

1 GEORGE V., A. 1911

his opinion a large and sufficiently trained body of staff officers is indispensable, and he says that, at present, 'the militia staff is numerically inadequate for the amount of work required to be done and that the efficient staff officer is underpaid.'

57. I concur in the whole of these comments. In another part of his report he remarks that 'the staff at present maintained at headquarters and in the commands appears to me absurdly inadequate.' As already seen, he has recommended an addition to the present staff of probably 10 officers for mobilization purposes alone. The divisional organization which he has recommended will involve certain further additions to the staff.

58. The Militia Council always has been well aware how largely the modern developments of war and military science have increased the demands for additional staff officers and for highly trained ones. But it has been obliged to cut its coat according to the cloth—the supply of qualified staff officers was limited, funds were limited, and it was not thought desirable to draw upon the British Army for all the staff officers which were required, but rather to try and develop existing material in the permanent staff and force.

59. With the strongly expressed views of Sir John French before the public, it is to be hoped that the additions to the staff which he recommends may be concurred in and provided for by Parliament in the Annual Estimates at an early date.

60. But it must be clearly understood that General Staff duties and mobilization preparations demand highly trained and experienced staff officers. Every qualified Staff Officer belonging to the Dominion forces is already employed at staff work. And, until more are trained, the additional Staff Officers can only come from the Imperial Army. I estimate that, to fulfil the Imperial Inspector General's recommendations 15 additional General Staff Officers (2 at headquarters for mobilization, 1 for each Command, 3 for Western Canada and 1 for each Division), and 7 additional Administrative Staff Officers (1 D.A.G. at Headquarters for mobilization and 1 D.A.A. and Q.M.G. for each Division), will eventually be required. The developments of the staff will of necessity take time, and, meanwhile, additional Canadian officers are being trained at the Staff College. How most effectually to expand the staff and obtain the officers needed will be best left to be dealt with by the new Chief of the General Staff. Personally, I should recommend the importation of two or three officers and a wide extension of the system of Militia Staff Courses, with advanced instructions to those officers who show special ability.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

61. Sir John French was very favourably impressed with the Royal Military College at Kingston.

His main criticisms are—Lack of dormitory accommodation sufficient to give each cadet a room to himself, a much needed improvement—Lack of a good Reading Room—Lack of a covered Riding School and covered Skating Rink.

62. His recommendations are—

(1) That either the Inspector General or the Chief of the General Staff should always be a member of the Board of Visitors.

(2) That, in the Military History Course, some special campaign should be studied each year.

(3) That the graduates of the College should be called upon to repay the country some portion of the money spent upon their education, by serving for a term of years in some Active Militia unit after graduation.

(4) That the defects above mentioned should be rectified; and lastly

(5) That the number of Cadets received at the College should be largely increased.