

WINNIPEG MILITIA WAS READY FOR CALL

Armories Last Night Were Scenes of Activity—Memo Issued to Officers Commanding.

The orders to at once mobilize an infantry division representative of the entire Dominion of Canada, found Col. S. B. Steele, D.O.C., and his staff ready. For the past few days quiet but steady preparations have been going on and the leading strings of all the important steps necessary for such a move had been gathered up. Last night every armory in M. D. 10 was under extra guard. The armories of the 15th C.M. of H., 99th, 100th, 106th, and the other armories and branches are protected by a military guard. Ordnance has been overhauled. By this morning every officer commanding a unit will be notified to send in a list of men who have volunteered. This list will be forwarded at once to Ottawa. The O.C.'s of the military districts will have the selection of the men who are to make up the infantry division. Ottawa has been notified already of the steps taken by Col. Steele and further instructions are expected at any moment.

Both Col. Steele and H. D. B. Ketchen, A.A.G., were at headquarters from 8:30 a. m. until 2 a.m. waiting for dispatches from Ottawa. The following memo has been sent out to all O.C.'s in M.D. 10, and is already bringing in the desired information:

Sir:—I have the honor, by direction, to ask you to be good enough to get into touch with all ranks of your unit immediately, in order that definite information may be gathered from the members thereof as to their ability to proceed on service if required.

The D.O.C. would like to have a return from each unit showing the ranks, names, addresses and particulars as to whether married or single, from each unit, and as to whether able to proceed on service or not, as well as any special points which O.C.'s consider of value at the present time.

Trusting that this return may be forwarded as to reach me for the information of the D.O.C. at the earliest possible moment.

Strathcona Horse.

It is possible that the Lord Strathcona's horse (R.C.), which at present is not up to full strength, will fill up with volunteers, but no definite information can be had at the moment in this connection. Officers of all grades have been visitors at all hours of the morning and night to local headquarters and an air of the keenest loyalty to the flag and the utmost anxiety to serve Britain is evinced by all ranks.

The headquarters staff hourly expect further detail in connection with the mobilization orders which were received last night. Enlistment will commence at once. There is no doubt that at least 10,000 men will volunteer in M.D. 10.

All local regiments are filling up to war strength in the most extraordinary manner, and the question has arisen as to whether the minister of militia will accept the entire regiments as regiments or not. The militia act prohibits the use of the Canadian militia except to defend Canada. By the present volunteer mobilization orders, the soldiers will be volunteers in every sense of the word and thus a whole regiment may be accepted as a full regiment of volunteers.

Composition of Infantry Division.

At the military institute all the prominent local officers were in friendly session, and excitement rose to fever pitch when the announcement was made that an infantry division was to be mobilized. The composition of an infantry division is as follows:

Headquarters.

Three infantry brigades.

Divisional Troops.

One cavalry regiment.

One mounted company corps of guides.

Divisional ammunition column.

Divisional Artillery.

Headquarters.

Three field artillery brigades.

One field artillery brigade (Howitzer).

1 heavy artillery battery and ammunition column.

Divisional Engineers.

Headquarters.

Two field companies.

One divisional telegraph company.

Divisional S. and T. Units.

One divisional S. and T. column.

1 divisional S. and T. park.

Divisional Medical Units.

Three field ambulances.

Thirteen thousand infantry, 500 cavalry, the balance made up of the listed units.

Military Men Active.

A special parade of the Winnipeg Light Infantry will be held on Friday night at 8 p.m. at the St. John's rink drill hall. Col. Dan McLean will be in command. Dress will be drill order and the band will parade also. The route of march has not yet been announced but such will be announced later. Col. McLean asks for a full strength turn out of both officers and men.

The 24th Fort Garry Horse will hold a muster parade on Friday night at their headquarters at 8 o'clock. Dress will be drill order.

Quite a large number of troops will be in the parade on Friday night and it is possible that the parade through the streets will be of the massed troops since their parade hours have been all selected for the same time. If this be the case Winnipeg will have ample opportunity of seeing the regiments at their full strength and judging for themselves of what their offer of service means to the Mother Country.

Cadets Parade.

The Highland Cadets paraded last night at 8 o'clock under command of Major W. G. Bell, and marched from the Industrial bureau along Main street to the C.P.R. depot, then returned by the same route. A large crowd lined Main street as the lads marched out and back, and the boys were loudly cheered. Practically every member of the regiment turned out, both officers and men, and their fine appearance earned for them the lusty cheers of the thousands who saw them.