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and Esquimalt, not only was an unusually large staff (eight officers for about 2,000 men) maintained at the former place for the acknowledged purpose of assisting the militia force in organizing its staff duties in the event of war, but also that the considerable number of Imperial officers regimentally employed at that station furnished at all times a military reserve upon which to draw for staff officers on emergency. With the assumption by Canada of the responsibility for the defence of these two places, the British troops have been replaced by Canadian troops and the supply of trained British officers formerly available for these important duties has ceased. Hence a considerable increase in the number of Canadian staff officers has been imperative.

It is further urged in the Civil Service Commissioner's Report, as an indictment against the staff of to-day, that it is (assumed by the Commissioners to be) sufficient for a force of 100,000 men. But, assuming this to be the case, 100,000 men is the force several times referred to in parliament, and accepted by parliament, as that which it is absolutely necessary for Canada to be able to place in the field in first line on an emergency. The cadres are all there, the organization is there, and the men to fill up the ranks can be found on emergency. It would, therefore, be rank folly to leave, as the only part of that force ignored and unprovided for, the staff, which has often, and justly, been described as 'the brain' of an army. The existing militia staff, if it be anything like sufficient for a force of 100,000 men, which is more than doubtful, can only be regarded as a bare minimum. In all probability, it was the want of a trained staff in the Confederate army that lost to the Confederates the battle of Gettysburg in 1863, and enabled the Federal troops to win the victory which, more than any other, saved the Union.

It may, perhaps, be of interest to note that the proportion of staff officers to men maintained in Canada and Great Britain respectively, for 1907-8 works out roughly at: In Canada 1 to 1,110, in Great Britain 1 to 1,060, of the forces provided for in peace. If the numbers of men which would be mobilized for war are considered, the Canadian proportion would be still smaller than the British proportion. It would be about 1 to 1,920 as compared with 1 to 1,280.

It may also be noted as pertinent to the subject that the cost of the military side of the headquarters of the Swiss army is nearly double that of militia headquarters of Canada, and this in spite of the fact that the rates of pay generally current in Switzerland are lower and that the economies possible under the system of universal service which there obtains tend to reduce expenditure considerably.

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