

COS417/2.3

C.A.M.C., Episode Aug 26 1916 /

Written in pencil by G.W. on some blue paper.

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(T.G.) died in Ind. Aug. 20
once in Japan in 1900. Major C.A.M.C. Mo of Com. Gen
Supt. of the Home - Annual Institution

From the funeral of Prof. Brodie at Golders Green, I drove to town with a group of C.A.M.C. officers who talked of a committee appointed by Sir Sam Hughes to investigate the Med. Dept. of the Canadian Army in England, the Chairman of which was Dr. Herb. Bruce of Toronto. There had been rumours for months that the minister was after Surg. Gen. Jones head but the men were bitter in their criticism of the manner of appointing and the performance of the commission. I had had a letter from Bruce asking if he could come and see me and a day had been arranged but I was called away. My relations with B had always been most friendly and I knew him as a surgeon of first class repute. On my return I immediately wrote a friendly letter asking B if the statement I had heard were true - i.e. whether the com. had been appointed without consultation with Surg.-Gen. Jones as to its advisability or the personal. B. resented my enquiry (Letter a) and referred me to the minister to whom I wired asking the same question (T.1). As will be seen by the replies to my letters and wires neither Bruce nor Sam Hughes answered my questions. I then asked Gen. Jones himself and his reply is given. Meanwhile a very awkward thing happened; as I had for long hoped to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the arrival of the members of the C.A.M.C. by giving a dinner to Gen. Jones, the invitations to which were issued before I knew of his troubles. At his request they were withdrawn when the report of the Commission was issued and Gen. Jones was removed in protest. I resigned my position as Consultant at various Canadian Hospitals and I sent the cables (1 &) to the Prime Minister in Ottawa whose reply is at (blanc). When the report of the Commission was published broadcast in the Canadian papers I cabled my old friend, Sir George Graham of the Montreal Star a protest. Meanwhile Col. Bruce and (blanc) members of the Commission were installed at 86 Strand, virtually in charge of the C.A.M.C. Really nothing more Gilbertesque has ever happened in the profession. A group of a man's subordinates set in judgement on his work, turn him out and take on his job. Fortunately the Cabinet in Canada and the country could no longer stand Gen. Hughes, who like Haman was hung on his own gallows. Jones was ordered to remain. Perley was put in charge of the War Dept. in England, and an independent Commission was appointed to report on Bruce's report. Except on minor points Jones was upheld and reinstated. So far as I have been concerned this unpleasant job was a protest against what I felt was a piece of rank injustice. It was mixed up too with another matter at Cliveden - the removal of the Matron in the report of the Commission at a time when the C.O. and the Quartermaster were charged with malfeasance as she could have had nothing whatever to do with it. I felt this a disgraceful action and protested warmly. She had the satisfaction of having an official statement that there were no charges against her and was sent to No. 1 General Hospital in France. 4