

England and tendered their services, but at the instance of the President, the British Government intervened, and as far as they were able, prevented British subjects from violating a strict neutrality. The mechanics from the cities formed themselves into regiments, and so did the farmers in the agricultural districts, and in a word, all the Canadians capable of bearing arms volunteered for service and submitted themselves to a discipline of the most exacting character. The women formed themselves into guilds for the purpose of nursing the sick and wounded, or to make clothing for the soldiers; and hospitals and magazines were placed at intervals along the lines of railway.

The engineers were recalled from their labors on the Pacific Railway, and colleges are established at Quebec and Montreal to instruct them in the construction of fortifications, pontoons, and such other works as were required in aggressive and defensive warfare. As the time was exceedingly limited, and as it was necessary to make constant drafts upon the students of these institutions, it was impossible for them to obtain more than a mere smattering of information, but it is certainly remarkable that the members of the engineer corps were not one whit behind their brethren in the other branches of the service. The fleet, consisting of "The Sachem," a powerful ram; "The Conservative," a frigate; and the gun boats "Protection," "La Fontaine," "Sir George Cartier," and "The Beaver," were stationed at the mouth of the Gulf and the entrance of the Bay of Fundy until the close of the navigation, when the gun boats wintered in Halifax, and the others kept in harbor at Saint John. The Americans appeared to treat all these preparations with indifference, and, while they drafted a very considerable number of troops, did nothing of an aggressive nature, and seemed to consider that the Canadians could not be in earnest, but were only making a final flurry before the consummation of that grand scheme, so long expected, whereby the whole of North America should come under the Stars and Stripes.

The first actual hostilities were commenced in the far west by a handful of Canadian traders, who assembled a large force