

RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly, dated 4th June, 1862,—“For
“copies of Despatches relative to supply of Arms for the use of the
“Volunteer or Militia Forces in the Province.”

By Command.

A. A. DORION,
Secretary.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
6th June, 1862.

(Copy).

[Canada.—No. 250].

DOWNING STREET, 13th October, 1861.

SIR,—I have been in communication with the Secretary of State for War, on the subject of the application contained in your despatch of the 27th August, for the loan, by Her Majesty's Government, of guns for the use of an additional artillery corps, which it is proposed to raise at Port Colborne, on the Welland Canal; and I have the honor to inform you that Secretary Sir G. C. Lewis is willing that the guns required should be lent to the Canadian Government, on the understanding that care will be taken to keep them in proper repair.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) NEWCASTLE.

Governor SIR E. HEAD, Bart.,
&c., &c., &c.

Extract from a Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir EDMUND HEAD, to His Grace
The Duke of NEWCASTLE, dated

QUEBEC, September 23, 1861.

[No. 76.]

“I have, of course, had some communication with my advisers on this important subject,* and they have this day laid before me the enclosed recommendation of the Executive Council.

“It can, therefore, no longer be said that the Provincial Government have not asked for arms and artillery, and their position is thus changed: at the same time, no explicit pledge is given with reference to the expense of transport of such arms.”

(Copy.)

[Canada.—No. 258.]

DOWNING STREET, October 23, 1861.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 76, of the 23rd of September, accompanied by a report of a Committee of your Executive Council, applying for the prompt despatch to Canada, of a large supply of Arms, Artillery, and munitions of war.

* The defence of the Province.

I have to inform you that as the last ship of the present season leaves England for Quebec on the 5th of November, there is not time now to send further stores of Arms before the close of the navigation, but that by the earliest safe opportunity after the re-opening of the navigation, the following Arms, together with a due proportion of ammunition, will be forwarded, viz. :—

- 3 Batteries of 4 12-pounder Brass Guns (Twelve Guns).
- 10,000 Rifled Muskets, pattern '53.
- 15,000 Short Rifles, pattern '56.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

Governor the Right Honorable,
SIR E. HEAD, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.—Confidential.)

DOWNING STREET, 30th November, 1861.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to enclose, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from the War Office, with its enclosures, from which you will learn the steps that have been taken to make an immediate increase in the force of artillery and store of arms in Canada. You will, of course, afford any co-operation on this subject required by the military authorities.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

Governor VISCOUNT MONCK.

(Copy).

WAR OFFICE, 30th November, 1861.

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 27th instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir Geo. Lewis, to transmit to you, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, the enclosed copies of two letters which have been addressed to the Officer commanding the Troops in Canada and Nova Scotia, respecting the arrangements made for the immediate despatch of 30,000 rifles, three batteries of Artillery, and various other stores to Canada.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

J. CROFTON,

M. General.

Sir F. ROGERS

(Copy).

WAR OFFICE, November, 1861.

SIR,—I am directed by Secretary Sir Geo. Lewis, to inform you that the screw-ship "Melbourne," has been taken up to convey 30,000 rifles, one battery of Royal Artillery, with men and stores, but without horses; two batteries of brass guns, and various other stores, as per enclosed general list, to Canada.

The captain's sailing orders are to go to Rivière du Loup, should the navigation of the St. Lawrence be open to that port, or to Bic, should the "Melbourne" not be able to get so high as du Loup.

It will be necessary, therefore, that you should have some person on the look-out for the Melbourne down the St. Lawrence, with a view to such steps being taken as may be necessary for landing the stores, and having them and the men conveyed to their destination, Quebec, or elsewhere, as you may decide.

I am further to acquaint you, that should the "Melbourne" fail in reaching the St. Lawrence, in consequence of the ice, she is to proceed to Halifax, where the stores, &c.,

will have to be landed, and retained till further orders. You are authorized to incur any expense which may be necessary for landing and conveying the stores, should they reach Rivière du Loup or Bic.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. CROFTON.

Lieut. General, Sir W. F. WILLIAMS,
K. C. B.

(Copy).

WAR OFFICE, 30th Nov., 1861.

SIR,—I am directed by Secretary Sir Geo. Lewis, to inform you that the screw steam ship "Melbourne" has been taken up to convey 30,000 rifles, one battery of artillery with men and stores, but without horses; two batteries of brass guns, and various other stores, to Canada.

The captain's sailing orders are to go to Rivière du Loup, should the navigation of the St. Lawrence be open to that port; or to Bic, should the "Melbourne" not be able to get so high as du Loup.

