

MOBILIZATION OF B. C. TROOPS

All Corps Are Ordered to
Regimental Headquarters—
Preparations for Sending
of Expeditionary Force.

OTTAWA, Aug. 19.—All the troops in British Columbia were ordered tonight to mobilize at their respective regimental headquarters. Several thousand men are affected by the order. They will be kept under arms and in training pending the developments of the war. This was one of the most important announcements made by the Minister of Militia, Col. Hughes, tonight.

The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, the Strathcona Horse of Winnipeg, and the Royal Canadian Dragoons of Toronto, and St. John were also ordered out tonight, to proceed to Valcartier. Altogether there are some five or six hundred men in these permanent cavalry units. A cavalry squadron of 160 men is to be raised in Western Canada by Col. Jameson and Major Griesbach of Edmonton, under instructions from the Militia Department. They will either be sent to Québec or used in the West for patrol purpose.

Expeditionary Force

Col. Hughes announced that the total force in the expeditionary army will be 22,230, exclusive of any special regiments that might be raised through private offers. On the mobilization of the troops at Valcartier, the Minister of Militia intends to put them through a strenuous course of training under conditions approaching actual warfare as nearly as possible. Accurate shooting is to be the first essential, and no less than 2,000 targets are being erected. The troops will be required to advance by rushes, shooting at the targets at the same time. A record will be kept as fully as possible of individual marksmanship, and this record will serve in the weeding-out process of the men who are finally chosen to go abroad.

Col. Hughes wishes it definitely understood that no officers will be allowed to go unless they are fully qualified and show that they know how to handle men under present conditions of

warfare. It is also stated that the enrolment of volunteers may be done by every unit, and the men need not necessarily go to regimental headquarters to volunteer. The pay of the force is to be a dollar a day for each private, with ten cents additional as field allowance. No married man will be accepted if his wife and children depend upon him and object to the proper militia allowance.

European Reservists

Another important announcement made tonight by Col. Hughes was that the department was receiving offers from thousands of Servians in the United States and from French reservists in Canada to be taken over with the Canadian contingent. Similar requests were being received from a number of Russians and Belgians in Canada.

It is probable that some arrangement will be made to allow these allies of the British forces to cross the Atlantic and join in the conflict against the common enemy.

In regard to the German reservists now in Canada, the Militia Department has been advised that a number of arrests have been made. Provision is to be made for keeping all these men under surveillance, and it is probable that several temporary military prisons will be established at Petawawa and other points. The Government suggests that all German reservists now in the Dominion who wish to avoid summary arrest should go to the nearest magistrate or other public officer and file a statement that they wish to be considered as peaceful and law-abiding residents of Canada.

Guarding Bridges

In regard to the report of the destruction of a bridge north of Valcartier, presumably by some German or Austrian, it is stated that this bridge is 150 miles north of the point of mobilization, and there is nothing to show that it was destroyed by design.

At the same time Col. Hughes points out that all guards at railway bridges and other public works are instructed to "shoot to kill" in case orders are not obeyed by anyone acting in a suspicious manner.

Provision is being made for Canadian militiamen now in the United Kingdom to join the Canadian forces when they reach the other side. Among the cables received today was one from Major G. W. Stephens, former chairman of the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal, offering his services either in the fighting line or in any other place in which he might be of use.

Col. Hughes pays a special tribute to the Coburg Field Battery, which embarked for Quebec last week, and last Saturday was ordered from Quebec on special service at some other point, the place not being disclosed. The Minister says the battery showed rare efficiency both in mobilizing and in handling their guns at Quebec.

Patriotic fund

Arrangements are being made by the Government for the raising of a big patriotic fund by volunteer subscription to guarantee the support of the families of the men who go the front.

This fund will be devoted to obviating any distress in Canada which would result from the stopping of wages now earned by the volunteers. It is intended to guarantee practically the continuance of the family incomes. It will be administered by a board of trustees, whose names are now under consideration. It is expected that there will be a generous public response and that three or four million dollars at least will be realized. Provision will also be made for men who go to the front and wish to assign their pay to anyone dependent on them in Canada.

A number of firms have notified the Minister of Militia that they intend to continue the salaries of employees who intend to go with the expeditionary force. One of these firms states that already twenty-five of its employees have volunteered.

Recruiting Closes Tomorrow

Recruiting will positively close for the overseas contingent on Wednesday night, and from the list of names sent into the Militia Department the 22,000 required will be picked without delay and those selected rushed to Valcartier. King George has notified the Government here that he will be pleased to accept a full division of 22,000 men from Canada to fight with the British troops. In addition to this division, the regiment being raised and equipped by Hamilton Gault, of Montreal, and R. B. Bennett, of Calgary, will go to the front.

An order-in-council was passed today providing that civil service employees who are enrolled in the militia and called for active service in Canada, or who, with the consent of the department, enlist in an expeditionary force for service abroad, during the present war, shall, during such period of active service, whether in Canada or abroad, receive their regular salary, subject to such conditions of payment thereof to their families or dependents as may be prescribed by order-in-council or by the head of the department.