

# EMERGENCY MEETING CANADIAN CABINET

To Be Held to Consider War  
Situation--20,000 Men May  
Be Sent to England.

## CONNAUGHT STARTS EAST

In Close Touch With War Office--  
Minister Militia May Command  
Canadian Troops.

(Free Press Special.)

Ottawa, July 31.—Sir Robert Borden will reach Ottawa tomorrow, and in the afternoon an emergency meeting of the cabinet will be held to consider the war situation.

It is expected that a message will be sent to the British government tomorrow formally assuring them that Canada is prepared to place 20,000 men on English soil at the earliest possible date, and 100,000 men within a month if needed.

The British war office is in constant communication with Rideau Hall and this government, and it is understood that the government has been asked how much wheat Canada could supply to the British army.

The Duke of Connaught is keeping in close touch with the British war office. It was reported here tonight that he is coming back to Ottawa from the west to advise the government regarding mobilization, his experience as a former commander-in-chief of the British army rendering his counsel invaluable.

It is understood that Col. Hughes, minister of militia and defence, has intimated to the government his desire to resign from the cabinet, and he will be in the first Canadian contingent should the need arise.

Thousands of Austrians who are naturalized Canadians are preparing to leave Canada and go to fight for Austria. If England enters the conflict, measures will be taken to prevent these men from leaving the country, as being hostile to the Motherland. The government's deportation system will then cease.

### Equipment the Difficulty.

The chief difficulty confronting the militia department in connection with preparations for the help of Great Britain is not men, but equipment. Many messages have been received from officers of militia regiments all over the Dominion offering to go on active service, and there is little doubt that if need came, at least 100,000 men could be mobilized with little delay. But at the present crisis it is doubtful if there is a sufficient number of properly trained officers or sufficient equipment of all kinds to meet the need of a Canadian contingent of more than 20,000 men ordered out for immediate service. The lack of properly trained officers is the biggest handicap of the department at the present moment. There are ample supplies of rifles and ammunition, but it is anticipated that there will be difficulty in regard to the other necessary equipment for active service.

The permanent force of nearly 3,000 men of the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Royal Canadian Engineers and

Artillery corps are ready for war at any time. All leave of absence has been cancelled, and arrangements are being made for promptly mobilizing at least a considerable portion of these permanent units at Quebec and Halifax. They would be first to be ordered out for active service, and Halifax and Québec would be the ports from which transports would leave for England. The minister of militia is expected to be in Quebec on Sunday or Monday to look after defence preparations there.

### Naval Department Busy.

The naval department is also busy with warlike preparations, though unfortunately the ten cruisers and destroyers arranged for in 1911 under the Laurier naval service list, and which might have been available now, are still represented only by the accepted plans pigeon-holed by the present government.

The Rainbow is at Esquimaut with steam up and manned by 300 British naval reserves and the men taken from the Niobe. As it happens, there is now only one German cruiser on the Pacific coast, and the Rainbow is the more heavily armed vessel of the two. She is the only present protection of the Pacific coast, but under the present circumstances she is a very valuable defence asset. The Niobe would be similarly useful on the Atlantic coast to oppose any roving hostile gunboats or small cruiser, but, unfortunately, the Niobe is now entirely depleted of men. It may be that England can spare enough naval reserves to man the Niobe, but it is more than doubtful whether any trained men will be allowed to leave.

In the event of war taking place, the department of naval affairs will at once take control of wireless stations.