

NO TYRANT'S HEEL CAN GRIND CANADA SAYS COL. HUGHES

War Minister's Stirring War Speech To Montreal Garrison and Volunteers

PARADED IN TEMPEST

Impressive Scenes On Champ de Mars—Minister Says May Yet Lead Contingent To War

Montreal realized last night as it had not before that Canada is very closely wrapped up in war which is so convulsing Europe at the present moment, when, in the midst of a tropical storm the entire city garrison paraded for inspection by the Minister of Militia, and each regiment was accompanied by line upon line of men in mufti, marching with the ranks in service uniforms, to signify that they were shortly to leave on active service in defence of the Empire.

It was a proud sight, and one that thrilled every one of the thousands that lined every point from which the parade could be viewed, to see the ranks of men of every branch of the forces lining up, and moving, in most disconcerting circumstances, with the steadiness of veterans. Many parades have been held on the Champ de Mars since it was the drill ground for the regular garrison troops in the old days, but probably none under more inspiring conditions, and it brought the war fever very close home. This was made the more manifest when amongst the crowds who lined the terrace below the City Hall many parents and other relatives recognized their own amongst the dark groups in mufti, where stood the men who will so soon be fighting for British liberty on the battlefields of Europe in this epochal war. Out of the 5,000 men on parade more than 2,000 were volunteers for active service.

As the regiments assembled on the big square the first threatening drops began to fall, while a brilliant display of lightning illuminated the farthest corners, glinting off bayonets and swords with dazzling effect. Steadily battalion after battalion marched, debouching on to the square from the north and western entrances, and moving with absolute precision to the places allotted, where the bands fell in before the markers, and played their regiments to position.

At the centre of the parade a Union Jack marked the saluting base, and in front of this the headquarters and brigade officers gathered, with Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes watching the arrival of the troops. At first the field was crowded with such a mass of people that it seemed impossible that the parade could be held. Chief Campeau called out a detachment of special police, and the manner in which they swept the parade ground clear in a few minutes was an amazing example of police efficiency, the crowd being cleared off at one end while the troops were taking position at the other.

MANOEUVRED IN TEMPEST.

Then, amidst the crashing of thunder, came the rain, with a torrent whose noise drowned the music of bands and the orders of officers, while the parade ground became lined with a glistening forest of umbrellas.

The storm had not the slightest effect upon the troops. Without hurry or confusion they continued to fall in until by a quarter to nine the last regiment was in position. It was a picturesque scene, the huge square filled from end to end with soldiers, whose ranks were lost to sight within a few yards in the furious rain, while along their front moved officers giving orders, and the whole every moment or two brought into vivid relief by the lightning, while the roll of thunder added a deep note that was suggestive of artillery and battle.

As soon as the last regiment had taken position, the order was given for the general salute, which was heard rather than seen, the rattle of rifles and bayonets sounding strangely in the driving storm. Immediately in front of the saluting base stood the Minister of Militia, attended by Col. Denison, O.C., Lt.-Col. A. E. Labelle, Commanding the 12th Infantry Brigade, and a number of staff and regimental commanding officers.

Then came the march past, an episode that will live long in the memory of the dripping crowds that witnessed it. With perfect precision—equipment after regiment appeared and disappeared in the rain, its progress in rear of the main parade being only marked by the flashing of steel, until at the west end it would suddenly swing around under the electric lights, and to the blare of bands and regimental marches, slip as proudly past the flag

though enjoying a ceremonial parade on a sunny afternoon.

CHEERS FOR WAR VOLUNTEERS.

The progress of each regiment was marked by a ripple of applause running in waves along the front of the crowd, which ever and anon deepened into masculine cheers as the serried ranks of men in street costumes and dripping straw hats showed where the new volunteers for service overseas marched. It was noticeable that many of them kept their lines and marched with a precision almost equalling that of the uniformed men who preceded them—and it was evidently matter for profound surprise to the crowd that there were so many of them. With the Victoria Rifles, the Highlanders, Grenadiers and 65th the number of recruits for the war seemed almost to equal the regular men, while with some of the service corps, which are kept on a skeleton basis in times of peace, there were three recruits to one uniformed man.

Steadily through the tempest the men marched in apparently endless ranks, the scene from the terrace being almost bewildering, with the saluting troops in front, and several ranks behind marching in different directions as the units moved back to their original alignment. Band after band, corps after corps marched past, and almost as the last returned to its base the sky cleared and the rain ceased.

Then came the order for the whole brigade to advance in review order, officers to the front. Officers were ordered to fall out and form up in front of the saluting base, while the Minister of Militia, with Col. Denison and staff, mounted the terrace, from which coign of vantage Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes delivered a stirring address to the troops, his voice sounding clear through the lines, and echoing back from the walls of the armory opposite.

