

chains the destructive giant of recoil an obedient slave to his gun-wheels. Time does not permit me to explain the system. . . . As to its advantages, they are self-evident—protection from direct fire, while it gives an all round fire, thus enormously increasing the value of a single gun, and its inexpensiveness compared to the bastioned and polygonal trace, with ravelins, caponiers, &c. Its only vulnerable point is liability to vertical fire; but you who are riflemen may judge for yourselves of the comparative value of such an objection, by considering the difference between hitting a visible upright target, and dropping a shot upon the same target when laid flat on the ground."

With regard to the question of fortification, it is recommended that Ottawa, Kingston, and other strategic points should be placed in a state of thorough defence, and that plans for securing their communications with one another, and with Quebec, should be accurately prepared and be held in readiness at the Seat of Government. Complete registers of the quota of men, arms, and ammunition, and of the means of supply and transport, should also be kept there, so that in case of threatened hostilities, the whole organization might be intelligently expanded, and set in motion with smoothness and rapidity.

But after all, what can be done with an army which has little or no training? Nothing can possibly make up for the deficiency. A more extended period of drill and instruction is, perhaps, the greatest want, and the most important reform to which these distinguished officers have directed their attention; but should this extension of training not be possible for 30,000 men, on the sum voted by Parliament, it is deemed better that the number should be still further reduced, so as to afford to the few thousands who would then represent the active army of Canada, a reasonable time for being moulded into a serviceable force.

Such is an imperfect summary of the professional opinions which have been officially placed at the disposal of the Government.

\* There is only one error, if error it may be called, into which these officers have fallen, and they have done so naturally, and with one consent. They seem to take it for

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\* The printed official reports of the three officers referred to contain no statement of opinion that Canadians cannot be formed into soldiers without a nucleus of Imperial troops. It is not fair to tax them with opinions they have never expressed.