

the proposal, to be limited for the present to three officers,—one with the Army either in Great Britain or one of the Colonies, one with India and one with Australia. A proposal of the Canadian Government to the effect that Imperial staff officers should be sent to Canada in place of any Canadian officers who may pass the Staff College and receive appointments either in England or India was agreed to by the Imperial Army Council. In the opinion of the Army Council such an interchange of selected officers cannot fail to be beneficial to the military forces of the Empire as a whole, and the Colonial Secretary heartily associated himself with this opinion in communicating it to the Governor General.

Canadian  
sealers' claims  
against Russia  
settled.

The claims of Canadian sealers for the seizure and confiscation by order of the Russian Government of six sealing vessels in the North Pacific ocean in 1892 has been finally arranged. In 1904 the matter was referred for settlement by diplomatic procedure, in which each country was to be represented by one delegate. Russia however sent two delegates to the conference, which met at London, while Canada was represented by one delegate, Mr. Henry Alexander Little of Woodstock. The claims as originally advanced by the Canadian Government for the six vessels amounted to \$139,812.50. The Russian delegates agreed to acknowledge the claims of two of the vessels for an amount of \$44,701 with interest at six per cent from the date of seizure or arrest, on condition of the withdrawal of the other four claims. The Canadian delegate recommended to his Government this basis of settlement as the only one which appeared possible, and after much correspondence with the Home Government it has been accepted in this current year as a settlement of the whole matter with Russia. In a Minute of Council of December 29, 1904, the view of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was submitted for consideration as to how far Canada might be justified in withdrawing claims filed by the owners of the vessels which for years had been pressed upon the Imperial Government, and in turn pressed by them upon the Russian Government, and to what extent, if any, such action might render the Canadian Government liable to the claimants for the satisfaction of their claims under the peculiar circumstances. But while His Majesty's Government appreciated the difficulty in which the Canadian Ministers were placed by the stipulation of the Russian Govern-