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GENERAL FRENCH'S REPORT.

THE Militia of Canada is composed of splendid material, but is insufficiently organized and inadequately trained is the essence of General French's report. The report will impress every impartial reader with the conviction that it is a painstaking and fair criticism by an exceptionally able critic. There is nothing in the nature of censure for anybody, but much in the way of suggestion. Such a document cannot be disposed of by pigeon-holing and we rather suspect that Sir Frederick Borden has already been active in preparing plans for putting some of General French's proposed reforms into operation. Rome was not built in a day, and it is not to be expected that such a radical reorganization as is indicated can be carried out all at once.

The General shows a scrupulous regard for local susceptibilities, and a thorough appreciation of the difference between conditions in Canada and in England; and between professional and citizen soldiers. He advises among other things a readjustment of the various arms of the service, so that they may bear the right proportion to each other, which will involve the doubling of the present field artillery. He thinks too much time is devoted to ceremonial training for use in time of peace, but useless in time of war. He wants an adequate system of mobilization organized. This is where Von Moltke's army shone in the Franco-German war. The drawing of first blood in a fight, the first victories in a war have a disheartening effect upon the enemy; and in the case of a country situated like Canada, might have the effect of holding the invader in check until the arrival of the Imperial troops. This is entirely a question of rapid and efficient mobilization. Under existing conditions General French declares that an attempt at mobilization could lead to nothing but chaos and confusion.

Contrary to the popular impression General French does not consider that the staff at Militia Headquarters is over-manned. He declares that numerically the staff is inadequate to the work required of it; and in view of the immense amount of organization pointed out as being necessary, this is not difficult to believe. When war was declared between France and Germany all Von Moltke had to do was to open a drawer at Berlin and hand out the orders, which set the whole German army in motion en route for Paris. Transportation, ordnance, supplies, medical service, the training of drafts and reinforcements, had all been provided for. However, it is not usual

for war departments to publish full particulars of their arrangements for mobilization, and the Militia Department at Ottawa may be in a more advanced state of preparedness for war than is publicly known.

THE LANSDOWNE AMENDMENT TO THE VETO BILL.

LORD Lansdowne's amendment to the Veto Bill seems to have annoyed, as well as surprised, the ministerialists. This is evidently because it indicates that a clear cut issue is to be presented to the electorate, in which there will be no possibility of appealing on one ground to one set of electors and on another ground to another set. The antagonism to the House of Lords comes from an unholy alliance between political elements that have no natural sympathy with each other but each of which is ready to unite with the others to carry its own particular point. The home rulers, the Lloyd-George budgeteers, the House of Lords reformers, the Socialists, are not particularly enamoured of each other; they are united, not for a common cause, but that each may help the other to victory. Lord Lansdowne's amendment makes it exceedingly difficult for ministerial candidates to mix and muddle up these discordant elements. The simple issue presented to every English and Scotch and Irish elector is practically "Do you want a Second Chamber or not?" He proposes, among other things, that the Lords abandon their right to amend money bills, and that the vexed question whether any bill is purely a money bill, be referred to a joint committee of both Houses with the Speaker in the chair exercising a casting vote. Any voter who does not want the House of Lords to exercise the powers that would be left to it under this arrangement simply prefers a parliament with a single chamber, or with a purely elective Upper House. Lord Lansdowne's amendment, taken in connection with the scheme of reorganization already adopted by the peers, involves a radical change in the British constitution, and we doubt if the British electorate will be disposed just now to go much farther in the way of "reform."

COUNT LEO TOLSTOI.

THE greatest Russian that ever lived; one of the greatest men that ever lived, passed beyond the veil when Leo Tolstoi died. The grave discussions in government and Greek Church circles, as to his right to Christian burial and