

writes: "While in England in 1912 I had felt it my duty to become acquainted with the arrangements effected by the Imperial Defence Committee and its organization for immediate, effective action upon the outbreak of war. . . In January, 1914, proceedings were taken to consummate similar arrangements in Canada. A conference of deputy heads of various departments was constituted under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Pope, then Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. The work went on during the spring of 1914. Meetings of sub-committees were subsequently held from time to time at which the necessary action to be taken by the various departments in the event of certain contingencies arising was carefully considered and determined. Each department then proceeded to develop its own line of action in detail, the whole being subsequently co-ordinated and incorporated in one scheme, indicating the course to be followed by the Government as a whole on an emergency arising. This scheme was then submitted to and approved by the Prime Minister. The taking of these precautionary measures proved most fortunate, as on the receipt of intelligence during the last few weeks of the serious situation in Europe, this Government found itself in a position to take, without the slightest delay, such action as the exigencies of the moment demanded, concurrently with His Majesty's Government and with the sister dominions of the Empire.' (Report of Committee, Aug. 17, 1914)." (1)

(1) Robert Laird Borden: His Memoirs. I. pp. 453-455
Also H. of C. Debates, August 19, 1914.