

# PREPARE FOR WAR AND PRAY FOR PEACE

## Catholic Churches Have Prayers Tomorrow and Local Regiments Start Drilling

### STATE THEIR READINESS

## Austrian Consul-General Denies That Canadian Northern Steamer Has Been Chartered for Austrians Returning

Nothing better indicates the universal feeling that war is imminent than the two facts that orders have been issued from the Archbishop's Palace calling for the special prayer for peace tomorrow evening in all Roman Catholic churches in Montreal and diocesan, and that there is a sudden stir of activity about the armories of all the local regiments. Many men and officers are asserting their willingness to take to the field if the call should come or the necessity arise, and while the definite step has not yet been taken that would seem to make that necessary, there will be a great deal more drilling and training in the use of arms in the immediate future than there has been in their history unless there is a quick brightening of the horizon in Europe.

On Monday night the 65th Royal Highlanders will have a parade preparatory for any service which the regiment may be called upon to perform. Many of the men were around the armory last night, and the war situation was canvassed with great interest.

The prospect of war comes nearer to this regiment than it does to most of the citizens of Montreal. At the time of the Boer War it sent to various contingents that went to South Africa more than one-third of its fighting strength in officers and men. There are a large number still in the ranks who served in that war, and many are old soldiers who have seen active service. No definite statement was given out at the armory, but the tone of the talk and the discussion last night indicated those who spoke to be ready for any eventuality.

### 65TH-REGIMENT READY.

"No special action has been taken by the 65th Regiment," said Lt-Col. J. T. Ostell, commanding officer of that famous French-Canadian regiment last night. "We are watching the course of events at present, and should war be declared and any demand made upon us we shall be ready to do our share."

The Austrian Consul-General, Mr. Hermann Hans von Hanneheim, last night denied point blank the statement in a Winnipeg despatch to the effect that Western Austrians are coming to the city, and that a Canadian Northern boat has been chartered to take them across to take part in the Austrian-Serbian conflict.

"It is absolutely false in every detail," he said last night.

The reports from Winnipeg stated as well that the official programme of a partial mobilization order issued by the Government of Austria-Hungary had been published there in the Ukrainian Voice and other papers. The order promised, it is stated, amnesty to all who avoided conscription and the payment of their fares.