

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 35b

MOBILIZATION.

24. The Imperial Inspector General next discusses the question of mobilization, and urges early completion of the reserves of horses, stores and equipment required on mobilization, as well as the completion of the necessary mobilization regulations and plans for concentration.

25. He urges a closer supervision over the 'Service Rolls' kept by Squadron, Battery, Company and Corps Commanders, and recommends partial test mobilizations from time to time.

26. He points out the extreme importance of prompt mobilization and concentration of troops when an emergency arises, and recommends the establishment of a 'Railway War Council' to be charged with drawing up the necessary 'Time Tables.'

27. He declares that the number of Staff Officers available for working out the necessary mobilization arrangements is quite inadequate, and urges the early employment of a number of trained and selected officers for this purpose.

28. Nothing but want of funds and the scarcity of trained Staff Officers has prevented the Council from carrying out this work already. So far as the one Staff Officer available has been able to spare time from his other duties, the preliminary arrangements have, already, been tentatively framed. But there can be no doubt that this is a matter of urgent importance. So soon as ever the general plans take definite shape—but not, I think, before—the Railway War Council should be constituted.

29. The scarcity of trained Staff Officers constitutes the real difficulty of dealing with mobilization. The attempt to work out mobilization questions without really competent officers is mere waste of time. I should recommend the following procedure—First, obtain from England the two trained General Staff Officers whom the Inspector General states to be required at Headquarters. Name a selected Canadian officer to work with them as Administrative Staff Officer, and form the three into a Standing Mobilization Committee. Then let them proceed to frame the mobilization plans, under the supervision of the C.G.S., keeping in constant touch through him, with Commands and Districts outside Headquarters. Then, as opportunity offers, attach to them selected Staff Officers of Commands or Districts, whom they should train to carry out and keep up to date the local mobilization work.

TRAINING.

30. Turning to the subject of training, the Imperial Inspector General considers the standard of training efficiency reached by the Permanent Force to be satisfactory, but points out that the peace establishment of the various units is not large enough to enable them to attain really perfect field efficiency, and, at the same time, properly supervise the training and instruction of the Active Militia.

31. He, therefore, recommends additions to the strength of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. As you are aware, I have, in my reports, frequently represented this aspect of the case—and I am persuaded that the other branches of the Permanent Force, the infantry especially, are equally in need of augmentation.

32. Turning to the training of the Active Militia, Sir John French appears to have been favourably impressed with the system of training of and degree of efficiency reached by the Artillery, so far as he was able to see it, but he was struck by the absence of uniformity in the standard reached by the other arms.

33. He thinks that the proper rôle of cavalry in a country like eastern Canada has not been correctly appreciated by the force itself, and hence its training has