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**LADYSMITH ALL RIGHT.**

[Continued from Page 1.]

ward to that point the following cable was received by his excellency the governor-general last evening, from Hon. Joseph Chamberlain which reads as follows: London, Dec. 20, 1899.

"With reference to the expression 'trained men' the secretary of state for war explains that volunteers must be good shots and competent riders, but need not be members of any regular drill force.

(Signed) Chamberlain."

"Now as to the composition of the contingent," continued Dr. Borden. "In the first place the contingent will be 1,044 in strength. There will be three squadrons of mounted rifles, making 530 of all ranks. One squadron and a half squadron will be selected from the different cavalry corps and dragoon regiments throughout the dominion and from good shots and riders wherever they are to be found, and there are quite a number of them to be found in western Canada. The three squadrons will have 530 horses. Let us now take the artillery," the minister of militia went on to say. "There will be three field batteries, the strength of each being 171 or 113 in all. They will have 383 horses. The artillery will be from the field batteries all over the dominion.

"So there will be no infantry," was asked.

"No, there will be no infantry; nothing but artillery and mounted troops."

"And where will the recruiting be done?"

"At the headquarters of the batteries in the case of the artillery. For instance at Kingston, Gananoque, Wainwright, Esplanade, St. Catharines, Toronto, Ottawa, Guelph, London, Port Hope, Quebec, Montreal, Granby, Woodstock, N. B., Newcastle, N. B., and Sydney, N. S. B. Toronto, St. Catharines, Peterboro, Ottawa, Kingston, London, Montreal, Esplanade, N. B., St. John, N. B., Quebec, Canning, N. S., Winnipeg, Portage La Prairie, Virden, Brandon, Yorkton, Regina, Moosejaw, Prince Albert, Battleford, Moosemin, Qu'Appelle, Lethbridge, Fort MacLeod, Medicine Hat, Maple Creek, Calgary and Edmonton."

"Who will conduct the recruiting?"

"It will be conducted by the district officers commanding and Commissioner Herschmer and the district officers of the mounted police."

"What time do you think the contingent will be ready to embark from Halifax?"

"I am trying now to arrange for transport. I expect that the troops will be ready to sail early in January. That is about all that I can say at present. But you may depend upon it that there will be as little delay as possible. The contractors have had their orders two days ago, and everything seems to be going on like clock work. Not one hitch so far has been reported to me."

"Nothing done yet about the contingent?"

"No there will be lots of time for that." The stupid story started by the opposition press today that Mr. Tarte was kicked off the contingent had been repeated many hours in circulation when it was promptly and firmly denied by the minister of public works. Hon. Mr. Tarte's reply to the slanders was that he fully agreed with his colleagues. This miserable attempt to again introduce politics into the work of sending substantial aid to the British forces in the Transvaal will be as swiftly rebuked by the people as it was on the last occasion when Sir Charles Tupper was declaring to all men in Canada that it was he who was doing it all. The story was stupid since it was well known that Hon. Mr. Tarte is just as responsible for the acts of his colleagues at the council board, when he is absent as when he is present as long as he remains a member of the administration. All respectable Conservatives are repudiating this libel upon a man who was not able to leave a sick room. He will, however, be heard from tonight in Montreal where he will speak along with Hon. Mr. Sifton. The minister of the interior left this afternoon for Montreal. Marcus Smith, one of Canada's most eminent civil engineers spent several years in South Africa. He filled an important position on the construction of the first link of the Cape to Cairo railway, and can speak with authority as to the customs and the character of the Boers, and other peoples of the southern portion of the continent. In the first place, Mr. Smith says, that it is a mistake to call these people 'Boers.' The term Boer means a farmer, while in reality there are very few of the residents of the Transvaal who are farmers in the sense that Canadians understand the word. 'Kruyer and Steyn and some others,' said Smith, 'continually play upon the superstitions of the Boers. They tell them that they are God's chosen people and that they cannot be defeated. Armed with this assurance they cast themselves into the fight, with a fury unexcelled by

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