

Reorgani-  
zation of  
militia  
administra-  
tion.

militia authorities at headquarters are now charged with the administration of the force, which means that while they assume the responsibility for directing what is to be done in all questions affecting the militia, the executive commands and the orders for carrying them out are the duties of the executive commanders outside the headquarters staff office and in the military districts throughout the country. To ensure the proper performance of these duties certain of the existing military districts are grouped together and placed under the command of officers selected for their experience and ability, who are charged within the limits of the new commands with the executive duties formerly exercised at headquarters by the General Officer Commanding. It is hoped that the exercise of these powers will train senior officers in initiative in the best possible way, and that the creation of these commands will also open a far wider prospect of suitable employment to the senior officers of the militia than has hitherto been attainable. Four superior military districts, designated commands to distinguish them from existing districts, have been constituted as follows: The Western Ontario Command, with headquarters at Toronto; the Eastern Ontario Command, with headquarters at Kingston; the Quebec Command, with headquarters at Montreal; and the Maritime Provinces Command, with headquarters at Halifax. The duties of the officers appointed to these higher commands are fully defined in the Minute of Council, and the rates of pay and allowances are made commensurate with the increased responsibilities imposed upon them.

Inspection of  
Canadian  
militia by an  
Imperial  
officer.

Concerning the inspection of the militia, the Colonial Secretary in a despatch to the Governor General of April 17th observed: "I note that section 31 of the act provides for the regular periodical inspection of the militia, but it appears to his Majesty's Government that occasional inspections of the Canadian defences and forces by an officer of the highest standing and recent experience in the regular army, such as the Inspector General of the Forces, will be advantageous, since in the event of war Imperial troops might be sent to Canada to co-operate with the militia, and the value of any plans of action for the combined forces must depend largely on the efficiency of the Canadian forces and on their powers of co-operation with the regular army in regard to training, organization and equipment. Such occasional inspection would not only place at the disposal