Should she fail in reaching the St. Lawrence, in consequence of ice, she will proceed to Halifax, where the stores will be landed and retained until further orders.

You will, immediately, on the receipt of this letter, direct a special messenger to proceed to Quebec, *via* Portland, with the enclosed despatches for Sir F. Williams and the storekeeper at Quebec.

(Signed,)

J. CROFTON

The M. General Commanding the Troops, Halifax.

(Copy).

[Canada,—No. 22].

DOWNING STREET, 13th December, 1861.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying return of arms, accoutrements, ammunition, great coats and blankets in store in and under orders for conveyance to Canada, and to acquaint you that the Major General commanding the troops has been authorized, on the requisition of the Governor General, to cause such issues to be made therefrom for the use of the local Militia as may be considered necessary.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

The Governor VISCOUNT MONCK,
&c., &c., &c.

RETURN of Arms, Accoutrements, Ammunition, Great Coats and Blankets in store or under orders for Canada.

Station—Canada.	Rifles— 1853 Pattern.	Smooth bore Arms.	Accoutre- ments.	Ammuni- tion.	Great Coats.	Blankets.
In Store.....	15,060	10,000	10,000 10,000*	3,823,300	18,000	15,217
Now being forwarded.....	30,000		30,000	3,000,000	16,000	11,440
For 60th Regiment, Quebec.....	820					
	45,889	10,000	50,000	6,823,300	34,000	26 657

* For smooth bore Arms.

(Copy).

[No. 42].

DOWNING STREET, 14th January, 1862.

MY LORD,—Having communicated to the War Office your despatch (No. 34) of the 19th of December, reporting the measures which, in concert with Lieut. General Sir Fenwick Williams, you had taken for the defence of Canada; I have the pleasure to inform you that the Secretary of State for War has observed, with much satisfaction, the energy which the Provincial Government has evinced in the steps taken for the organization of Militia and Volunteer Corps.

With regard to your Lordship's application to be furnished with arms and equipments for the Volunteer Cavalry, Sir George Lewis informs me, that your wishes have in a great measure been anticipated, the undermentioned stores having already been prepared, viz.:

1000 Saddles, Bridles, &c., complete.

1000 Swords.

1000 Pouches and Belts.

1000 Carbines, East Indian pattern.

1000 Pea Coats.

It only remains to procure the Revolvers, 1000 of which will also be held in readiness for shipment.

These stores will be forwarded as soon as Her Majesty's Government shall deem the occasion to require it.

I have, &c,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

The Governor VISCOUNT MONCK,
&c., &c., &c.

RETURN

To an Address from the Legislative Assembly to His Excellency the Governor General, dated the 4th inst., praying His Excellency to cause to be laid before the House, "Copies of any Order in Council that
" may have been passed on the subject of providing Arms for the
" Defence of the Province; And also, for Copies of all Despatches
" that may have passed in relation to the same; And also, upon the
" subject of the Report of the Militia Commission."

By Command.

A. A. DORION,
Secretary.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Quebec, 6th June, 1862.

COPY OF A REPORT of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 7th August, 1861:

On the recommendation of the Honorable Attorney General, U. C., the Committee advise that One Thousand Enfield Rifles be ordered from England, for the use of the Militia, in addition to the arms already in use.

Certified.

W. H. LEE,
C. E. C.

COPY OF A REPORT of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 23rd September, 1861:

The Committee of the Executive Council respectfully beg leave to call the attention of Your Excellency to the important subject of the defence of the Province.

Without prejudice to the claims of Canada to the full protection of Great Britain in the case of hostilities arising with the United States of America, from causes connected with the intestine war now existing in such States, the Provincial Administration view with serious apprehension the very inadequate means, at the disposal of the Military or Imperial authorities within the Province, to resist an attack.

They are informed that not more than 15,000 stand of Rifles are in store, and no provision made of modern Field Artillery, or Guns of position.

After the next eight weeks, no available communication, except through the United States themselves, via Portland, will exist between England and Canada, until about the middle of next May, during which time, in the event of hostilities arising, the country would be almost wholly defenceless.

Your Excellency's advisers are necessarily without knowledge of the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to their policy towards the United States, and therefore wholly unable to form an opinion as to its bearing on the friendly relations between the two countries. But they cannot fail to observe that there are serious grounds for apprehension, and such as to force upon Your Excellency's advisers the conviction that they would be wanting in their duty to the people of this country if they allowed the season of navigation to close without strongly expressing their opinion to Her Majesty's Government that an adequate supply of small arms, artillery and ammunition of the most approved kinds, ought to be immediately shipped to Quebec, for distribution at such points as may be selected by the Lieutenant General commanding.

