

CANADIAN FORCE TO CONSIST OF REGIMENTS

Volunteer System of Boer War Would be Abandoned.

PREMIER IS HURRYING TO OTTAWA

Government Could Raise 100,000 Men if Offi- cers and Equipment Were Available—Lack of Navy That Might Have Been is Felt— Parliament May be Called

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Vancouver, B.C., July 31.—Sir Robert Borden, Premier, issued an order to-day to Commander Hose of the cruiser Rainbow, now lying in Esquimalt Harbor, to cancel his Bering Sea trip for the present and remain ready for duty in the vicinity of Victoria and Vancouver.

Emergency Cabinet Meeting.

Ottawa, July 31.—With the hurried return to-morrow of Premier Borden to the capital from Muskoka, an emergency meeting of the Cabinet Council will be held to discuss the war situation and the part Canada is to take in complying with the expected call for help from Great Britain. Meanwhile both in the Militia and Naval Departments preliminary preparations for war are being made with feverish haste.

The Naval Department is arranging for defence as far as the limited means at its disposal will allow. The Militia Department, while planning for emergency land defences, is devoting most of its energy to perfecting arrangements for speedily equipping and mobilizing an army of 20,000 to 30,000 men from the active militia and permanent corps for transport to England to join the British forces as soon as the call for help comes. In the latter case it is believed that the expected general European conflict breaks out the British forces will find their chief scene of operations in Belgium, and it is there that the Canadian troops under the command of Col. Sam Hughes are likely to be sent.

Officers' Equipment Scarce.

The chief problem confronting the department is not men, but equipment. Many messages have been received from officers of the militia all over the Dominion offering to go on active service, and there is no doubt but that an army of at least 100,000 men could be speedily raised in Canada. But in 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 needs of a Canadian contingent of more than 20,000 men ordered out for immediate active 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 feared that there will be difficulty in regard to other necessary equipment for active service.

Permanent Force Ready.

The permanent force of nearly 3,000 men of the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Royal Canadian Engineering 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 the first to be ordered out for active service, and Halifax and Quebec would be the ports from which the 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.

The Navy That Is Not.

The Naval Department is also busy with warlike preparations, although unfortunately the ten cruisers and destroyers arranged for in 1911 under the Laurier naval service act, and which might have been available are still represented only by the accepted plans pigeon-holed by the present Government. The Rainbow Esquimalt with steam up and man by 300 British naval reservists the men taken from the Niobe. happens, there is now only one German cruiser on our Pacific coast, the Rainbow is a more heavily armed vessel. She is the only present protection to the Pacific coast, but in the present circumstances she is a poor asset.

may be enough to train the British Atlantic single vessel Department as its own upon the mining the St. Lawrence event of war department will be the wireless for that have in 1889. war, member adian conting

(Continued on page 2)

CANADIAN FORCE TO CONSIST OF REGIMENTS

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 7.)

voluntary character, and the mobilization of these bodies of men was carried on by the volunteer system. The Canadian militia as a body was not mobilized. Judging by the present plans of the Militia Department, however, it would appear that in the event of Great Britain participating in the conflict it is proposed to mobilize the Canadian militia by regiments.

May Send Regiments Abroad.

Section 69 of the militia act provides that "the Governor in Council may place the militia or any part thereof on active service anywhere in Canada, and also beyond Canada, for the defence thereof, at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of emergency."

It is apparent from the above section that the militia is intended for the defence of Canada, but that there are occasions when it may be deemed necessary to defend Canada from without. It would seem also to be in the discretion of the Governor in Council to judge "when it appears advisable so to do by reason of emergency," and, in the present case, whether or not Canada can best be "defended" by the mobilization of her militia forces with the Imperial troops at the scene of war.

How to Defend Canada.

During the Boer war the question of the defence of Canada did not enter in, and the contingents sent were a freewill offering to aid Britain in her war. In the present case, however, it is obvious that if Great Britain were involved in European war the question of the defence of Canada might be a very vital consideration.

It simply remains with the Governor in Council to interpret that section of the act and to decide whether it appears advisable to mobilize the Canadian militia "by reason of emergency."

Premier Hurrying Back.

Sir Robert Borden has been hurriedly recalled from his holiday and will reach here to-morrow morning. A Cabinet Council will be held at which the question of Canada's stand will be considered. Section 71 of the militia act provides that "whenever the Governor in Council places the militia or any part thereof on active service, if Parliament is then separated by such adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within ten days, a proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of Parliament within fifteen days, and Parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon the day appointed."

May Call Parliament.

From the above it will be seen that should the Governor in Council consider the emergency of such a nature as to warrant the calling out of the militia for the defence of Canada beyond her shore Parliament will have to be called within fifteen days of that decision, and the appropriation necessary for the equipping and sending of its forces passed.

It is therefore more than probable that the Canadian Parliament will have a mid-summer session.

Keeping in Close Touch.

The Militia Department is keeping on "a night shift" to-night. Staff officers are instructed to keep in immediate touch with their offices so that the minute word comes demanding any action towards mobilizing the Canadian forces all the machinery can be put into operation at once.

His Royal Highness the Governor-General, who is now at Banff, is also

being kept in close touch with the situation by telegraph. In the event that Britain becomes involved he will return at once to Ottawa.

His advice and assistance as a former Field Marshal of the British forces would probably be gladly welcomed by the Government.

Formal Offer To-day.

It is expected that after to-morrow's meeting of the Cabinet, a formal offer of aid from Canada will be cabled to the Imperial Government. The Militia Department has already notified the War Office that prompt assistance from Canada can be relied upon.