

Militia and Defence.

2. *Ordnance Store Corps*, charged with the military custody, maintenance and issue to the troops of equipment, ammunition, guns and warlike stores of all kinds.

3. *Army Medical Corps*, charged with the care of sick and wounded.

4. *Army Pay Department*, charged with the issue of pay and petty disbursements under the regulations in time of peace, and the custody of the military chest and the issue of the requisite funds, in time of war.

5. *Corps of Engineers*. Although not strictly an administrative department it may be here observed that no *Corps of Engineers*, exists. There are two weak independent companies of engineers who are partially provided with equipment. There are, not however, in Canada any of those stores which are included in the requirements of an engineer field park. A corps of engineers which shall include field companies, a bridging section, and a military telegraph section, is an indispensable adjunct to all armies intended for active operations.

Absence of sufficient Stores, Arms, Ammunition, etc., and Clothing.

With the exception of blankets and tents there are not sufficient stores to enable a military force of any size to be placed in the field. A reserve of arms and ammunition is required, based upon the recognized scale. The custody, maintenance and issue of all warlike stores and military equipment is in the hands of a civil department. The anomaly of placing in the hands of civilians the custody of military stores has already been pointed out. A system which removes from the knowledge and supervision of a general in responsible military command all those stores which have been provided by the Government for the use and efficiency of the troops under his command, will, I trust, be amended. The difficulty can be met without extra expense by converting the existing civil department into an Ordnance Store Corps which could then adopt the War Office regulations for the custody and maintenance of stores, etc., and be under military supervision. There are no stores of reserve clothing.

Impossibility to organize Departments and purchase Stores at short notice.

The military administrative departments enumerated above would be required at the very outset of the preparations in the event of a national emergency, and it is absolutely impossible to organize them at short notice.

These departments, from their technical character, require a most thorough knowledge on the part of the personnel if they are to fulfil their indispensable functions efficiently. It would be unreasonable to expect that officers and men could be capable of at once performing the very responsible administrative duties which only careful preparation by previous training could fit them to discharge with any hope of success.

Inadequate Standard of Military Efficiency.

I am not in a position to report fully upon the standard of military proficiency attained by the whole of the troops under my command.

The fact, however, that the training of rural battalions has in the past been spasmodic and uncertain renders the efficiency generally of the whole of the militia an undetermined factor of defence. Until the training of the rural troops is an annual fixture it would be folly to suppose that the militia of Canada as a whole can attain any satisfactory standard of military knowledge, or be reckoned upon as a solid and dependable military force.

The period of twelve days allowed for training of all arms is all too inadequate for infantry, but, when it is attempted to condense into this short period, which amounts, after deducting a Sunday and the days of arrival and departure, to nine working days, the training required for cavalry and field artillery, it needs no argument to show that the military value of troops thus trained cannot be of a high order.

The insufficient range accommodation at the various camps of exercise has, hitherto, prevented the troops from receiving anything but a very hurried and irregular course of musketry instruction and rifle practice during the period of their annual training. The provisional arrangement for the training in 1899, which I have submitted in Part II., Sec. 17, will, I hope, to a certain extent ameliorate this difficulty.