

behind (to the north of) the town, the approach to which is so masked by buildings that it could not be occupied advantageously.

Guelph.
Plans No. 2 and 7.

Important strategic
point.

34. Guelph, situated on the River Speed, is a station on the Grand Trunk Railway, at the junction of a branch line of the Great Western from Harrisburgh by Galt and Preston. The gravelled roads from Toronto to Goderich, and from Hamilton to Sydenham on the Georgian Bay, also meet here. It is, consequently, a strategic point of the first importance, and is the place of concentration for troops retiring from London, or from the Niagara frontier, if the retreat on Toronto should be menaced.

If occupied in force, it could not be passed with impunity by any invading army.

It is situated in a rich, well-settled country, offering great resources in men and supplies.

Site for place of arms and
defensive position.

An admirable site for a place of arms and defensive position is to be found on the ground rising between the railway and the Speed River, with the river running at its base; and on the opposite side of the stream is a hill, which affords a good position for an advanced work to cover the bridges, and to command the approaches from the west and south-west.

For these reasons Your Commissioners would strongly recommend that Guelph be selected as the site for a permanent fortress and place of arms for the London District.

Ground to be acquired
without delay.

The sites of the proposed Works are shown on Plan No. 7.

Ground necessary for their construction should be immediately acquired.

Interior line of commu-
nication between Guelph
and Ottawa.

35. A good military road, affording an interior line of communication, should be constructed from Guelph to Ottawa, passing to the north of Toronto by Newmarket, Peterborough, and Perth. Parts of existing roads will be found available for this purpose.

36. The accompanying tabular statement shows the works proposed in the London District, with an approximate estimate of the expense:—

Permanent works pro-
posed in London District.

PERMANENT WORKS.

		Guns.	Men.	Expense.	Total Expense.
				£	£
Sarnia ..	Point Edward ..	20	500	40,000	
Amherstburgh	Bois Blanc Island ..	20	300	65,000	
	Fort Malden ..	20	500		
Guelph ..	Fortified place of arms ..	50	1,000	150,000	
Total ..		..	..	..	£255,000

Temporary works pro-
posed in London District.

WORKS TO BE THROWN UP IN EVENT OF WAR.

		Guns.	Men. Temporary Accommodation.	Expense.	Total Expense.
	Brought forward ..	..	..	..	£255,000
Goderich	North side of harbour ..	10	150		
	South do. ..	10	150		
Port Stanley	West side of harbour ..	10	300		
	East do. ..	10			
Thames River ..	Mouth of river ..	10	150		
Sydenham ..	.. ..	10	150		
Expense of land at Guelph and at four last-named places				£15,000	
Entrenched positions at Chatham, London, and Paris, according to nature of ground and probable approaches of the enemy ..				..	£270,000
Number of Troops for London District ..				15,000 men.	