

REPORT

BY

GENERAL SIR JOHN FRENCH, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE IMPERIAL FORCES.

UPON

HIS INSPECTION OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY FORCES.

OTTAWA, July 5, 1910.

To the Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN, K.C.M.G., &c.,
Minister of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that, in accordance with instructions received from the Imperial Army Council, I embarked for Canada on May 13, and landed at Quebec on the morning of Friday, May 20.

I reported my arrival to you by telegram, dated May 20. I was met on board the R.M.S. *Victorian* by Major General Sir Percy Lake, Inspector General of the Canadian Militia, who conveyed verbally to me your wishes and instructions.

Sir Percy handed me an itinerary, comprising a series of inspections of Canadian permanent troops and militia, which you desired me to carry out. The tour was to cover both eastern and western Canada, and was also arranged to include visits to the fortress at Halifax, the Royal Military College, and various other establishments in connection with the maintenance and efficiency of the Canadian Militia.

A copy of this itinerary is contained in Appendix 'A' of this report.

From the instructions conveyed to me I have conceived that it is your desire that I should report to you fully upon the state and condition of the Canadian Militia, with respect to its readiness either to maintain internal order within the country, to protect its frontiers against attack, or to furnish contingents to succour other parts of the Empire, in the event of the Dominion Government seeing fit to follow on the precedent set by them in the late war in South Africa. Of these, the most important and necessary rôle which the Militia have to fulfil is to defend Canada against attack by land. A force which is in a sufficiently satisfactory condition of organization, training and efficiency to render the frontier reasonably secure, will also be in the best position either to furnish Imperial contingents or to keep internal order.

In this connection I would particularly draw attention to paragraph 15, part II., of the memorandum by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, 'Proposals for so organizing the Military Forces of the Empire as to ensure their effective co-operation in the event of war,' and Appendix 'B' of the same memorandum, in which Canada