

SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMPIRE.

Some weeks ago he had consulted Major-General Hutton as to the choice of officers in case they should be needed, and Lieut. Col. McDonald, superintendent of stores, had also been called in, and had consulted the clothing contractors and others to ascertain how soon they could fill orders if they were called upon. The men, therefore, will probably sail a day earlier than the time fixed as the limit by the Imperial authorities."

Hon. Lieut.-Col. Borden, at Quebec.

A force of one thousand men, representing the Dominion of Canada, sailed from Quebec on Monday last for South Africa. The purpose of the expedition is well understood in every militia district throughout the country. The companies comprising the regiment entrusted to the command of Colonel Otter contain men from all the provinces of the vast Dominion; every conceivable thing has been done to ensure their comfort during the voyage to the Cape; and also in the expected advance of the British force to Pretoria, in which our representatives hope to take part. This well-equipped force has been supplied with all that the Government and the people of a grateful country could give them, and it is to be hoped that the Canadian regiment will deserve the kind wishes now following them across the autumn seas, and maintain a reputation for courage, good conduct and vitality.

The Minister of Militia, in the course of his speech at the farewell dinner tendered the officers bound for South Africa, referred to the sailing of the "Sardinian," as marking "an epoch, and a most important one, not only of the militia, but of Canada, and of the Empire." It is an epoch. Never again can Canada return to the swaddling clothes she has discarded. Despite all opinions to the contrary, regardless of the open denunciations of those who claim that the Dominion should not interfere in matters which concern her not, a regiment has been sent to join the British soldiers in Natal, and it is a proclamation to the world that Canada is one of the several nations which will always be ready to share the duties and responsibilities of Her Majesty's Empire.

In any similar emergency to that which now confronts Great Britain, Canada will answer the bugle call with a promptitude born of the knowledge that the services of her sons are appreciated in the Motherland.

However, it is not as an object lesson in loyalty, or as an illustration that our people realize the debt they owe the Empire, that we desire to use the incident of colonial participation in foreign wars. The Minister of Militia, very rightly, claimed some credit for the department over which he presides because of the fact that, within fourteen days from the order being issued for the mobilization of troops, the "Sardinian" sailed. If a request for the enlistment and equipment of a thousand men, under exactly similar circumstances, had been made in Great Britain, it might

be more promptly answered; but we doubt it, although the distance from Caithness to Kent is not great. The only way in which our soldiers will be able to impress upon their British comrades what was accomplished by the Canadian Department of Militia in a short fortnight will be to produce a map and a table of distances. The British War Office must be made to realize that the Canadian regiment is made up of sturdy New Brunswickers, plucky Acadians, brave hearts from Prince Edward and far Manitoba, and the youth and strength of British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario.

When the vast distances separating the homes of members of the Canadian contingent become familiar to our British brethren, when the men from the Atlantic and the Pacific tell of their total unpreparedness for foreign service, then their promptitude in preparing for departure will be duly appreciated, and the excellent work of Canada will be properly appreciated.

That there will be some criticism and heart-burning among those left behind, the officers and men who could not be taken, goes without saying. Already, the first murmuring of complaint is assuming the shape of letters to the newspapers. But the active and genial gentleman whose life has probably been made somewhat miserable during the past three weeks by reason of his inability to please everybody has good reason to express his pleasure at the work of his department. That he yielded to every reasonable request possible of gratification is shown by the list of extra officers on board the troopship. Not only has Colonel Otter his full complements of majors, captains and subalterns, but he is attended to the seat of war by a staff of officers, British and otherwise, army chaplains, nurses, and special correspondents. Altogether, Canada has shown by the sending of this regiment to South Africa that she is, as the Minister of Militia, very feelingly stated at the Quebec farewell banquet, "a full grown member of a grand Empire." In addition to this, the Department of Militia and Defence has demonstrated to the Imperial Government authorities that Canada can, at very short notice, equip a force for foreign service whenever called upon to share in the serious responsibilities of the Empire.

The time is opportune for Canada to equip a second contingent ready for service. This force could be offered to the Mother Country at once; thus signifying the readiness of the Dominion to render further aid in any emergency.

THE PASSING OF THE DOMINION MUTUAL.

The Dominion Mutual Fire Insurance Association has passed into liquidation. The recent examination of its condition by Inspector Hunter at the request of sheriff Drury of Barrie, a policy-holder and director, brought about the demise of the company. It was comparatively young, having been launched in 1877. The passing away of the Dominion Mutual adds another to the list of companies that have sought success and business on the assessment basis.