

These latter were entirely new organizations for which there was generally no corresponding organization or unit in the Imperial Forces. They amounted to sixteen different units, and were composed of 172 officers and 4,746 other ranks. In other words, from January 1 to November 11, 1918, the strength of the Canadian corps was increased by reorganization and new units, for most of which there was no counterpart in the Imperial Forces, by 487 officers and 18,501 other ranks.

After I had been in England a very short time, I found that it would be of advantage to the minister in carrying on his work to have an Overseas Military Council formed on the same principle and having the same functions as the Militia Council at Ottawa. This Overseas Council, which acts in an advisory capacity to the minister, was organized in the spring of 1918, and was composed as follows:

The Minister; the Deputy Minister (who at present is Col. G. S. Harrington); the Chief of the General Staff, Sir Richard Turner, V.C., K.C.B., etc.; the Adjutant General, Major-General P. E. Thacker; the Quartermaster-General, Brigadier-General D. M. Hogarth; the Accountant General, Col. W. R. Ward; the Director-General of Medical Services, Major-General G. L. Foster; the Paymaster-General, Brigadier-General J. G. Ross.

Meetings of the Council have been regularly held, and much benefit has resulted from the exchange of opinions and views, and from the adoption of a uniform policy. When General Currie moved his headquarters from France about five weeks ago, to make his headquarters in London I asked him to take a seat on the Council in order that we might have the benefit of his ripe experience in all matters which still had to be dealt with. He consented. The name of Lieut.-Col. T. Gibson, Assistant Deputy Minister, was also added to the Council.

Mr. DEVLIN: Were these men acting on the Council purely from patriotic motives or were they paid a salary?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The men whose names I have mentioned are the members of the staff and are the heads of different branches of the service at headquarters. They receive the regular pay of officers, but most of them were engaged in professional or business life in Canada before the war, and they sacrificed the earnings from their professions or business from patriotic motives.

The Chief of the General Staff, Sir Richard Turner, and his immediate staff

was responsible for the training in Great Britain. It might interest the House if I refer briefly to certain loans of officers to the Imperial authorities for special duties in connection with what was known as the Mesopotamia party, the North Russia party, including the Archangel and Murmanak Forces, the Palestine party, and as instructors for the American Army. In January, 1918, the British Government asked us to loan them certain officers and non-commissioned officers to proceed to Mesopotamia. Fifteen officers and twenty-seven non-commissioned officers were selected from the Canadian forces and left England during the same month. These men were sent out for the purpose of training and organizing an army of the natives to the north and northeast of the area where the British forces were operating at that time, to help the British meet the Turkish forces. Only 14 of this party remained to be returned to England at the end of March, 1919, and I think by this time all have been returned.

Mr. POWER: Can the minister give us any information as to the instructions that were given to the men that went to Mesopotamia? I understand they went on a very, very secret mission.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: It was a very secret mission. The British authorities sent out a considerable number of men, and we sent the force I have mentioned, which formed only a small proportion of the total force, for the purpose of training the Armenians and other nationalities occupying the territory to the east and northeast of where the British forces were operating, in the direction of the Caspian Sea. A very mixed race occupies that territory, and it was for the purpose of organizing them if possible into an auxiliary force that these men were sent out.

Mr. POWER: Is it true that the officers were obliged to pledge themselves not to communicate with their relatives for a period of one year or more?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I could not say as to that; I do not think any special instructions of that kind were given. All telegrams and mail were subject to the censorship, and the officers and soldiers become pretty familiar with the rules and regulations, and as a general rule do not try to break them. The men in Mesopotamia were volunteers, as were also those in North Russia, at Archangel and Murmansk. The Archangel