

British Troops, as will be shown by the succeeding portion of this Report on the subject of the surrender of the Ordnance Reserves in Canada.

(28.) With regard to the occupation of the posts referred to, viz: Isle-aux-Noix, St. Johns, Sorel, Three-Rivers, Bytown, Côteau-du-Lac, Fort Wellington, Toronto, Fort Missipagua, London, Chatham, Fort Malden, and Penetanguishine, by a local force as essential to the security of the buildings, &c., it appears to the Commissioners that 100 men would be a sufficient local force to take charge of these Forts and Barracks under ordinary circumstances, of which Fort Wellington should have 20 men, and Fort Missipagua 10, and Isle-aux-Noix 15; and the Commissioners consider that if their recommendations on the subject of a Police Force are carried into effect, the above number of men could be furnished from the Police for the protection of these points, and consequently there would be no necessity for the continuance of the Pensioner Force in Canada, for such Purposes; and with reference to the employment of that force for the preservation of the public peace, the Commissioners are of opinion that the proposed Volunteer Force, and the Police, will be ample for such purpose, and far more efficient, when these two Forces are established and in due operation; and therefore, after such is carried into effect, they do not recommend that the Pensioner Force be any longer paid by the Provincial Government for the performance of those duties.

Ordnance Lands in Canada.

The Commissioners, after an attentive consideration of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which has been brought under their notice, in which an offer is made by the Imperial Government to surrender all the Military Reserves in the Province, with the exception of such portions of these Lands at Kingston, Montreal, and Quebec, as are essential to the Military defence of the Colony, in consideration of the Provincial Government making ample provision for the ordinary defence and protection of the Province—

They are unanimously of opinion that this offer should be accepted; and in order to carry out the conditions they recommend, with reference to a Report made on this subject by the Lieutenant-General commanding the Forces in Canada, that the Lands and Buildings at the several localities set forth in Schedule G. attached to this Report, be retained for the purposes of Military defence generally.

As however the whole of the Lands in the Schedule referred to will not be wanted for purposes of defence, the Commissioners recommend that such portions of these Lands as are not so required, together with the remaining Ordnance and Naval Lands in the Province, as set forth in Schedule H. attached to this Report, be sold, and the proceeds applied to form a Fund for the general defence of the Province.

Police Force.

In entering upon this branch of their inquiry, the Commissioners gladly avail themselves of the labours of the gentlemen appointed last year to inquire into the state of the Police at Quebec, from whose able report they propose to quote such parts as appear to them to coincide with their views, and to be applicable to the Province in general.

It will scarcely be denied that the Police Force at present existing in different parts of the Province is in anything but a satisfactory state; among the causes to which their inefficiency may be assigned, the Commissioners would point out the following:

(1.) The annual appointment of the men to the Force by the members of the Police Committee of the City Councils, instead of a regular system of enlistment by the Officers of the Force, and the uncertainty of constant employment arising from the frequent reductions and changes in the Force inseparable from civic management.

(2.) The practice of permitting the men to live among, instead of isolating them from, those against whom they may be required to act.

(3.) The want of Rules, Orders, and Regulations for the government of the Force and the guidance of the individuals belonging to it.

(4.) The entire absence of discipline, and of any means to enforce it, and of any power to encourage and reward the meritorious; and to punish the negligent and refractory.