Your Excellency's advisers can assure Her Majesty's Government of the loyalty of the Canadian people, and of their readiness to defend their soil from invasion, as they did during the last war with the United States—but they are at present without arms.

The Imperial Government is doubtless in possession of abundance of arms and munitions of war of all kinds, which can be safely stored here, and need only be distributed in case of actual hostilities breaking out. If, therefore, one hundred thousand stand of arms, with a proper proportion of artillery, and the necessary ammunition, were promptly shipped for the St. Lawrence, it would give great satisfaction and confidence to the people of the Province, and encourage the Legislature at its approaching Session, to organize an efficient force, to be drawn from the ranks of the Sedentary Militia.

Certified.

W. H. LEE,
C. E. C.

COPY OF A REPORT of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 2nd December, 1861:

On a memorandum, dated the 30th November, 1861, from the Honorable the Attorney General for Upper Canada, reporting that the numerical strength of the Active Militia Force in Canada, now organized, amounts to about 5,500 men, and that arms have been supplied to this Force, except to 20 Companies of Rifles, and for those the arms are ready so soon as they are prepared, according to the existing Regulations, to receive them.

That the supply of arms belonging to the Province, will then be exhausted.

That he deems it advisable that the Active Force should be increased to 7,500 men in all.

That in case Your Excellency as Commander in Chief of the Militia, should authorize the formation of additional Corps to the extent of 2000 men, in order to make up the total strength of the Force to 7,500 men, as above suggested, arms can only be procured for them from the Military Stores under the control of His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Fenwick Williams, Commander of the Forces in Canada.

That there are no funds at the disposal of the Government for the purchase of these arms, and he therefore recommends that application be made to Sir Fenwick Williams for 2,000 stand of arms and accoutrements, to be delivered from time to time as required, on the requisition of the Adjutant General of Militia's Department, on the understanding that unless the Legislature, at its next Session, should make an appropriation for the price of the arms and accoutrements so supplied, they shall be returned in as perfect a state as when received.

The Committee advise that an application be made to the Commander of the Forces in the terms above suggested.

Certified.

W. H. LEE,
C. E. C.

COPY OF A REPORT of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 27th December, 1861 :

On a memorandum, dated 26th instant, of the Honorable the Attorney General, U.C., stating, that with a view to prepare for the contingency of the Sedentary Militia being called out for service in the field, he recommends that your Excellency be requested to ask the Imperial Government to transmit to Canada from the Military Stores, if they can be spared :—

100,000 Red Tunics, with blue facings,
100,000 Trowsers, as worn by Regular Infantry,
100,000 Fatigue Caps,
100,000 Great Coats.

Such Stores to be delivered to the Canadian Government from time to time, as asked for.

That as there are no means of obtaining clothing of the above description in Canada, the Attorney General hopes that the Imperial Government will be able to comply with this requisition.

The Committee submit the above recommendation for Your Excellency's approval.

Certified.

W. H. LEE,
C. E. C.

MEMORANDUM.—The Despatches referred to in the accompanying letter from the Governor's Secretary, have been sent down to the House in answer to another address of the same date, with that to which a Return is herewith sent.

E. A. MEREDITH,
Assistant Secretary.

QUEBEC, June 6, 1862.

SIR,—I am directed by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to enclose copies of the Despatches respecting Arms, mentioned in the annexed List, for presentation to the Legislative Assembly; and also to inform you that no correspondence has passed with the Imperial Government, with reference to the Militia Commission.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

DENIS GODLEY,
Governor's Secretary.

The Honorable A. A. Dorion,
Provincial Secretary.

DESPATCHES FOR ASSEMBLY RESPECTING ARMS.

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|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Secretary of State, | No. 250, | 13th October, 1861. |
| 2. Sir E. Head, (Extract,) | No. 76, | 23rd September, 1861. |
| 3. Secretary of State, | No. 258, | 23rd October, 1861. |
| 4. Do. | Confidential, | 30th November, 1861. |
| 5. Do. | No. 22, | 13th December, 1861. |
| 6. Do. | No. 42, | 14th January, 1862. |
| Six Despatches. | | June 6, 1862. |

1st Session, 7th Parliament, 25 Victoria, 1862.

RETURN

To Two Addresses from the Legislative Assembly, for Copies of any Orders in Council that may have been passed on the subject of Providing Arms for the Defence of the Province; and also, for Copies of all Despatches that may have passed in relation to the same; and also upon the subject of the Report of the Militia Commission.

Ordered, by the Legislative Assembly, to be printed, June 6, 1862.

Printed, July 9, 1862.

QUEBEC:

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