COL. HUGHES' STIRRING SPEECH

"Colonel Denison, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men," he said, "I am proud to meet you here tonight. A war has been declared in Europe involving the British Empire. For many years past it has been known that the men of the German Empire—not the German people, mark you, nor the Austrian people, but their rulers—have aimed to command both land and sea. For more than a generation it has been the aim of Germany to acquire little Belgium and Holland, so as to gain mastery of the sea, while Austria has had designs upon the countries at her eastern frontier.

"It was with great reluctance that the people of Great Britain and her colonies as well as France realized these designs, but time has shown the truth. The German nation, in order to have free access from the Baltic has spent millions until the Kiel Canal was built so as to take care of her largest war vessels. She could not use her mighty fleet to the best advantage without it. That work was completed shortly before the first day of July—and before the last day of July Germany had pressed on the war which she had been planning for so many years.

BRITISH LIBERTY ESSENTIAL TO WORLD.

"For generations Great Britain has been regarded as the safeguard of the liberties of the freemen of the world. If British liberty is endangered the liberties of France, the United States and every other liberty-loving people are endangered. If Germany succeeds in this war Belgium and Holland and probably Denmark will be annexed; Britain will become a second rate power, France will be wiped off the map, and we shall in all probability become subjects of that nation which denies the people that measure of liberty which they should enjoy.

"But it is not the intention of Canadians that we should become slaves. Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific realize the importance of this crisis. We all know that our liberties are at stake, and to a man we Canadians are ready to do our duty. (Loud cheers.)

"I call for volunteers—volunteers, mark you. I have insisted that it shall be a purely volunteer contingent. Not a man will be accepted or leave Canada on this service but of his own free will, and, if I know it, not a married man shall go without the consent of his wife and family.

"And when the Canadian men meet the enemy—as they are going to do—and vanquish them—as they are going to vanquish them—they are going to do it fighting as free men, as free subjects of His Majesty.

"Canada is sending 20,000 men to the front, and it would realize the dearest ambition of my life could I lead the boys—I may do that yet, I am not sure: If I can possibly manage it I shall cast politics to the winds and go to the front."

This ringing declaration was greeted with cheers from the crowd, which in a moment spread to the troops, and rolled in growing volume down the long line.

Proceeding, Col. Hughes said that a number of the active service men were naturally anxious as to how their families would be looked after, and said:—

"You can rest assured that the hundreds of thousands who must stay behind will loyally do their duty to you. H.R.H. the Governor-General and the Prime Minister, - Sir Robert Borden, have taken in hand a vast scheme for the support of relatives of those who go to fight the Empire's battles.

"The Valcartier camp is almost ready, and then, within a day or two the boys from east and west will be there, and within a few more days I trust that the steamers will take the first Canadian Overseas Contingent from their beloved land to do their duty for King and Country.

MORE MEN IF NECESSARY.

"I have no fear as to the result of this war. (Loud cheers.) If the millions in Germany cannot be driven back by the first I feel sure I voice the sentiments of Canada and the Empire when I say that if necessary ten, yes twenty, more contingents will succeed it. In order that the liberties of the British people may be preserved—we are determined that the tyrant's heel shall never grind down the people of Canada.

"I have nothing more to say," concluded Col. Hughes. "You have already shown the splendid stuff you are made of by the manner in which you stood like veterans through this storm. It recalls to my mind another occasion, which General Sir Ian Hamilton has spoken of throughout the Empire as the most unique parade he ever held, when in a somewhat similar storm he reviewed the Montreal troops on Fletcher's Field, and which he has always mentioned as showing the stuff the Canadian soldiers are made of. I hope to see you all again before you go, and now must simply thank you for the splendid turnout you have made in such unfavorable weather."

Renewed cheers from the crowd and the troops greeted the conclusion of the minister's speech.

MR. AMES TELLS OF NATIONAL FUND.

Mr. H. B. Ames then made a brief speech in which he assured those go-

ing to the front that all those they left behind would be adequately cared for.

"This afternoon," said Mr. Ames, "I received from H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught a telegram authorizing me to announce that a national fund is to be inaugurated, to be administered by leading men throughout Canada. Also that this fund will be used not only for the maintenance of the families of Canadians, but also of the British reservists who join the army or navy, and also the Belgian, French, Russian and Servian reservists, if necessary.

"The generous and prosperous people of Canada are tonight sending a message throughout the world that every family belonging to Great Britain or her allies will be looked after while their men are shedding their blood in the common battlefields. And you may rest assured that if further contingents go and further provision is necessary the people of Canada who remain behind will continue to do this duty." (Cheers.)

Col. Hughes then ordered the troops to remove helmets, and give three cheers for the King, which was done with a will, after which Colonel Denison led the men in three hearty cheers for the Minister of Militia.

This ended the proceedings, and within a few moments the entire drenched force marched off, forming in a long line along Craig street and up Beaver Hall Hill, where they broke off to their private parades.