

7-B EDWARD VII., A. 1908

APPENDIX C.

OTTAWA, November 25, 1907.

DEAR MR. COURTNEY,—I beg to return, herewith, amended and with certain notes, a copy of the evidence given by me before the Civil Service Commission, which evidence you were kind enough to return, in order that I might verify my answers upon those matters which are the concern rather of my colleagues of the Militia Council, and upon which I was not in a position to speak with authority. I shall be obliged if you will kindly cause any portion of my evidence which may be published to be corrected accordingly.

I venture, also, to submit, with the utmost respect, the following points for the consideration of your Commission. At least three-fourths of my examination was devoted to questions regarding the military administration of the militia force as carried out by military officers, not by civil servants. Some questions were put which were founded upon newspaper paragraphs, generally inaccurate, often misleading. Others were asked—see more especially questions 171, 311-313 and 328-334—which appeared to suggest that the increase of expenditure since 1892 upon the militia force had not been accompanied by a commensurate increase of efficiency.

It is not, perhaps, for me to advance the contrary proposition—though I hold it—but I must submit that no conclusion of that nature can fairly be grounded upon what could only be a superficial examination of the case. I, therefore, feel it my duty to urge upon the Commission that no opinion such as might be inferred from the tenor of the questions quoted—the accuracy of which is not always admitted—ought, in the interests of justice and of the public service, to be recorded, without far more searching inquiry and examination than the present Commission has been able to give.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) PERCY H. N. LAKE,

Major-General, C.G.S.

J. M. COURTNEY, Esq., C.M.G., I.S.O.,
Chairman, C. S. Commission.