

of the Imperial and Canadian Governments the best independent expert advice as to the organization and efficiency of the Canadian militia, but would afford the officers entrusted with the duty of making them invaluable opportunities for acquiring at first hand the knowledge of the personnel and organization of the military forces of Canada, which would be essential to their effective co-operation with Imperial troops in time of war." This proposal was approved by a Minute of Council under date of June 14th, which was duly communicated to the Colonial Secretary by the Governor General.<sup>1</sup> The Inspector General of the British Army is His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

Inspection of  
Canadian  
militia.

A proposition in which the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia took the first step was favorably considered by the Home Government, the Canadian Government and the Indian Government during the year, namely, the introduction of a system of interchange of Imperial and Colonial military officers. The Militia Council of Canada have strongly endorsed

Interchange  
of Imperial  
and Colonial  
officers.

<sup>1</sup> Just as this Book is going through the press a new Army Order has been published in London formally constituting a General Staff for the British Army, in accordance with the recommendations of the Esher Committee, which marks an important step in the reconstitution of the British military system. This order defines broadly the functions of the General Staff at headquarters and in the commands and districts, how it is to be formed and maintained, the duration of appointments in it, and the recognition that approved service on the Staff will receive. A memorandum by Mr. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, discusses the general principle underlying the formation of the General Staff, whose business it is, he says, to ensure that the military system in every part is always up to date and that military science in all its branches receives adequate protection, and whose name implies that it will be just as much responsible for the training and war organization of the auxiliary forces as of the regular army. And referring to the ideal relation of the General Staff to the Colonies, Mr. Haldane says:

"Provided the General Staff can avoid the suspicion of wishing to interfere in purely administrative matters, there is no reason why its influence should not extend ultimately far beyond these shores and India. The self-governing colonies will, it is certain, never brook interference in matters connected with the administration and the finance of their own military forces. But it is perhaps not too much to hope that they may in time welcome the assistance of a body of highly-trained experts, drawn from all parts of the Empire, whose concern is mainly the war organization and the war training of the Imperial forces as a whole. Should such an ideal ever be realized, the new General Staff will become a real bond of union between the widely-scattered military forces of the Empire, giving to them all common ideas even in matters of detail, so that, if ever the necessity should arise, they could readily be concentrated to form a really homogeneous Imperial Army."