

## SECOND CONTINGENT

Will Consist of Ten Hundred and Forty-four Men and Eighteen Guns.

Expected the Contingent Will Sail from Halifax Before the Middle of January.

General Roberts Says the Reports of Irish Disloyalty Cannot be Denied too Strongly—No News of the Canadians Now at the Front.

THE SECOND CANADIAN CONTINGENT WILL CONSIST OF:  
1,044 MEN.  
89 HORSES.  
18 GUNS.  
265 MOUNTED POLICE AND OTHER WESTERN MEN.  
265 FROM THE ROYAL DRAGOONS AND MILITIA CAVALRY REGIMENTS.  
513 FROM PERMANENT ARTILLERY CORPS AND MILITIA FIELD ARTILLERY.

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—The composition of the second Canadian contingent for service in South Africa has at last been decided upon. Hon. Dr. Borden informed your correspondent this evening that it would consist of three squadrons of mounted rifles, totalling 531 of all ranks, and 538 horses. The artillery section will consist of three batteries of field artillery, 171 men in all, 110 rank and file, 612 altogether. 89 horses and 18 guns. The mounted rifles will have for its nucleus one and a half squadrons of Northwest mounted police, ex-police, men and others qualified as horsemen, scouts and crack shots. These men will be recruited throughout Manitoba and the Northwest at mounted police posts. The remaining one and a half squadron will be recruited at regiments headquarters of every cavalry regiment in Canada.

There will be no special draft from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, but it is intended to offer every opportunity to men of the regulars to enlist. Similarly, artillery will be recruited from all the field artillery in Canada. The offer of individual batteries is not to be accepted.

The minister stated that it was desirable to distribute the selection over the whole country.

There are 11 cavalry regiments from which to draw a squadron and a half. The 8th P. L. Hussars will, it is expected, furnish the allotted quota.

Similarly, out of the 17 field batteries available, 10 will be recruited and 7 are to be called upon.

No particular number of men have been assigned to any one city, but, as already announced, the batteries will be designated C, D and E, with temporary headquarters at Kingston, Ottawa and Quebec. A and B batteries will, of course, be expected to furnish a substantial quota to the brigade.

Recruiting officers will report to the department by wire from day to day so that the enlisted men may be sent directly to the front as soon as the requisite number of men is secured. The minister hopes that the contingent will get away from Halifax not later than the middle of January. It is definitely settled that the Parisian will be one of the transports, and it is probable that the Laurentian will be the other. The Parisian leaves Liverpool for Halifax tomorrow, with the requisite materials on board to make internal changes.

The mounted police will take their own horses. Horses for the other squadrons and a half of mounted rifles, as well as for the artillery, will have to be bought by the government. Mr. Beith, M. P., who is said to be one of the best judges of horse-flesh in Canada, will be asked to superintend the buying of horses. The depots for this purpose will be opened at points in Ontario and Quebec, and especially in the maritime provinces, in order to save a long railway journey. The minister states that authority has been secured from the Imperial government to obtain the necessary medical and nursing staff and equipment, so that Canadian trained nurses will be sent Red Cross work.

Fred White, controller of the Northwest mounted police, received his instructions late this afternoon, and at once sent telegrams to Commissioner Herchmer, instructing him to issue the necessary notices to the men of the force, and to call for offers for service from ex-police. One and a half squadrons, who will represent the Northwest, will recruit about 260 men, but in view of the fact that there are only 500 mounted police in the territories, the government will have to restrict the number of volunteers to be drawn from the actual ranks to 150 or 180. Col. Pinault, deputy minister, was also instructed by the minister to notify all district officers commanding, so that the work of recruiting may commence without delay. The enlisting will cover a much wider area than was the case with the first contingent, and for this reason the second contingent is likely to be more representative, being drawn from more sections of the country. The wider distribution will, of course, necessitate the appointment of many more medical examiners than was the case two months ago.

The government has not been authorized to send any special service officers with this contingent, but if any of the officers already on special service in South Africa are assigned to duty with the second contingent likely their places may be filled by other special service officers from Canada.

Col. Lessard and Major Drury will

Dublin Fusiliers had four men drowned while attempting the passage.

### SITUATION REVIEWED.

LONDON, Dec. 21, 4:45 a. m.—The gravity of the military situation is again becoming accentuated in the public mind, owing to the complete absence of news. Nothing has been heard from Lord Methuen since Sunday, and it is feared that his communications have been cut. It is so, his position is dangerous.

