

Enemy will aim at causing dispersion of defending forces.

Main attack probably by Lake Champlain, in order to take Montreal.

Frontier assailable nearly everywhere.

Troops should be concentrated.

Protection of Canals and Railways.

Division of province into military districts. Plan No. 1.

London District. Plans Nos. 1 and 2.

Avenues of attack.

Frontier points to be defended. Plan No. 2.

Goderich. Plan No. 4.

15. The probable plan of the enemy would be to place corps on all these assailable points, to oblige a dispersion of the troops along the whole frontier, turning these feints into positive attacks, if circumstances rendered it advisable.

The main attack would undoubtedly be directed from the head of Lake Champlain on Montreal, as, by the possession of Rouse's Point, the enemy are enabled to turn the line of the Richelieu; and the capture of the important city of Montreal would sever the communications between Quebec and the upper province, and would paralyze the defence of the country.

16. The great length of the frontier renders it necessary that the troops be distributed to a certain extent, as it is assailable at almost any point; but Your Commissioners, without wishing to trespass upon the province of the General Commanding the Forces at the time being, strongly urge the necessity of a concentration of troops on important strategic points, from whence they could be thrown in masses upon the enemy, or where they could await the development of his plans; and as it is impossible to prevent a violation of the frontier, or even to afford a partial support to all points that may be threatened, they recommend that detachments should be limited as much as possible to the occupation of fortified places.

17. The protection of the canals and railways is reported on in the various districts in which they are situated.

18. At the end of last year the province was divided into five military districts, viz. :—

- 1st, or London District.
- 2nd, or Toronto „
- 3rd, or Kingston „
- 4th, or Montreal „
- 5th, or Quebec „

These divisions, as shown in the map attached, have been adopted by Your Commissioners, who will now proceed to consider the works of defence, and the military operations that will be necessary in each.

#### *London District.*

19. The London, or 1st Military District, is situated on the great peninsula between Lakes Huron and Erie, and is one of the richest and most populous portions of the province.

It is assailable on three sides, viz. :—

- 1st. On the shores of Lake Huron.
- 2ndly. On the St. Clair and Detroit frontiers.
- 3rdly. On the shores of Lake Erie.

20. The points on the frontier of this district at which Your Commissioners have considered it necessary that some defence should be provided, are, Goderich, Sarnia, Amherstburgh, and Port Stanley, being places at which a landing would probably be effected, and from which roads and railways lead into the interior of the country.

21. Goderich is situated at the northern end of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway, and also of the good gravelled roads leading to London and Guelph. There is a small harbour, which is likely to be improved, and a good beach for landing, though of limited extent,