

Sir George Perley Dominated Over Sir Sam Hughes.

"During the first year of the war the plans adopted for the force in England were modeled on the British War Office, but I had nothing what-ever to do with them. The Canadian High Commissioner seemed to be the one dominate as witnessed in the contract made for officers' mess-ing, etc., at Salisbury; for the British system in regard to the Pay Department and the British system in regard to the Medical Department.

V. A. D. Hospitals Manned With British Society People
and Canadian Officers With Their Usual Pull
to Which Sir Geo. Perley Agreed.

"From the outset I object to these women's organizations in Britain in the shape of V.A.D. hospitals, etc., but the Canadian High Commissioner seemed to favor them.

"The appointments in the force were also based on two avenues of supply, one was British officers connected with society people, and the other, Canadian permanent corps officers with their usual pull. In justice to a limited few of each class who were worthy, the majority of them were not up to the average of capability.

Millions Saved.

"Since a year ago Canadian control through the Militia Department has been, more or less, with the full consent of the British War Office, gradually recognized to the great advantage of the force. The absurd system in pay and Medical Services, modeled after the British, were last year revolutionised, saving many millions to the country. This has caused, of course, some opposition among those interested in the obsolete and inefficient ways of carrying on.

"During the last year the connections with the British Government have been carried on—the mere departmental or routine ones—by the departments concerned; while the diplomatic ones with the War Office and with the force have been undertaken by a most capable officer, Col. Sir Max Aitken.

"In matters not concerning the purely military affairs such as purchase and contracting for supplies, I long ago directed that the Canadian High Commissioner should be consulted.

Sub Militia Council and How It Should Work.

"Recently I have formed a consultative Sub-Militia Council, whose officers are paid according to their rank and not as members of this Council. These are purely advisory.

"I do not see wherein this could be strengthened in the least degree, excepting by giving Sir Max Aitken—who to-day has only a semi-official position—a more dignified status in connection with the work which he has so long carried on. I would therefore, suggest that the proposed order-in-council regarding the formation of the Sub-Militia Council might be altered so as to make Sir Max Aitken a Canadian Privy Councillor and appoint him to take charge of the general conduct of matters between the Sub-Militia Council on the one hand, with the War Office and the force at the front on the other.

"All matters not covered by order-in-council, pertaining to contracting and the purchase of supplies or expenditure of money other than regular routine payments, should be submitted by the Sub-Militia Council to the consideration of the Canadian High Commissioner for his consideration, and these considerations should be submitted back to Canada in the form of a draft report to Privy Council addressed to and to be signed by the Minister of Militia and Defence for Canada for submission to the President of Privy Council.

"In connection with the channels of communication, matters from the High Commissioner of the Sub-Militia Council concerning the regular Military affairs, should be carried on through the constitutional Minister of Militia and Defence for Canada; with a view, however, to adjusting and co-ordinating the purchases or other expenditures which may be made