

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

We, the undersigned, Commissioners appointed by Your Majesty to consider the most effectual means of placing the province of Canada in a complete state of defence, have visited the frontier from the boundary of New Brunswick to the entrance of Lake Superior; and having had under our consideration the Memoranda signed by Your Majesty's Secretary of State for War, and the instructions received from his Excellency the Governor General, and from the Lieutenant-General commanding the Forces in British North America, humbly beg leave to lay before Your Majesty the result of our deliberations.

1. Canada, like all other countries with an extensive frontier conterminous with a foreign and powerful neighbour, must, for security against invasion, possess armies and fortresses.

Canada, for security against invasion, must possess army, fortresses, fleet.

The peculiar position of the province, having a water frontier of some hundred miles in extent, renders it necessary that a fleet be provided for the protection of the inland waters.

2. If it is intended to maintain the province as a portion of the British empire there is no possible way of evading these requirements.

No way of evading these requirements.

The United States of America are now a military power, and have demonstrated their capability of raising and equipping in a short space of time an enormous mass of troops, and of bringing them to bear on any part of their enemy's frontier that may be necessary; and late operations in the western rivers of this continent have shown that they also possess the power of rapidly extemporizing a formidable fleet, adapted for lake warfare.

United States now a military power.

United States can raise fleet for inland waters.

3. The regular troops in Canada can only be looked upon as a nucleus round which the Militia and the Volunteers of the province will rally.

H.M. regular forces only a nucleus for Militia and Volunteers.

The undoubted loyalty of the people renders it certain that a large force would be collected in the event of a threatened invasion of their country; but Your Commissioners cannot too strongly urge the absolute necessity of the immediate adoption of a sound system of military organization which will insure a body of disciplined troops available to act in conjunction with Your Majesty's regular forces.

Large force readily collected.

Sound system of military organization in province absolutely necessary.

Unless this is done, it is useless to take other measures to place the province in a state of defence.

4. The smallest military force which Your Commissioners consider essential to the occupation of the various positions and fortresses, is,—

Quebec	...	...	...	...	3,000
Montreal, Sherbrooke, and St. John's	...	...	...	...	15,000
Prescott	...	...	...	...	5,000
Kingston	...	...	...	...	10,000
Toronto and Niagara frontier	...	...	...	...	17,000
London, Guelph, and Detroit frontier	...	...	...	...	15,000

Military force for defence of Canada, 150,000 men.

Total effectives 65,000

An equal number is necessary as reserves, and adding one-fifth for casualties, the total force required may be stated at 150,000 men.