

# THRONGS BESIEGE CONSULATES HERE

## Sunday Was Day of Anxiety for Subjects of European Powers Resident in City.

Practically all foreign consulates were open in Winnipeg on Sunday, and were besieged all day by men who either desired to offer their services in warfare, or who were looking for official information.

During the day the French and Swiss consulates received notification to have all subjects eligible for service return home, and there was an immediate response from all parts of Winnipeg and St. Boniface. The German consul has not yet received official word calling men home for duty, and the Austria-Hungarian consul is keeping a discreet silence. German and Austrian residents in Winnipeg have volunteered their services in large numbers.

Until it is officially announced that Great Britain is involved in the great international struggle, and until official orders to this effect are received from their various governments none of the Winnipeg consuls will return home.

### Puzzling Problem.

A problem that is occupying the attention of Europeans in Winnipeg just now is whether they will be permitted by unfriendly nations to return to their homes for duty. The impression prevails that the United States as a neutral country will refuse to allow them to be transported on American vessels. In addition to the general fear of being detained en route to their homes, the view is taken that there will be a great shortage of vessels for transportation owing to the steamships of many lines being pressed into service.

### French Consul Notified.

Captain Andre, French consul in Winnipeg, received official notification yesterday morning from General Consul Regnaud, of Montreal, that a general mobilization had been decreed. All French residents in Winnipeg and St. Boniface eligible to be called upon, were notified. At the office of the consul in the Royal bank building, the scene was one of considerable excitement. Within a few hours of receipt of the mobilization order, over 200 Frenchmen had responded to the call to arms.

It was stated that about 1,500 likely to be called upon are resident in Manitoba. Those resident in the province would be notified by letter as also would Frenchmen living in Saskatchewan. It is the intention of the French consul to have the reservists and volunteers sent to the seat of war at the earliest possible moment. Steps are being taken to have them transported on the next sailing of the *Mauretania*.

### Swiss Mobilizing.

Switzerland is mobilizing its troops. Official notifications have been sent to every Swiss consul in all parts of the world, that all citizens liable for military service must report immediately for duty.

The notice was received by John Erzinger, Sr., Swiss consul in Winnipeg, reads as follows:

"Notice is hereby given to the Swiss population of Canada that the Swiss federal council, based on its decree of Nov. 22nd, 1912, has issued orders today for the general mobilization of the entire Swiss army "Elite and Landwehr." All Swiss citizens liable to military service and residing in Canada, are therefore, commanded to sail immediately to join the colors and to report without delay in Switzerland, to the military unit they are incorporated in or to the staff they are belonging to; the consul general of Switzerland in Montreal draws every soldier that he is to consider this notice as an official marching order and that every citizen is expected to fulfill his duty towards his country; any soldier failing to obey these orders will be dealt with according to the Swiss military law.

"JOHN ERZINGER,

"Consul."

"Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 1, 1914."

### One Hundred in Winnipeg.

Swiss Consul Erzinger says that there are about 100 citizens of Switzerland in Winnipeg, to whom the call to arms has reference, among them being several army officers. Arrangements are being made for their transportation to Switzerland which is at the present time a matter of some difficulty.

Saturday the Swiss national holiday was celebrated by a banquet at the Royal Alexandra and as the official notification to the consul was received during the evening, it was read at the banquet, so that already the majority of the Swiss in Winnipeg who are affected by the order, are fully aware of the fact and are making the best

arrangements they can, preparatory to obeying the summons.

### Switzerland Surrounded.

Switzerland, by reason of its location is particularly interested in the war. Should a general European war be the result of the kaiser's declaration, Switzerland would be surrounded by the nations engaged in the struggle, being closed in on the north by the German empire, on the east by Austria, on the south by Italy and on the west by France. It has a population of about 4,000,000. The country depends for defence upon a national militia and service in the force is compulsory between the ages of 17 and 48. Actual service commences at the age of 20 and the men in the first twelve years of service constitute the first line of defence called the "Elite," the next eight years service is spent in the "Landwehr," and the remaining eight in the "Landsturm." After the initial years of training in which service in the field is compulsory for a period of from 65 to 90 days, according to the branch of service, every militiaman must keep up musketry practice every year and a force of approximately a quarter of a million men can be called upon to defend the country. There are fortifications for the defence of the country on the south frontier in the St. Gothard pass and other fortifications have been constructed at St. Maurice and Martigny in the Rome valley.

### No Word at German Embassy.

Secretary Maron, of the German embassy in Winnipeg, stated yesterday that as yet they had received no official orders from home of any kind, consequently no action will be taken until instructions are received. In the event of Great Britain being brought into the struggle the German consul here will at once return home, in which case it is quite likely that the United States consul will take charge of the German embassy. No confirmation of this latter statement could be obtained from the United States authorities.

### Germans Here Agitated.

German subjects in Winnipeg are very greatly agitated over the turn events have taken and a very great number of them have called at the consulate to offer their services. Included among these are several reserve men, who are compelled under the terms of their agreements to return home in the

event of war. Some of these men who were interviewed yesterday were anxiously enquiring whether they would be allowed by the fleets of England, France and Russia to return home. They were of the opinion that the United States being neutral would refuse to allow their transportation on her vessels.

At the Austrian consulate it was announced that there was nothing whatever to be made public. It is learned that many Austrians are presenting themselves at the office for service.