

SWISS CONSUL CALLS ON COMPATRIOTS

Army Is Mobilizing in Case of War and Wants Money and Men.

Mr. Henri Martin, Swiss consul-general, has issued the following statement to his compatriots in Canada calling them to the colors for frontier defence if necessary:

The Swiss Federal Council has been mobilizing since the 1st of August the whole military force of Switzerland, numbering together about two hundred thousand men. This mobilization is not the result of a menace to Switzerland, but is merely a precautionary measure of military nature. The efficient training of the army and the careful war preparations enable Switzerland to maintain the inviolability of its territory. The Federal government has elected as commander-in-chief of the army Colonel Ulrich Wille, giving him the rank of general. The chief of the general staff is Colonel Sprecher de Bernegg. Both names are very popular in Switzerland and inspire everywhere the highest confidence.

MOBILIZATION.

The mobilization was completed quietly and speedily; the frontiers, the Alpine passes, as well as the St. Gotthard and St. Maurice fortifications are strongly guarded; the railway station owned by Germany at the Basle boundary is closed; railroad traffic between Germany and Basle has ceased, as all trains are stopped in the German stations outside Basle; the Swiss boundary near Basle along the French and German borders is sharply guarded; some German patrols which crossed the boundary line were immediately disarmed and interned.

FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The financial situation is entirely satisfactory, panics and withdrawals from banks and saving institutions having ceased; new bank notes of 20 and 5 francs were issued to preserve the metal reserves.

All foreigners who fled to Switzerland are well cared for there; the authorities are assisting the 15,000 stranded Americans by organizing special trains to ports of embarkation.

The supplies of foodstuffs, principally grain and meat, are satisfactory; moreover, Switzerland possesses a considerable food reserve in milk and cheese. The city populations and non-mobilized students are helping farmers to harvest the crops. Large shipments of American wheat for Switzerland are already under way.

The consulate-general is at the disposal of all Canadian families having relatives in Switzerland for any information which may be required.

DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY.

Whereas, war having broken out among several of the European powers, the Swiss Confederation, inspired by its time-honored traditions, is firmly resolved to maintain strictly its principles of neutrality, so dear to the Swiss people, which correspond perfectly with its aspirations, its interior organization and its position in respect to other countries, and which the signatory powers of the treaties of 1815 formally recognized.

Therefore, by virtue of a special authority given him by the Federal assembly, the Federal council formally declares that, throughout the course of the impending war, the Swiss Confederation will maintain and defend, by all means in her power, the neutrality and inviolability of her territory as outlined and recognized by the treaties of 1815. She will herself observe the strictest neutrality towards the belligerent countries in respect of those parts of Savoy which, according to the terms of the proclamation of the powers, of March 29, 1815, the final act of the congress of Vienna of June 9, 1815, the Accession Act of the Swiss diet of August 12, 1815, the Treaty of Paris of November 20, 1815, and the act of recognition and guaranty of the Swiss neutrality, bearing the same date,—are entitled to and must guard the same degree of neutrality as if they were belonging to Switzerland—provisions confirmed by France and Sardinia in the second article of the Treaty of Turin, March 24, 1860.

The Federal council feels bound to remind that Switzerland has the right to occupy this territory and the Federal council would assume such right, should circumstances arise to demand it, in defense of the neutrality and integrity of the territory belonging to the confederation.

The Federal council will not fail, however, to scrupulously respect in the exercise of the rights in question, all restrictions named in the treaties, especially in all matters concerning the administration of this territory; the council will endeavor to act in this matter in concert with the French government.

The Federal council has the firm conviction that the present declaration will be favorably received by the belligerent powers, as well as by the United States, and regarded as an expression of the traditional love of the Swiss people for the principles of neutrality, and also of the royal affirmation of the consequences resulting for the Confederation from the treaties of 1815.

APPEAL TO SWISS IN OTTAWA.

The persons named below have formed a committee for the collection of a relief fund in the name of the Swiss consulate in Montreal, to be sent to Switzerland for the assistance of our Red Cross from which has come a pressing appeal for help to all Swiss living abroad. The fund will also be used to help those families thrown into distress through the war at home as well as families in Canada whose husbands and fathers had to return to join the colors. Swiss in Ottawa and vicinity, let us all show the patriotic attachment to our beloved country by doing our utmost possible in assisting it while our brothers at home defend its frontiers.

Contributions by friends to Switzerland other than Swiss will be heartily appreciated. Contributions will be received and information will be given by: F. W. Baumgartner, 486 Albert street, Ottawa; F. Cornu, M.D., 148 Laurier avenue, Ottawa; res., Buckingham, Que.; Mrs. Herman Waldmeyer, 215 Nicholas street, Ottawa; H. Waldmeyer, chef, Rideau Club, Ottawa; Mrs. W. B. Berry, Aylmer East, Que.; Mr. Veldno, chef, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa.