

much more critical, and has consequently increased in an immense degree the necessity for protecting our communications.

I would, therefore, beg to solicit your Lordship's early and attentive consideration to this important point, which, although not embraced in the present report from Sir Richard Jackson, must occupy a prominent place in any scheme for the protection of Her Majesty's dominions in North America, and for preserving the communication between the different provinces contained in them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SYDENHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Lieut.-General Sir R. D. Jackson to Lord Sydenham.

My Lord,

Montreal, November 14, 1840.

THE Commanding Royal Engineer communicated to me some time back, an extract from a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Ordnance, dated 21st of August, 1840, stating that Her Majesty's Secretary of State "had declined giving his opinion upon a proposition for building an hospital within the citadel of Quebec, until the general estimate for the fortifications in Canada shall have reached his Lordship."

The Secretary of State, in his despatch to your Lordship of the 9th of May last, requested your Lordship to call upon me, "to furnish a more specific and detailed report upon the subject, than was presented in my memorandum of March last;" and also "to obtain a scientific report for the Board of Ordnance as to the Engineering that would be required, and an estimate of the expense of the undertaking."

The Commanding Engineer has, accordingly, transmitted to the Ordnance such portions of the general report as he has yet been able to complete in the manner required, and it was my intention to defer the report called for from myself, until the general estimate were prepared; but as I understand from your Excellency that Lord John Russell may expect to be in possession, at an earlier period, of such information as I am able to give upon the subject generally, so that, if the report meet his Lordship's approbation, those portions of the general plan that are deemed most essential, in order to place the frontier in a state of comparative security, may be acted upon. I now submit for your Lordship's consideration and that of the Secretary of State, my views, in the shape of a memorandum.

The arrangements for a system of defence, indicated in this memorandum, have certainly been well considered by me, and I have entered into further details than might have been expected, or are required. It may not be necessary to do more than refer to these, in perusing that portion of the memorandum commencing at page 29, to which alone I request indulgent attention.

The principles of the proposed arrangements have been sought for in the letters of the Duke of Wellington to Earl Bathurst, upon the defence of the Canadas in 1819.

I wish to observe, with regard to the works proposed by the Commission of 1825, that I ventured in my former memorandum to attribute their non-execution to their magnitude and cost, and to recommend the adoption, if possible, of a scale more in accordance with the means that would probably be placed at the disposal of the Engineer department.

I consider it due to Colonel Oldfield and the officers of that department serving in Canada, to state that upon this occasion, and every other which I have called upon them, I have met with cordial and very valuable assistance.

I have annexed to this memorandum, Colonel Oldfield's reports upon the four districts into which I have divided (provisionally) the Canadian frontier, with maps of each district.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. D. JACKSON,
Commander of the Forces.