

form the militia, and direct the construction of defensive works, and the formation of communications adapted to military as well as commercial purposes throughout the Union.

The Secretary at War reports to the President, for the information of Congress, that the cannon, small arms, and gunpowder, made at the several national foundries, and manufactories lately established, are of a description equal to any produced in Europe.

If these reports be correct, and if the plan for the permanent duty of so large a militia force be carried into effect, the Americans will have a well equipped standing army, for such, in fact, it will be, of 25,000 militia, and 12,000 regulars, supported by 175,000 trained but sedentary militia, independent of the irregular militia constituted according to the existing laws, in the respective States of the Union.

The Secretary at War has further called for "appropriations" to construct new defensive works, and repair those that have fallen into decay. This recommendation has been partially acted upon during the last two years.

Among the new works proposed is one at the northern extremity of Lake Champlain, for the purpose of sealing up the entrance to that lake from the Richelieu River, another at Covington, near St. Regis, on the St. Lawrence; and he has also recommended the erection of barracks and works at Plattsburg, on Lake Champlain.

He also recommends the establishment of four principal stations for the concentration of the troops not required at the frontier forts, or at the forts and works on the sea-board and western frontier.

The 1st Station is at Plattsburg, on Lake Champlain.

2nd at Carlisle, or Harrisburg, in Pennsylvania.

3rd at the head of the Savannah River.

4th at or near Memphis, on the Arkansas River.

On looking at the Map of the United States, these stations or posts of concentration appear well selected both for the support of the troops on the sea-board and western frontier, and also for support of attacks directed against the Canadas.

The troops at the 1st and 2nd stations would move towards the Lakes Champlain or Ontario.

The troops at 3 and 4 towards the Upper Lakes, to both which points all these men and their supplies can be directed with facility, by means of the internal communication lately established.

Such are the projects submitted, and some actually sanctioned (and in progress) by authority of the Congress.

The present financial embarrassments of the United States may check the progress of the measures thus recommended, but it is sufficient for our present purpose to know from authority that they are entertained, and some of them in course of execution, for the purpose of this memorandum is to call attention to the necessity of precautionary measures of defence against attack, whenever it may occur.

6. We have the "choice of difficulties only" left to us.

1st. To leave things to chance, as they have been left since 1813.

2nd. To retain a large military force in the Canadas, to supply the want of permanent works, at exposed points of the frontier, or

3rd. To incur a certain degree of expense in the construction of such works, as with a smaller body of troops may keep down insurrectionary movements in the Interior, and present formidable obstacles to an enemy at the commencement of war, which must be fed by us, at 3,000 miles' distance from our resources.

This memorandum relates only, however, to the security of Montreal and its immediate frontier.

It follows, from what has been already shown, that a fortress on the Island of Montreal, upon the scale proposed by Sir J. C. Smythe, however desirable, cannot be recommended here. The island, with some small but strong works, considering the nature of the country and other obvious advantages, can be then defended for a considerable time by the troops previously employed on the frontier, if that portion of it, constituting the triangle before described, be strengthened as hereafter proposed.