

between the raising of units for the different arms of the service. No system of providing reinforcements for units in the field was set up. Instead a long succession of new units were raised (some 260 infantry battalions alone were authorized) with the inevitable result that three out of four of these units had to be broken up into drafts either in Canada or in England. There was no proper system of providing officers, and much valuable officer material was wasted in the ranks, some universities for instance raising complete units from the graduate and undergraduate bodies. The arrangements for medical examination of recruits were defective, with results which are still a source of expense to the Canadian taxpayer.

23. These mistakes took years to rectify and in the meantime they mitigated [*sic*] against the effectiveness of our war effort, and resulted in waste of money and manpower.

24. In our plans for future mobilization all of these factors have been taken into consideration. The Mobile Force is based on the existing Militia Organization. As far as possible its units will be formed from complete existing Militia units. Its territorial distribution, like that of the other two Services, has been most painstakingly worked out to give reasonably equal representation to every part of Canada on a basis of population. The desires and aspirations of the French-speaking portions of Canada have not been overlooked and, if the whole force of two divisions and ancillary troops is raised as planned, it will include a complete French-speaking infantry brigade with a French-speaking commander and staff.

25. Further, the force is properly balanced as regards all arms. It includes the correct proportion of administrative units, and units for the Lines of Communication. Plans for its mobilization have been drawn up by District Headquarters all across Canada. Plans for its rapid concentration and training in Canada have been made, and are constantly being improved as to detail. These latter plans do not envisage a hasty concentration in a single overcrowded concentration camp, as in 1914, but provide for an orderly movement of units, properly recruited, medically examined and documented, into six different camps across Canada, so as to use to the full our available resources in accommodation, and our facilities for training.

26. Lastly, our mobilization instructions envisage the establishment of a co-ordinated and controlled system of recruiting and training reinforcements for the force, on a territorial basis.

27. It is perhaps desirable to emphasize also that, although the organization of the Mobile Force is based entirely upon the existing Militia, there is no thought of calling upon the members of the Militia to serve abroad under the terms of the Militia Act. On the contrary the scheme envisages the setting up of the Canadian Field Force,—a purely voluntary force consisting only of officers and soldiers volunteering to serve for the duration of the war. Any serving member of the Militia who declines for any reason whatever to sign such an undertaking will not become a member of the force.