



MINISTERS OFFICE

OTTAWA Dec. 3rd., 1919.

*Mr King & House Comm 41807*

*W. L. King - War Records & Trophies*

Dear Mr. King,-

Replying to your letter of the 28th instant, I know nothing of any proposal that the Federal Government should erect memorials or monuments in the several provinces.

By Order-in-Council P.C. 3043 dated December 11th, 1918, the Commission on War Records and Trophies was constituted. A further Order-in-Council P.C. 939 dated May 5th, 1919 somewhat extended the scope of the Commission's duties. I enclose copies of both these Orders-in-Council.

You will note from para. (I) of P.C. 3043 that the Commission was (a) to report upon the provision of accommodation for records and trophies, and (b) to collect information and report upon the policy to be adopted regarding distribution of trophies to provinces, etc. The report under (a) has been made. I enclose a copy for your information. The report under (b) has not yet been completed. The Director of War Trophies (Colonel Doughty) states that it is impossible for the Commission to deal with the matter or make any distribution until it has ascertained what number of trophies are available for disposal. These are still coming forward in large quantities; a thousand sacks were received the other day and twenty car loads are expected early this month with probably another twenty before the end of the month.

I think you may take it for granted that field guns and other trophies will be allotted in suitable quantity to Prince Edward Island.

With regard to the report of the Commission I hope you will feel disposed to familiarize yourself with the situation. In the press of other matters the Government has not yet formulated a definite policy. No doubt the recommendations made in the report will be subject to modification. For example I understand that the Committee of the War Memorials Fund, in which is vested at the present time the wonderful collection of war paintings, is desirous to see erected at Ottawa a separate building to house these paintings. Such a building would in the opinion of the Committee be itself complete and unique war memorial. It has been mentioned as a possibility that the Committee might be able to provide the necessary money in whole or in part.

Regarding documents we have been able as a temporary measure to secure fire proof accommodation for the more important of these.

At the moment of writing the plans attached to the Commission's report are not at hand but I should welcome an opportunity of showing them to you and discussing the whole question some time at your convenience.

The Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G.  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA.

Yours sincerely,