

"The Dominion Government have given orders for the erection of a battery on McAulay's Point, Victoria, Vancouver Island, for the protection of the entrance to Victoria and Esquimalt harbours respectively.

"Her Majesty's Government has sent orders to supply such guns as may be required from the dockyard reserves at Esquimalt.

"I enclose a plan prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel Blair, R.A. You will observe he proposes a small battery on Victoria Point, and another on Fisgard Island for the better security of both harbours, in addition to that now proposed on McAulay's Point.

"The latter is considered of the chief importance, the other two only subsidiary.

"It is presumed the Royal Naval authorities will take steps to arm Fisgard Island.

"You will use your discretion as to whether McAulay's Point alone or in conjunction with Victoria Point should be armed.

"In this you will be guided by regard to economy combined with efficiency, and the means of manning two batteries.

"A volunteer battery of artillerymen has been ordered to be raised and equipped at Victoria. You will satisfy yourself that means are at hand for instructing the Officers and men and rendering them efficient, and you will assist in doing so if necessary.

(Signed)

"E. SELBY SMYTH,

"Lieutenant-General.

"Choice of Sites for Batteries.

"Having placed myself in communication with Captain F. Robinson, Her Majesty's ship 'Opal,' the then Senior Naval Officer on the Station, I made with him and Lieutenant-Colonel Houghton a careful examination of the coast, with a view to determine upon the best sites for defensive works.

"In this important duty I was afterwards assisted by a Board of Officers, detailed for this duty by Rear-Admiral de Horsey, Commander-in-Chief on the Pacific, and composed of Captain Bedford, Her Majesty's ship 'Shah,' Captain Burrowes, R.M.A., and Gun-nery Lieutenant Lindsay, Her Majesty's ship 'Shah.'

"It may be sufficient here to state that the plans proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel Blair were not found to be practicable, and it was found necessary, in order to defend with the fire of at least one gun all the approaches to both harbours, to place ten pieces of ordnance in position at the sites undermentioned, and arranged as follows:—

" Finlayson Point,	2 64-prs.	R.M.L.
" Victoria	" 2 64-prs.	"
" Macaulay	" 3 7-in. 6½ ton	"
" Brothers Island	1 8-in. 9	"
" and	2 64-prs.	"

"The guns, stores, &c., were all taken from the Naval Stores at Esquimalt, a heavy transporting axle mounted on wheels, in con-