

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 35b

staff of the training ground which did exist was desirable. He lays stress upon the necessity for ample rifle range accommodation.

45. He remarks upon the drawback from which nearly all city corps suffer, viz.: that they have no open space available on which to drill within easy reach of their drill halls. This has been remarked upon in my annual reports.

46. He most strongly urges that the attendance of city corps in camp from time to time is essential, and considers that the fact that these corps do not attend camp leaves them behind the rural corps in service efficiency.

47. The acquisition of larger areas for training has always been part of the policy of the Militia Council, and should certainly be continued in the future, as funds are available. The acquisition of areas in Western Canada is now receiving special attention.

## COMMAND AND STAFF.

48. The remarks of the Imperial Inspector General upon the subject of Command and Staff are of a highly important nature.

49. Discussing, first, the position of the Inspector General, Canadian forces, he is clearly of the opinion that the Inspector General ought not to be, as the present holder of the office is, a member of the Militia Council. He considers that the training of the troops has suffered thereby.

50. As you are aware, there were special reasons for giving the present holder of the office, myself, a seat upon the Council. There will be no difficulty in following Sir John French's advice in future appointments.

51. He recommends that the officers commanding the permanent cavalry, artillery, engineers and infantry, respectively, should act as inspectors of those arms in the militia, and 'should be entirely under the orders of the Inspector General.'

52. While I agree that technical inspection of the infantry would be an advantage, I should regard it as impossible for one officer to inspect all infantry corps—two, at least, would be required. I also consider that, as now, inspectors are required for each branch of the artillery, horse and field, heavy and fortress artillery respectively. And I confess that I do not see how the officer commanding the several permanent corps can be 'entirely under the orders of the Inspector General.' They must, as Commandants of Schools of Instruction and organized units, be principally under the orders of the Officers Commanding Commands and Districts.

53. He found but little opportunity of testing the abilities of the higher officers in the duties of command, and, while saying that efficient commanders are essential, expresses a very guarded opinion as to their fitness for the higher commands which he recommends.

54. He comments upon the absence, in two cases, of the brigadier concerned and his staff from his inspection of city corps, and considers that brigadiers should be held responsible for the efficiency of the units under their command. Under present conditions, the brigadier, as a rule, attends such inspections voluntarily. To make it obligatory upon him to do so, and to hold him responsible for the efficiency of his brigade, is mainly a matter of finding money for drill pay and travelling allowance. It is no doubt desirable.

55. As regards staff officers, the Imperial Inspector General considers the officers employed 'to be well selected and to perform their various duties in a satisfactory manner,' to be well informed in administrative matters, but incomplete in their education as regards general staff duties. He recommends their being given special instruction in these duties—this last is already being partially done, and the system should be further extended.

56. He comments severely upon the ignorance of those critics in the public press who consider the number of officers employed on the staff to be too great. In