

Population, 2,507,657.
Appendix No. 3.

The return of the enrolled Militia of the province, dated 8th January 1857, shows a total of 236,427 men. Since then the population has much increased, and is stated (by the census taken in 1861) at 2,507,657.

The country, therefore, is well able to furnish the force required.

Fortified places necessary for Canada, principle acknowledged and acted upon.

5. That fortified places are necessary for the defence of Canada is a principle that has long been conceded and acted upon, as is shown by the construction of fortresses at Quebec and Kingston, and of smaller defensive works at other important points, such as Prescott, Toronto, Amherstburgh, Isle-aux-Noix, &c.

Except at Quebec and Kingston, works heretofore constructed not adapted to modern warfare.

The works at the last-named places were block houses, or earthen redoubts of no great extent or strength, and were erected at a period when the United States were not so formidable in population and resources as they now are, and when Canada afforded a much more difficult theatre of operations than at present. They were doubtless sufficient at the time of their construction to oppose the troops likely to be brought against them, but the improvements in the arms of modern warfare render this description of works of little avail, except as auxiliary to field operations. Most of these defences have either entirely disappeared, or are in a very dilapidated condition, and all require complete reconstruction.

Maintenance of fortress at Quebec essential.

6. The necessity of having a secure base of operations in communication with the mother country, renders the maintenance of the fortress at Quebec indispensable.

No strong natural barriers.

Canada has no strong natural barriers, hence the greater need of possessing fortified places at the most important and most assailable points.

Forces must be inferior in number to those of United States.

Whatever number of Militia and Volunteers the province may be able to raise, the forces in this country must be numerically inferior to those of the United States, and fortified places alone can enable them to contend successfully with this disparity.

Difficult to maintain communication between Upper and Lower Canada in time of war.

The difficulty of maintaining in time of war the communications between the Eastern and Western divisions of the province is an additional reason for the construction of fortified places, as the troops acting in the West should be rendered independent of the precarious supplies from the Eastern or Lower Province, from which they are liable to be cut off.

Safety of naval establishments important.

Lastly, the safety of the naval establishments being an important consideration in the defence of Canada, it is necessary that works be thrown up for their protection.

Improvement of Quebec fortifications.

7. For these reasons, Your Commissioners recommend—
The improvement of the fortifications of Quebec.

Construction of works on vital points,

The construction of defensive works at certain points which will be hereafter described, both to guard the frontier, and for the safety of the navy, and

and of fortified places of arms in each district recommended.

The erection of fortified places in the several military districts, varying in extent and strength according to the power of assailing them possessed by the enemy, and to the importance of the locality in which they are situated. They should be on a sufficient scale to cover the magazines of arms, ammunition, and stores which each district should possess; to serve as rallying points for the Militia and other forces, and as bases of operations upon which the troops could retire, in case of being driven from the field.

Fortifications only recommended when absolutely necessary.

8. Admitting the necessity, as pointed out by Your Majesty's Secretary of State for War, of keeping the number of fortified places as small as possible, Your Commissioners have only proposed their construction at points where they are absolutely required, and where, from strategic reasons, they will be most valuable.