the honour to submit, will be found sufficient "as a