

84. *Governor General to Colonial Secretary*

TELEGRAM

Ottawa, October 18, 1914

Pending the arrival of advices from the War Office as to the composition of the second contingent, my advisers have thought it desirable to issue the following statement which has been given to the press this evening:—

As to the organization and despatch of further contingents the following conclusions have been reached:

1. From the present time until the end of the war, or so long as the War Office shall deem it advisable, Canada will keep continuously in training and under arms (in addition to the eight thousand men above mentioned) thirty thousand men.

2. As soon as arms, guns and equipment can be provided for a force of ten thousand men, that force will be despatched to Great Britain, as the first instalment of a second expeditionary force. Thereupon additional men will be enlisted so as to keep the number under training continuously at thirty thousand. This process will continue from time to time; that is to say, as soon as each force of ten thousand men is armed, equipped and despatched another force of ten thousand will be enlisted to take its place and to bring the number in training up to thirty thousand.

3. It is anticipated that the first force of ten thousand men will be despatched in December, and thereafter at regular intervals similar forces will be continuously sent forward as rapidly as they can be armed and equipped.

4. Including the forces on garrison and outpost duty we shall thus have under arms or in training about forty thousand men in Canada and, until the end of the war or until the War Office advises that further expeditionary forces are not needed, a steady stream of reinforcements will go forward from our shores to the seat of war.

5. If the expected communication from the War Office should make any modification in the above arrangement necessary that modification will be announced at a later date.

6. The Government is informed by its military advisers that it would be impossible to supply arms, guns and equipment on a larger scale than that laid down in these proposals.

7. Pending advices from the War Office as to the composition of the second contingent, which have not yet been received, infantry to the number of sixteen or twenty thousand will be immediately enlisted and the organization and training of infantry units will be proceeded with throughout the Dominion, from Halifax to Victoria.

8. As soon as the expected instructions arrive from the War Office immediate arrangements will be made for enlisting such cavalry, artillery, engineers and administrative units as the War Office may advise.

9. The organization of these units and the forces contemplated by these proposals will be under the direction of officers commanding divisions and military districts and will be carried out by them.

ARTHUR