

port, commissariat, medical service, hospitals of all kinds, the enlargement to an unprecedented degree of the Pay and Records Office—all this entailed great organization. We must also take into account the enormous area over which this enlistment has taken place, and the enormous distance over which our troops have to be transported. Those enlisted in Canada have to be sent across the ocean to France, Belgium, Greece, Egypt, or wherever they may be engaged, and the transportation across the Atlantic has of itself been a tremendous task. The Canadian forces of more than 400,000 men are scattered to-day over half this continent, and in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Greece and Egypt.

The reorganization of the Quartermaster's Department, provision of field ambulances, dressing stations, stationary hospitals, base hospitals, and the organization of the commissariat on an unprecedented scale, all this involved unceasing attention and effort.

I might give illustrations which indicate what has been done in other directions. Thirteen field ambulances and seven general hospitals are now on the Continent of Europe, and nine stationary hospitals with the Canadian forces overseas, besides sanitary sections, and depots for medical supplies and laboratories. Then we have had to undertake, and lately on an increasing scale, the care of men returned from Great Britain who were wounded in the tremendous fighting on the Somme. As every one knows, the casualties on our side in that battle were enormous, and the casualties in the enemy ranks were still greater, as with good reason it is believed. It has been found necessary to bring back to Canada as many of our men as possible in order that they may have active treatment in our own hospitals. The hospitals in Great Britain are cleared to that extent. I have asked the Military Hospitals Commission for some information on this subject, which I shall communicate to the House as the magnitude of this work is not generally understood in this country. My hon. friend the ex-Minister of Militia and Defence (Sir Sam Hughes) referred to the Military Hospitals Commission in the correspondence, and my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) alluded to it also, as a commission which had been a failure, and had not accomplished much. As a matter of fact, the Military Hospitals Commission was constituted by my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Militia and Defence himself. It was not through the initiative of any other member of the

[Sir Robert Borden.]

Government that that Commission was constituted in the first instance, and I cannot understand why my hon. friend should have alluded to it in that way.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I am not aware that I have ever said the Commission was a failure. What I stated was that the constitution of the Commission could be greatly improved, and I think the Prime Minister will agree with me that it should be.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Perhaps I may have misunderstood my hon. friend's allusion in the correspondence. I am glad he thinks the commission is doing a great work. I entirely agree with him in that. There are four classes of patients dealt with by the commission in hospitals and convalescent homes in various parts of the country; (1) treatment of active cases; (2) convalescents; (3) men suffering from tuberculosis; (4) special purposes, such as shell-shock, rheumatism, etc. The commission has under operation or under construction for the above purposes the following institutions: Number of hospitals or homes for class (1) 16, with accommodation available now or in the near future for 2,600 men; for class (2) 27 institutions, with accommodation now or in the near future for 4,700; for class (3), 18 institutions, with accommodation now or in the near future for 900; for class (4), 4 institutions, with accommodation now or in the near future for 200. The numbers which I have given correspond to the classes I mentioned a moment ago. The number of men who have passed through the hands of the commission to date is approximately 9,500. There are now 2,211 patients in the various institutions, and 1,004 out-patients receiving medical attention in connection with these institutions. The commission has established at Toronto an artificial limb factory, and all men returning from the front requiring artificial limbs are now sent direct to this institution.

A large number of buildings have been placed freely at the disposal of the commission by their owners. In other cases a rental has been asked covering only their interest charges. Owing to the recent fighting on the Somme the commission has been obliged to arrange for a considerable increase in the hospital accommodation in Canada. This has entailed also certain capital outlays. Had this not been undertaken it would have been necessary to build further hospitals in England. The commission now has in sight sufficient accom-