

are only a large collection of troops without any organization in formations of all arms,' and that 'the various arms do not apparently work to a sufficient extent in conjunction with each other.' In this remark, the case is, of course inadvertently, overstated, but the main contention may be accepted as correct.

7. The Inspector General considers that the staff should be organized upon a divisional basis. He concludes by saying that the present state of affairs would 'render a quick mobilization and prompt action.....impossible.'

8. The Inspector General's recommendations are entirely in line with the policy toward which, as you are aware, the Militia Council has consistently been working.

9. Since the Council came into being, when it found a large body of disconnected units which had grown up almost haphazard throughout the country, it has steadily worked towards the higher organization, beginning first with brigades of all arms. It has also endeavoured (though not always successfully) to turn local military aspirations in the direction of raising those units which were most wanted in that district for service purposes.

10. Similarly, the working together of the different arms has not been lost sight of, and forms part of the training syllabus—even if it has not been carried as far as was desirable—while the acquisition of training grounds where the three arms can be trained together has been consistently kept in view.

11. Lastly, as regards the staff. The report has not perhaps brought out quite clearly the points wherein our staff system falls short of the system in force in England. In England, outside the War Office, is divided into commands. All general administration is carried out at command headquarters, where the heads of services and departments are located, while each command includes one or more complete self-contained divisions (or other organized bodies), whose staffs carry out simply their own internal business. In reality, each command staff in Canada approximates closely, both in composition and system, to the English command staff, though on a smaller scale; but with us, at present, each command staff also administers one of the districts of which the command is composed, and we have not been able, up to the present, to organize divisional staffs. This, however, is merely a temporary condition due to the shortage of staff officers. It has always been intended to have, eventually, a separate staff for each district within the command, and where that district finds a division for field service to form a staff which would be in practice the divisional staff.

12. It will thus be seen that the Militia Council has been working on correct lines towards the system which is in force in England and which the Inspector General recommends.

13. The question, therefore, for consideration is: How far is it possible, at the present moment, to take the further steps which he advocates towards the object which we are agreed in regarding as essential?

14. In his Appendix 'C' Sir John French shows how he would propose to organize the existing troops of eastern Canada. He does not state clearly whether he proposes the retention or abolition of command staffs, but, as the latter would mean a departure from the British system and also the disappearance of heads of services and departments, who are not allowed for divisional staffs, and, in view of the general trend of his propositions and the fact that our declared policy is to assimilate our system to that in force in England, I assume that he does not. He proposes to organize for service a cavalry division, five divisions, two field forces and garrisons. The first named is not to be organized in peace, while the field forces and garrisons are shown separately. To organize these five divisions he forms two from the troops in the present Western Ontario command, leaves Eastern Ontario, practically as it stands, to provide another, makes the province of Quebec furnish a fourth division and the Maritime Provinces a fifth.

15. So far there is no great difficulty, though I should have preferred to form six divisions rather than five; for, to accept the smaller number, will practically involve