

number of Fenians in the vicinity of St. Albans never exceeded 2,000 men, and that 3,000 would be a fair allowance for those assembled at Potsdam, Malone, and the surrounding country.

The men have been represented to me as having, many of them, served in the late civil war in the United States, to have had a considerable amount of small arms of a good and efficient description. I have not heard of their possessing any artillery, and I am informed that they were deficient in the supply of ammunition, and totally destitute of all the other equipments of an organized force.

They appear to have relied very much on assistance from the inhabitants of the province, as the force which invaded Fort Erie brought with them, as I am told, a large quantity of spare arms to put into the hands of the sympathizers whom they expected to join them.

I have in my former despatches noticed the measures which were adopted by the Provincial Government, in order to place at the disposal of the Lieutenant-General commanding Her Majesty's forces the provincial resources available for defence both by land and water.

The Reports of the officers of the army and volunteers, which I transmit, will acquaint you with the manner in which these means were used by the officers in command.

I am happy to be able to bear my tribute to the energy and good faith exhibited by the American Government and its officials in checking all infraction of international obligations on the part of any portion of its citizens from the moment that it became evident that an invasion of the Province by the Fenians had actually taken place. The determination of the Government of the United States to stop the transportation of men and supplies to the places of assembly rendered even temporary success on the part of the Fenians impossible, while the large forces which the Lieutenant-General commanding was able to concentrate on each of the points threatened, had the effect of deterring from an attack the portion of the conspirators who had already arrived at their places of rendezvous.

No invasion in force occurred, except at Fort Erie, a slight incursion took place at a place called at St. Armand, about thirteen miles from St. John's, on the borders of the County of Missisquoi, which ended in the capture of about sixteen prisoners without any loss on our side.

The latest accounts I have received announced that the men who had congregated at the different points of assembly were being transmitted to their homes at the expense of the Government of the United States, most of the leaders having been arrested and held to bail to answer for their conduct.

Although I deplore the loss which the Volunteer force engaged on the 2nd June, at Limestone Ridge, has suffered amounted to six killed and thirty-one wounded, I think it is a matter for congratulation that a movement which might have been so formidable has collapsed with so small an amount of loss, either of life or property.

I think it is also a source of satisfaction that such strong proofs have been afforded of the spirit which animates the Canadian people, of their loyalty to the Throne, of their appreciation of the free institutions under which they live, and of their readiness at all times to prove their sense of the value of those institutions by incurring expense and personal risk in the defence of them.

The period of the year at which the people has been called on to make these sacrifices of time by serving in the Volunteer ranks has been the most inconvenient that could be selected, yet I have never heard a murmur from any quarter at the necessity for suspending industrial occupation involving the risk of losing a whole year's production, while I have received information of a good deal of discontent on the part of those who were anxious to give their services, but whose presence in the ranks was not considered necessary.

I have to express my very high sense of the services performed by Lieutenant-General Sir J. Michel and the officers under his command in the able disposition of the troops both regular and volunteers. The officers of the Royal Navy stationed at Quebec and Montreal deserve the highest credit for the rapidity with which they extemporized gun-boats for the defence of the St. Lawrence and the Lakes.

I have already spoken of the admirable spirit displayed by the Volunteer force, both officers and men. I have every reason to believe that their conduct as regards discipline and order has entitled them to as much commendation as does their spirit of patriotism and self-reliance.

I desire particularly to bring before your notice the ability and energy exhibited by Colonel Macdougall, Adjutant-General of Militia, with a view to having his services specially mentioned to His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief.