

(v) That in every cemetery there should be some form of building, either covering the memorial stone or separate from it, as a shelter for visitors from the weather and as a place where religious services might be held.

(vi) That the cemeteries should be laid out and planted with flowers and shrubs under the direction of horticultural experts working in co-operation with the architectural designers. The surfaces of the graves should be levelled, for reasons both of convenience and of economy.

(vii) That each cemetery should be fenced in by some durable boundary, preferably a low wall.

(viii) That each cemetery should have a printed register of the burials in it, which should be easily accessible to visitors.

(ix) That, in consultation with the French authorities, the principle of concentrating in selected cemeteries the bodies at present buried in isolated graves or in small groups should be settled in advance.

(x) That, for the purpose of carrying out the proposals contained in the report, three principal architects in the first instance should be chosen (names recommended—Mr. Reginald Blomfield, Sir Edwin Lutyens, and Mr. Herbert Baker): the cemeteries should be divided into groups, and to each group should be assigned one principal architect and a number of younger men working under his leadership; the majority of the cemeteries should be designed by the younger men. . . . The final selection of the regimental headstones should be referred to an informal body of artistic advisers.

Those were the general principles embodied in the report of the War Graves Commission

Mr. LEMIEUX: I saw in the papers this morning that Vimy Ridge has been donated by the French Government to Canada. Is that true?

Mr. ROWELL: I do not think there has been any official information received as yet by the Government in reference to it, but I do know the French Government has dedicated the land where our soldiers are buried as cemeteries in perpetuity.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I understand that parents will not be allowed to erect distinct monuments over the graves of their relatives, that the monuments will be uniform and erected under the direction of the War Graves Commission?

Mr. ROWELL: That is the case. Relatives will be permitted to put a distinctive inscription or prayer on the stones, but, outside of that, they are to be uniform.

Mr. LEMIEUX: My hon. friend does not know the dimensions of each stone?

Mr. ROWELL: No.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Because they might put any inscription on the monument unless it must be within certain dimensions.

[Mr. Rowell.]

Mr. ROWELL: Quite so. I am sure that it will be large enough to permit of a suitable inscription. It is being designed very carefully by the most skilled artists and designers.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will our Canadian architects be consulted on the matter? And might I not express the wish that the Canadian graves, at all events, will be of a distinctly Canadian stamp or style.

Mr. ROWELL: I believe there will be a distinctive emblem marking the Canadian graves, but as to whether the stones will be distinct in design from the others I can not say. The only knowledge I have is that gained from hearing the report presented at the conference but from that report I know that everything that can be done by the best skill available is being done to not only erect suitable stones, but to lay out the cemeteries in a way befitting the men who have so gallantly fallen. I am sure that all Canadians will agree that the least we can do is to show our appreciation of these gallant men is to see that their graves are properly cared for.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The monument will be the same for the officer and the private?

Mr. ROWELL: Quite. They are all equal in death.

The question of demobilization was also considered at the conference. I shall not go into it. Resolution No. 18 deals with the question of demobilization. That had already been taken up between the Minister of Militia and Defence here and the Overseas Minister of Militia and Defence, and the question discussed by the Imperial War Conference was rather demobilization as it affected the whole Empire. It was as to the working out of plans which would ensure a certain amount of shipping being available for each portion of the Empire in order that the troops of each might be brought home; in other words, in order that some would not get all the shipping and others left without any.

The last matter I will mention that was dealt with by the Imperial Conference related to the question of Imperial organization. In addressing the House the other day I spoke of the resolution which was passed dealing with the channels of communication—that is resolution No. 15—and I shall not repeat what I then said. I only wish to say in reference to that resolution that while hon. gentlemen may think the actual change is a small matter, it is the significance of the change