

I discovered, partly through my travels through Government offices and partly on the outside that, at the moment, a change of War Ministers was coming about and the announcement of a decision regarding the Expeditionary Force was on the carpet, which accounted pretty well for the impossibility of seeing senior officers such as the C.G.S. On Monday I gathered about lunch time that that officer had been at a continuous meeting since 8.30 a.m.

On Wednesday morning I proceeded to Toronto and went about my own business.

Not hearing anything further I got in touch with Col. Dewar by telephone on Friday evening and he said he would ring me later. He rang me later and said that the C.G.S. had been approached and that all would be well and that the details could be settled with him on Monday the 25th.

On Saturday I went again to St. Catherine's to complete arrangements with my school and on Saturday night went over to Ottawa. As the Department of National Defence was open, I was able to make contact with Col. Dewar and one or two of his juniors on Sunday, when we brought matters to a further stage and I wired my Commissioner for confirmation. Col. Dewar said that the arms would not cost us anything but would be given us on loan, this being the Canadian Government's own idea. I had asked for them only on the basis of payment. The other equipment was to be on a payment basis. In relation to articles which I thought we could provide here, I asked for samples only. (See annexed letter).¹

On Monday, having confirmation from St. John's, I got a letter typed to Col. Dewar confirming the situation. Copy of this letter is hereto annexed.¹ They checked this over and said it was all in order though they did not give me any formal confirming letter.

I found revolvers unobtainable either from Government or privately pending repeal of the United States embargo or supplies from some other source. I was told that they do not equip military anti-sabotage guards with revolvers. Messrs. William Scully, Ltd., of Montreal, hoped to get out a small shipment of revolvers from the United States before long as police, not military, equipment. They are to let us know when they have any.

Upon my second visit to Ottawa, I went to Dr. Skelton's office again re recruiting. He was away at the moment but I got in touch with Mr. Beaudry, next in order to him, who made contact with him and telephoned later in the day that he was not able to give any definite answer about recruiting yet. Mr. Beaudry also made an enquiry for me, at the request of my Commissioner, as to whether Government in Canada bears the expense of guarding industrial plants. He telephoned me later to say that Government guards only public works, such as bridges, railways and canals, leaving industrial plants to provide their own protection.

In moving about Montreal with my brother, who is superintendent of a large electrical company, I noted un-uniformed guards in some of his plants,

¹ Non reproduite.

¹ Not printed.