

CANADA.

In that manner, 1,000 men will be withdrawn from Canada.
The garrisons of the province will then consist of—

Royal Artillery	-	600
26th Foot	-	540
54th „	-	540
66th „	-	540
71st reserve	-	540
Canadian Rangers	-	600
		<hr/>
		3,960

Presenting, with the enrolled pensioners (750), a force of 4,110 bayonets.

But the facilities of steam communication have generally diminished the necessity for a military force, as a mere precautionary defence against a remote danger; and it must be borne in mind that, if the security of Canada should ever be threatened, troops could be forwarded for its assistance with the utmost speed.

Her Majesty's Government are, therefore, of opinion that the amount of force to which I have adverted, is larger than the prosperous and tranquil state of Canada demands. It certainly exceeds the limits of what may be conveniently spared for general exigency at this period. I am accordingly desirous that your Lordship should invite the provincial Government to co-operate with us by making arrangements for facilitating the withdrawal of at least 400 artillery, and of the service companies of another regiment.

Her Majesty's Government consider that, for all substantial purposes, it might be sufficient to appoint the service companies of three regiments to hold Quebec, Montreal, and Kingston, and that the Canadian Rangers and enrolled pensioners might usefully occupy such outposts as, for various reasons, it may be deemed inconvenient to abandon.

This last point is one which more particularly interests the provincial Government. We object to incur a heavy expenditure, as at present, for maintaining the occupation of the numerous petty outposts which are held by the regular troops; and we are of opinion that the charge of occupying any place for purposes unconnected with the defence of main fortresses, and the preservation of important works, should be defrayed by the provincial Government.

The effect of the measures which I have thus briefly indicated to your Lordship will be only to reduce the garrisons of Canada to the establishments of 1792 and 1822.

I shall be glad of any suggestions or advice which your Lordship, after consultation with the provincial Government, and with the Lieutenant-General commanding the troops, may be prepared to tender to me upon this subject.

But it occurs to me that your Lordship may deem this a fitting occasion for moving the provincial Government to consider the expediency of re-organizing the militia upon a basis of efficiency. The advice and co-operation of Her Majesty's Government towards that object would be readily afforded.

Before I conclude this despatch, I wish to call your Lordship's attention to a deficiency of barrack accommodation, which is reported to me to exist at Montreal. This deficiency seems to arise from the destruction by fire of a building which served for officers' quarters. But, if my suggestion for limiting the garrison of that city to the service companies of a regiment, be carried out, it may possibly be found that the deficiency may be supplied by rendering available for the accommodation of the officers that portion of the soldiers' barracks which would not be wanted for troops.

	R. & F.
1792 Arty.	- 268
Infy.	- 2,800
	<hr/>
	3,068
	<hr/>
1822 Arty.	- 277
Infy.	- 2,800
	<hr/>
	3,077
	<hr/>
1853 Arty.	- 600
26 Foot	- 540
54 „	540
66 „	540
71 „	540
C.R. „	600
Pensioners	750
	<hr/>
	4,110
	<hr/>
Deduct.	
Arty. 400	
Infy. 540	
	<hr/>
	940
	<hr/>
	3,170
	<hr/>

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.