

the country makes it impossible to obtain the very large number of such experts which would be required under these conditions.

When the Ontario Government proposed to build, equip, and present to our Medical Service a hospital with a capacity of 1,040 beds, the question of a site was under consideration for some time, and I understand that the representatives of the Ontario Government were perfectly willing to build this hospital at any place desired by our Medical Service. In other words, if the Director of Medical Services had adopted or had in view a policy of concentration of hospitals in a definite area, he could have had this most valuable primary hospital as a nucleus. It will be obvious that the proper position for such a concentration of hospitals is on the seaboard, as near as possible to the point of disembarkation of our wounded.

The view has been expressed that it is desirable, from an Imperial point of view, that our soldiers should mix in the hospitals with those from other parts of the British Empire. My experience with sick people leads me to the conclusion that when people are ill they prefer to be amongst their relatives and friends, and I judge that the feelings of a sick soldier in no way differ in this respect from those of a civilian under similar circumstances. Our Canadian soldiers have on every possible occasion begged to be taken to Canadian hospitals, so that they may be placed under the care of doctors and nurses from home, with whom they have naturally more in common, and the ignoring of this natural desire by the Authorities has given rise to a good deal of bitter feeling.

I take the position very strongly that as it is our duty to see that our boys who go to the front are cared for in the best possible manner when they are wounded or sick, and as we shall ultimately be responsible for their pensions, it is imperative that we should ensure that they are under the immediate supervision of our own Medical Service.

I have thought it best, in the following Report, to make criticisms of the conditions found in the C.A.M.C. under various headings, and then to give in an Appendix the facts which justify such criticisms, and I also have the honour to make certain recommendations which it seems to me are imperative if our Medical Service is to perform its proper function.

In conclusion, I may say that evidence of a broad and comprehensive policy, which would ensure the most efficient care and treatment of our men, with due regard to the prevention of waste of public money, has been sought for in vain, and appears to be conspicuous by its absence.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,