

garrison in check would be a large operation, and could not be undertaken while the fleet was able to keep the lake.

St. Lawrence, between Kingston and Prescott, to be protected by gun-boats, and force at Prescott.

66. The St. Lawrence, between Kingston and Prescott, is exposed at so many points, that it would be useless to establish land batteries to oppose a crossing of the enemy.

As far as Tonowanda Creek, the navy from Kingston might prevent any attempt; below that, it must be opposed by the force at Prescott.

Brockville. Temporary batteries on islands near town.

67. Brockville is at the head of the railway to Perth, and is one of the approaches to the Rideau Canal from the United States.

The Grand Trunk Railway passes about a mile to the north of the place.

There are two islands in the river opposite the town, on which it would be advisable to construct batteries in time of war, to command the passage of the river. This post would be held in connexion with Prescott, 12 miles lower down.

Prescott.

68. Prescott is immediately opposite the town of Ogdensburgh, (in the State of New York,) which is the terminus of two railways, one from Rouse's Point, and the other from Sackett's Harbour. It is also in direct communication with Albany, and is a menacing point for Canada.

Of great importance.

Prescott is a place of great strategic importance, and it is at the head of the line of the St. Lawrence Canals, which commence a few miles lower down the river. It is on the Grand Trunk Railway, and only 25 miles distant from the Rideau Canal.

Permanent work.

The possession of this point by the enemy would sever the Upper and Lower divisions of the province, as the whole of the communications between the two could be controlled from it. It is therefore of great consequence that a strong permanent work, with casemated cover for its garrison, should be erected here, and that in time of war an entrenched camp for 5,000 men should be formed at a short distance back from the river, so as to be out of the reach of shells from the opposite side, but where the troops would be prepared to support the garrison of Prescott, or to oppose any attempt that might be made to land on the shore.

Entrenched camp.

The permanent work should mount 20 guns, and afford accommodation for 500 men.

Canals everywhere assailable.

69. The canals in this district extend for 10 miles, and are everywhere assailable; but if destroyed, the navigation of the river as far as the head of the Cornwall Canal would not necessarily be stopped, as powerful steamers can pass up and down all the rapids to that point.

Ottawa.

70. Your Commissioners visited Ottawa, the place selected for the capital of the province.

This city is in direct communication with Montreal and Kingston by canals, and with Prescott by railway; hence it is well situated for the assembly of reserve troops for the support of those places.

As it is, however, still in its infancy, and the seat of Government has not been transferred to it, your Commissioners propose that its defences should be left to be thrown up when required.

Defences to be planned for future construction.

The ground is favourable for a fortified position, and looking at the future of Ottawa, as the capital of a great country, and the centre of numerous canals, railways, and road communications, your Commissioners cannot but recommend, that in any scheme for the development of this city, the planning of defences of a permanent character should not be omitted.