

1 GEORGE V., A. 1911

I fully realize that great difficulties exist, but surely these ought not to be insurmountable when it is a question of the safety of the Dominion.

In point of actual numbers, I believe that those contemplated under the present war establishments are sufficient and suitable, if they were allotted in a proper proportion to the various arms of the service, and on the basis of a sound system of organization.

I may mention here that a comparison of the effective strengths as they exist at present with the peace training strengths as laid down shows a considerable shortage in numbers, and I wish to guard against misunderstanding by saying that, in expressing an opinion as to the adequacies of actual numbers, I consider it absolutely essential that these peace training strengths should be maintained, and that sufficient provision should be made to ensure the numbers required on mobilization being always forthcoming.

(b) I am aware that, under existing arrangements, certain war divisions are arranged to be formed on mobilization.

According to these plans, troops which have never served together as an organized body in peace are to be suddenly concentrated in an organization to which they are totally unaccustomed and placed under commanders and staff who will have had no sufficient practice in handling such a unit.

The annual camp trainings are only a large collection of troops without any organization in formations of all arms.

The various arms do not, apparently, work, to a sufficient extent, in conjunction with one another, and hence neither commanders nor staff officers have any practice in the handling of these war divisions with which, within a few days of the outbreak of war, they may have to encounter trained troops in a thickly wooded country which is strange to them.

I cannot lay too much stress on the necessity for cultivating the utmost spirit of mutual understanding amongst all ranks of the troops which make up a war division, and this can only be effected by assimilating peace organizations to those employed in the field.

The Militia of Canada is composed of splendid material, and, according to my observation, is imbued with a fine spirit and energy, and a desire to become efficient, and it seems somewhat illogical to hamper their patriotic and loyal endeavours by failing to organize them to the best advantage. As an instance of how lack of organization permeates throughout the force, and leads to extravagance and loss of power, I might mention that at two of my inspections I saw what were called 'double battalion' regiments on parade. The whole numerical strength of such regiments was not equal to some of the single battalions, and yet each of the two battalions of which they were composed had the same staff and complement of officers and non-commissioned officers as is laid down for a single regiment.

The question of command and staff is of such overwhelming importance in all modern military organizations that I think it best to deal with it, under a separate heading, but I may mention here that the state of affairs existing at the present moment as shown above would render a quick mobilization and prompt action, which is so vital an element in the frontier defence of Canada, altogether impossible, and would effectually paralyze and frustrate any effective preliminary operation of war.

The war organization which I recommend for the Dominion forces is drawn up in Appendix 'C' of this report. I am of opinion that it should be gradually adopted throughout the militia, and that the peace establishments should be assimilated to it.

(B)—MOBILIZATION.

If efficiency and readiness for war is to be ensured a complete and thoroughly worked out system of mobilization must go hand in hand with a sound peace organization.

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