

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 35b

al feels himself unable to report on it in detail, but remarks generally that, while the existing forces are very small in proportion, the direction which the organization of the military forces generally is taking appears sound.

80. He remarks upon the two camps of instruction which he visited in the west. While criticising many shortcomings in their work, he was struck by the aptitude of both officers and men.

81. He repeats his recommendations that cavalry training should be extended to 16 days, and that the horse supply question should be studied, and strongly advises the acquisition of a training ground in the west like that at Petawawa. This has, I understand, already been arranged.

SUMMARY.

82. Part III. of the report is a summary in which he again urges the importance of a sound peace organization and staff system, competent commanders and enforcement of regulations, especially as regards insisting on the fulfilment of the full term of engagement, and he repeats that in these respects that our system fails.

83. From the foregoing remarks it will be seen that there are no proposals contained in Sir John French's report the adoption of which would involve any departure in principle from the policy which, under your direction, the Militia Council has pursued since its inception in 1904.

84. As has been shown, the most important of those proposals, the recommendations on the subject of organization, contemplate not a change of system, but a development such as naturally follows from the lines upon which our present organization is framed—indeed, one which was contemplated when that organization was decided upon.

85. Similarly, the recommendations regarding mobilization merely urge the early completion of measures and plans already in progress, viz.: the acquisition of the necessary reserves of material and the elaboration of the plans and arrangements for placing the militia force upon a field service footing when the emergency arises. The constitution of a Railway War Council is a step entirely in harmony with this policy.

86. As in the case of organization, so, in the matter of command and staff, the Imperial Inspector General's proposals involve no change of principle. The Canadian system of command and staff is based upon the Imperial one, and merely differs from it in that we have not yet reached the same stage of development, and that our number of staff officers is decidedly smaller. But the staff duties are conducted upon just the same lines. Indeed, at the Imperial conferences of 1907 and 1909 the Dominion government pledged itself to adopt the Imperial system of both organization and staff duties, and has been steadily working to this end; only conditions of finance and lack of trained personnel have delayed more rapid progress.

87. It is these considerations of expense and of the supply of trained staff officers which still, as pointed out in the body of my memorandum, govern the question of how far Sir John French's main recommendations, i.e., those connected with organization, mobilization, command and staff, can at once be carried into effect.

88. Of his other recommendations, those regarding the question of horse supply, the acquisition of satisfactory training areas and the expansion of the Royal Military College also involve material expenditure, and of these the first named is almost inseparably connected with the subject of mobilization.

89. In all these cases the extent to which progress in carrying out his recommendations can be made and the period which must elapse before they can become effective depends entirely upon how far Parliament is prepared to provide for the expenditure necessary.

90. His recommendations under the headings of Training, Supply and Qualifications of Regimental Officers, N. C. Officers and Men, and Schools of Instruction are