

the Duke of Wellington, dated 1st of March, 1819; for the principles upon which the defence of Canada should be based; the letter is addressed to Earl Bathurst, then Colonial Secretary.

1. The Duke concurs in opinion, that Quebec, Montreal, and Kingston, are the points of the greatest importance in Canada, and that they should be fortified.

2. His Grace recommends that the works on the Richelieu River be strengthened, so as to prevent the enemy from getting the command of the navigation.

3. That an interior communication between Quebec and Lake Huron be shortened as much as possible.

4. That we collect our craft upon one of the lakes, so as to obtain a superiority upon one, as he considers it impracticable to acquire it upon all.

5. Estimating the probable amount of our regular force, of all arms in Canada, to be the same as at the commencement of the last war, viz. 13,000 men, he suggests that a field force of 10,000 men be divided into two corps, and the remaining 3000 be distributed in garrisons.

All of these to be supported by drafts from the militia.

6. He considers it undesirable to attempt any attack upon the United States from Canada.

The nearer we can make our measures approximate to those recommended by the Duke the better.

With respect to our present means of repelling attack, I must first observe that we have at present, in Canada, a regular force of all arms, of about 11,000 men, and about 2500 embodied militia; and it is thought practicable to augment the latter force by the incorporation of volunteers enlisted for a limited period, so as to raise our disposable force to 20,000 men; and that volunteer corps, for local defence, might be raised at Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, and Toronto.

The militia establishment of Canada requires revision. It is not now generally available for service throughout the province, although it is probable that a portion of it might be induced to follow the noble example set by the loyal militia of New Brunswick, 1200 of which, I understand, have been enrolled and trained, in readiness to move wherever their services might be required.

We should be careful not to let loose an unorganized mass, however well-disposed, as that would prove (as termed by the American Government) "a ruinous expedient," and the expense would be the least evil attending it.

A mass of this kind would be exposed to privations they are ill calculated to bear: the inhabitants would suffer, also, and be soon disgusted and impoverished, and ready to submit to any change promising quiet.

It might be deemed hazardous to place arms in the hands of the French Canadians, as a militia, for some time to come; but it may be practicable to raise small independent corps from this class, under officers possessing their confidence and that of the Government: corps of this description did good service during the last war, and the French Canadians possess some valuable military qualities.

Small corps of cavalry might be raised for general service within the province: those now existing are of a very useful description, and there is no country, however close and wooded, in which small bodies of cavalry are not of use.

It was with a view to call out gradually and effectually the strength of the population, and avoid the embarrassments attendant on a general forward movement, as well as to facilitate other arrangements, that I proposed dividing the Canadian territory and frontier into four districts, and to place each, so far as military measures are concerned, under a judicious officer, who, acting in concert with the civil authorities within the district, might carry into effect many of the arrangements made in Great Britain when invasion was expected, and are applicable to every country, such as the removal of cattle, destruction of bridges and communications, &c.

Having provided for the garrisons of the existing works, I would recommend the adoption of the Duke of Wellington's suggestions, and disposal of the field force in two corps.

But no dependence upon the decided superiority of our troops or arrange-