

he would at once proceed against La Presentation, Galettee, and the other forts on the St. Lawrence; but such activity was beyond Gage's comprehension, and totally alive to his ideas of ease and comfort, dwindled away the whole of his own and troops time at Niagara, to Amherst's chagrin and Johnson's supreme disgust, in a state of imbecile indecision, finally ended by putting his troops into winter quarters. This incompetent officer thus prolonged the final conquest of Canada for another campaign, paralyzed the exertions of the Commander-in-Chief, and showed himself a worthy disciple of the school which produced Loudon, Amherst, Abercrombie, and Webb, a trio from which it would be hard to select the most ignorant or imbecile coward. The fortifications of Niagara were restored and strengthened, Oswego refortified, and constituted the chief British naval station of Lake Ontario, and with those operations ended the campaign of 1759 on the lake frontier of Canada.

(To be Continued.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, May 6th.

Resuming the adjourned debate upon the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Cartier, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into Committee of the whole to consider certain resolutions to provide a sum not exceeding £1,100,000 sterling to defray the expense of constructing works of fortification for the defence of Montreal and other cities. Mr. MACKENZIE said he did not intend to approach the subject in a sectional or party spirit. It seemed, however, as if they were afraid to bring the measure down at an earlier period and designed to crowd it through the House. No man, however, he believed was more thoroughly British in his views than the Minister of Militia, but he hoped that the loyalty of those who opposed the measure would not be questioned. He thought that the fullest information should be given with regard to the necessity for such works, and it ought further to be ascertained whether such works are necessary or not. It was said that all that was proper for us to do was to vote the money for fortifications and co-operate with the Imperial Government in taking measures for the defence of the country, which he did not believe. A commission had been appointed to inquire into measures of defence, some of the members of which believed that as war could only happen through the agency of the Imperial Government, it was the duty of that Government to defend such of her colonies as were likely to be affected by the calamities of war so arising. The Secretary of the Colonies took other grounds and thought that only such troops should be obtained as were necessary for Imperial purposes, and that the colonies should provide building and take auxiliary measures for their own defence. He read an extract from the report to show that colonies contributed more per head towards the commerce of England

than foreign countries. It was even so in a comparison with the United States, which, although independent, he looked upon as being still *de facto* only a British Colony. He recommended the appointment of a Commission to ascertain the relations in which, in a military point of view, Canada stood with regard to England. He should be sorry to require the British taxpayer in England to contribute towards the necessities of British residents in America. He wanted some more particular information about the situation of the proposed fortifications. We had a large force of militia tolerably well drilled. The force numbered at least 25,000, with trained officers. It would be impossible to maintain such a force and build fortifications too. He gathered from the Minister of Militia that certain points were to be defended, but how was not explained.

SIR GEORGE CARTIER—In the Western peninsula earth-works and an entrenched camp were proposed to be constructed.

Mr. MACKENZIE went on to say that the works at Kingston, perhaps, in some slight degree resembled those of Portsmouth or Plymouth; but they were not now in a good defensible state, and would require a large expenditure for barrack accommodation for the Imperial troops. He thought it would be much better to vote a yearly sum of money for defensive purposes to the Imperial Government to construct forts, and for barrack accommodation than to construct such works ourselves. He was afraid that the contemplated earth-works would cost double as much money as was now asked for. He did not believe that Toronto or Hamilton could be made defensible with any expenditure whatever. Even in England it was admitted that her coasts could not be so fortified as to prevent an enemy from landing, and he thought it was madness to attempt a system of fortifications at Toronto, Hamilton and Kingston to prevent invasion.

Mr. BEATTY wanted to know if we were to give up the country to the Yankees? [Laughter.]

Mr. MACKENZIE contended that the chief defence of the western peninsula must be on the lakes, and it was utterly impossible to get iron-clad vessels through the Beauharnois Canal into the lakes so suddenly as to prevent invasion. He thought it absurd to erect forts on one of the lakes only—even if that lake could be reached through the medium of the Ottawa river. He thought our chief defence, nevertheless, must be on the lakes. He yielded to no man in his loyalty to Great Britain, but he looked upon the proposed fortifications as useless. He went on to show that the war material in the United States was rapidly decreasing, and the militia there were no better than our own. He did not believe that the United States were mad enough to think of forcibly annexing Canada. It would be no gain to them to have or hold Canada by force, as they now hold the Southern States. He had no fear of any attack being made; but he nevertheless believed in the necessity of putting ourselves in a reasonable state of defence. Mr. MACKENZIE moved in amendment the appointment of a commission to inquire into the expediency of erecting such works before so large a sum of money as that now required for fortifications should be granted.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT said that Canada was called upon to undertake a very difficult task it was true, but he thought it would be exceedingly unwise if we did not resort to artificial means for our protection. This country, with its extended frontier was not nearly so defensible as a square country, with its mountain ranges such as the Southern States were. Whether the plan proposed by the honorable member for Lambton, or that by the Minister of Militia, was best the House would soon decide, but he thought it would be a grave mistake if the defence of the country was taken out of the hands of the Ministry and placed in those of a Committee of the House or intrusted to a Commission. He stated that the feeling of the United States was anything but friendly to us, as had been lately and frequently exhibited. He did not desire to press hardly on the American people for anything that they have said during their great war concerning us, but it was quite clear from what had subsequently happened that they could not be looked upon as a friendly people. He contended that our conduct in 1862 in respect to the militia law caused very great annoyance and distrust in England. He went on to say that we could not defend our country ourselves, even with the aid of the small British force that can be spared to us, but we not only could, but would, if we had the aid of fortifications. He believed that if this Dominion were surrendered, England might bid farewell to maritime supremacy and abandon the idea of being a first-class power. He could not consent to remain attached to England if Canada were looked upon as a costly and useless incumbrance.

Mr. MASSON (Terrebone) said that Mr. Cardwell, when Colonial Secretary, stated that the whole power of England would be brought to bear in defence of the colonies, while Mr. Gladstone, had declared that the chief defence of the colonies must rest with the Colonies themselves. There was not a man in the House who would not admit that we were bound to defend ourselves, but the plan of defence ought to be submitted to us.

Mr. PARKER agreed with the Hon. member for Terrebonne that the House ought to know the location of the contemplated fortifications. He wanted to know whether the works were to be of iron, earth or stone. He wanted to know their distances from the cities. He wanted to know their cost of construction and maintenance. He wanted to know how many men would be required to man the batteries, and the price *per caput* of those men. All the information they had was that so much money would be expended in the East and so much in the West. The proposition was to vote \$5,000,000 on the authority of Col. Jervis, and his report did not recommend fortifications west of Montreal; the western extension was the ministry's and had been tacked to the scheme of Col. Jervis to conciliate the west and carry the measure. The cost of the works contemplated by the Government will, at the very least, cost \$30,000,000, the annual expenditure being \$1,700,000. If we go on increasing the liabilities of the country we shall soon have neither credit nor money. There is no evidence before the House to justify the contemplated expenditure for fortifications and he should vote against the whole scheme.

(To be Continued.)