

DUKE IMPRESSED WITH MILITARY CAMP

No Favoritism in Appointing Officers—'Will Have to Scratch Gravel or Get,' Says Col. Hughes

Minister of Militia Declares Shooting by Montreal Sentry was justified—Legion of Foreigners.

Ottawa, Aug. 16.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, and Col. Sam Hughes, minister of militia, with a number of staff officers, returned to the capital this evening by two special trains after a few hours' visit to the mobilization camp at Valcartier this morning. His royal highness was greatly impressed with the site chosen for the camp, and will return there as soon as the troops are mobilized. Col. Hughes stated tonight that the water supply would be ready by the middle of the week, and everything would then be in readiness to start the troop trains which have already been arranged for from every divisional headquarters and mobilization centre.

Commenting upon the work at the camp, the minister said that the three or four hundred Austrians, Italians and Germans working for the contractors had not been deterred by rain, or other conditions of long hours and hard labor. Some of the Canadians, however, had refused to work in the rain, and it was only when summary measures were taken that they could be induced to stick on the job at the point of the bayonet.

Legion of Foreigners.

The question of raising a foreign legion of Russians, Servians, Montenegrins and French reservists to accompany the Canadian army division will be taken up by the militia council this week. Hundreds of these foreign allies now in Canada have applied to go on active service. Sir Richard McBride telegraphed from Victoria today that there were at least 700 of them in British Columbia, as well as many imperial army reserve officers, who wanted to know how they could go to the front.

Colonel Hughes intimated that a large number of extra officers will be taken to Valcartier with a view to allowing greater freedom of choice in picking out the best men. No officer, if he does not show his ability to properly handle troops under active service conditions, will be entrusted with the lives of Canada's soldiers. As Colonel Hughes expressed it in characteristic language: "At Valcartier they will either have to scratch gravel or get out. There will be no favoritism and no politics."

Sentry Justified in Shooting.

In reference to the shooting of a man in Montreal on Saturday by a sentry on guard at the armories, Colonel Hughes said that on the face of it the sentry was justified in shooting as he did. The minister said he had been told that the man, who had attempted to force his way into the armory, was armed with a revolver, and that if he had got past the sentry there were hundreds of others around who might also have rushed in. The sentry, he stated, was guarding ammunition and rifles, and had, therefore, a heavy responsibility upon his shoulders.

Word was received in the militia department tonight that the Coburg battery had arrived at Point Grey, Vancouver, and had mounted their guns at the approach to the harbor. The battery has done a remarkably quick piece of work in the last week. A week ago Friday night, they were ordered to mount their guns on the St. Lawrence below Levis, with a view to guarding the approach to Quebec against any raiding vessels.

Guns Soon in Position.

They reached the appointed spot from Coburg on Saturday morning and had their guns up the hill and mounted within a few hours. That evening they were ordered to dismount the guns and proceed at once to Point Grey. The reason for the order was the doubt as to what had become of the Rainbow and the fear in official circles here that the cruiser might have been sunk by one of the German warships on the Pacific. In that case there was almost nothing on the Pacific coast except the guns at Esquimalt for protection. It was known that the guns of the Coburg battery had a range of 1,000 yards more than either of the German cruisers on the Pacific. The battery had its guns entrained at Levis by midnight on Saturday, and went by special train in almost record time to Vancouver, where the guns are now mounted, and where the battery will remain for the present.