

Premier Borden Visits the "Boys"

**Justly Praised Organization, Fine Training and
Splendid Condition of the Men Camped at
the Exhibition Grounds.**

MEMORABLE EVENT IN HISTORY OF SECOND CONTINGENT

Of what Canada has done and is doing to strengthen the hands of the Mother country against the enemy it would be impossible for the head of the State to speak with more self-detachment than did Sir Robert Borden in his address at the luncheon given in his honor by the Canadian and Empire Clubs on Saturday, says the Mail and Empire.

His eulogies were all for Canada and the magnificent spirit of loyalty in all its people. The eulogies were well deserved. Canada and its people have nobly responded to the call. As Sir Robert said, if the force of 100,000, whose ranks are now almost full, will not suffice, Canada is prepared to send twice as many, or three as many, or still more to the army under the command of General Sir John French.

There was no ceremonial drill, no review, no march past at the concentration camp at the Exhibition Grounds when Sir Robert Borden visited it on Saturday. The Prime Minister went there not to inspect the soldiers on dress parade, but to see them at their work in preparation for service with the Second Canadian expeditionary force and to learn how they were being housed and fed. His tour of the various buildings in company with Major-General F. S. Lessard and his staff occupied two hours. When it was ended Sir Robert voiced his satisfaction with the camp organization, the accommodation provided and the progress made by the men, in a brief address to the officers. He gave a wider circulation to his opinions by the following paragraph in the general orders issued Saturday afternoon:

"The Premier of Canada, on the occasion of his inspection of the camp this morning, desires to express his entire satisfaction with the appearance of all ranks on parade. It was with much pleasure he was able to see for himself the progress made in training and the satisfactory arrange-

ments existing for the messing and accommodation of the officers and men."

Sir Robert visited the headquarters of the various units, the sleeping quarters of the officers and sergeants, the dormitories and messrooms of the men. He saw the soldiers' mid-day meal in course of preparation in the kitchen and carried away a copy of the bill of fare. He looked in at the stationary hospital, in which sick soldiers are cared for, and into the veterinary hospital, where sick horses are treated. In the way he watched squads of men at drill, bayonet exercises and signalling practice. He spent some time at the miniature rifle ranges and watched with interest a group of men firing at a target with a machine gun of the newest pattern.

Finally he returned to the playgrounds, where all the troops were assembled. The officers having been called to the front, Sir Robert addressed them briefly. He expressed his pleasure at having had an opportunity of inspecting the camp.

"I desire," he said, "to congratulate Gen. Lessard and all those responsible for the good organization I have seen." He had been able to see the troops at their training and had found them a fine looking body of men. As far as he had been able to judge the men were provided with good accommodation, and were receiving good training. After a while they would be called upon to do more and would do it worthily. But the work of training was most important. One might as well pick up a few men on the street and expect them to wip from an organized hockey or football team, as to send untrained men and expect them to defeat the greatest military organization in the world. "No one," continued the Premier, "has any doubt as to the courage, fortitude and endurance of the officers and men who have gone forward and of those who will go forward. In making preparation you are doing every bit as important a work as if you were already at the front."