

MILITARY HOSPITALS COMMISSION

care of the insane, treatment of men suffering from shell shock, manufacture of artificial limbs, re-education or vocational education of men who pass through the hospitals, finding of employment for discharged men. All men passing through the Commission's institutions are required to take some educational course unless excused on medical grounds. Men whose disability, caused or aggravated by service, prevents them from resuming their former trade may claim free training for a new occupation. About 1,500 such applications have been approved up to the end of November, 1917. Such men receive pay and allowances in accordance with a special scale. If a soldier, who has been discharged, subsequently requires treatment for a disability due to his service, he may be re-attested and receive the pay and allowances of his rank during the treatment. In finding employment for discharged men the Commission is assisted by a commission or committee in each province. The number of men receiving care and treatment under the Commission was 10,953 on November 15, 1917. Returned soldiers have been divided into three classes, viz., (1) men for immediate discharge without pension; (2) men whose condition may be benefited by further medical treatment or rest in a convalescent home, hospital or sanatorium; and (3) men having a permanent disability which would not be benefited by further medical treatment, and whose cases are considered by the Pensions Board with a view to pension. Up to March 31, 1917, the number of men returned was 13,826, of whom 2,891 were of class 1, 9,125 were of class 2, 828 were of class 3, 864 were men not classed as invalids, and of 119 there was no record. The total had increased by October 31, 1917, to 29,092, of whom 18,099 were invalids coming under the care of the Commission. In May, 1917, the various institutions available or under construction throughout Canada numbered 110, providing accommodation for 14,949 cases. At the end of September, 1917, there were 113 institutions in use, of which 71 were operated by the Commission, 21 were new centres provided, and 45 were remodelled during the year 1917. A Disablement Fund has been started by the Commission, contributions to which have been received amounting to \$125,550. The principal of the amounts contributed has been invested, and it is proposed to apply the fund for the relief of men and their families who, without having any claim on the Government, may be in financial difficulties.

Military Organization.—On November 11, 1916, General Sir Sam Hughes, who had been Minister of Militia and Defence since October, 1911, tendered his resignation of this office at the request of the Prime Minister, conveyed by letter of November 9, 1916, in consequence of disagreement on matters connected with the overseas administration of the Department. The questions in dispute were referred to in a series of letters exchanged between the Prime Minister and Sir Sam Hughes from October 18, 1916, to November 11, 1916, and published on November 15, 1916. In one of these letters, dated October 18, 1916, Sir Robert Borden wrote: "I thoroughly appreciate the great ability, the wonderful energy and the unequalled resourcefulness which you have placed at the service of the country ever since the outbreak of