A despatch from the Daily News, telegraphing from Modder River last Saturday, says:

"The Boer position, already formidable on Dec. 11, has since been greatly strengthened, extending for an area of twelve miles. It entrenched according to the most modern methods throughout its entire length; wire fences have been placed before all the trenches at every point; gunners have been got into position and there is every evidence that the Boers are well supplied with ammunition. Only a powerful attacking force can hope to make a successful assault."

The Times, in an article from the pen of a military expert, laments the dispersion of the British forces, quotes the maxim of Napoleon in favor of concentration, and regrets that Lord Methuen did not retire to Orange River a week ago.

ON THE DEFENSIVE.

The latest despatches received seem to show that the British forces are standing on the defensive at all points.

Gen. Buller is ordering the troops now arriving at Cape Town to proceed to Durban to reinforce the Natal column.

Absence of news from him has led to a surmise that he is trying to join Gen. White by a flank movement.

The appeals for yeomanry and volunteers are being resented with the greatest enthusiasm in the colonies.

Lord Wolseley proposes that the force being raised by the Lord Mayor of London shall be called the "City of London Imperial Volunteers."

The government expects the total of yeomanry and volunteers to reach 8,000. Baron Chesham will command, with Lord Lansdale as adjutant general.

GENERAL CRITICISM.

The papers are now generally joining in free criticism of the government and the war office, as day by day fresh proofs of unpreparedness come to light. Special stress is laid upon the failure to provide proper transports, which compels the columns to stick tight to railways, and upon the inferiority of the British artillery.

The Australian colonies are responding eagerly to the Imperial government's appeals for second contingents.

It is reported that the Queen will abandon her proposed visit to Italy in consequence of the war.

SCORES THE GOVERNMENT.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Hon. Mr. Clarke Walling, speaking here today as to the second contingent, said: "This is Canada's imperial opportunity. Not only Britain's existence, but Canada's existence as a nation is at stake, and there should be unanimous and immediate action. It is deplorable to think that such a right arm should be paralyzed in the hour of need by apathy and dissensions at Ottawa. The government found itself bound and door closed for four days before it decided to send the first contingent, when all the loyal men of Canada were clamoring for immediate action, and now that Canada should raise not less than 5,000 men, there are haggling and divisions over the question of sending one thousand. So there is a lack of vigorous and prompt patriotism which should characterize the government at Ottawa. I am in favor of summoning parliament immediately; in fact, parliament should have been summoned long ago, to take the voice of the nation on this question."

LONDON REVIEW.

A Deep Silence Regarding Military Operations at the Different Centres.

LONDON, Dec. 21, 4 a. m.—The silence concerning the military operations in South Africa has not yet been broken. Gen. Buller has sent in a corrected list of the deaths of non-commissioned officers and privates at Colenso, placing the total at 137. Nothing has been heard from Gen. Methuen since Dec. 17, and the reports of the Boers at Colenso, and the Boer position and the skillful manner in which they are further strengthening it tend to increase the apprehension regarding the British at Modder River. The probability of Gen. Methuen's communications being cut grows, but nothing is certainly known.

Gen. Walker reported on Dec. 9.

Nothing has been heard from Gen. Gatacre. Press reports indicate an increase in the Boer strength and activity in his neighborhood. It is many days since there was news from Ladysmith, Kimberley or Mafeking.

The reports that the Boers were unable to capture the guns the British abandoned at Colenso do not come from a source encouraging belief in their truth. One correspondent at Cheveley says definitely that the guns were captured.

There is an increasing disposition in many quarters to upbraid the government for responsibility for the British disaster, owing to its lack of preparation and want of foresight.

While disavowing any desire to criticize the generals, he said nevertheless that "our officers had had a sharp lesson," and he trusted that it would be salutary.

The newspapers devote much space to the volunteer movement. Reports indicate that the war office is still overwhelmed with offers.

The imperial yeomanry scheme seems to some extent to be modelled on Roosevelt's vigil riders.

Additional reports from Colenso continue to demonstrate the inferiority of the British artillery.

The naval guns alone are able to reach the enemy's trench.

The Times' correspondent at Cheveley says that the Boers have demanded the river below Bridle drift, rendering it almost impassable.

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of the Associated Press. He was dressed in the deepest black, in vivid contrast with his snow white hair and moustache. His slender figure was as straight as ever, but the British victory were slightly dimmed by the great personal sorrow that has befallen him.

But, in spite of this and the multitude of details that claimed his attention, Gen. Roberts willingly assented to send through the Associated Press a parting message to the Canadian people, and gave the following statement:

"Circumstances naturally forbid my speaking about the welfare of my country in the British soldier, and that I believe in the traditions of our army will be upheld in South Africa."

"For the friendly interest and sympathy exhibited by many Americans I am most deeply grateful, and I have entire confidence in the Anglo-Saxon race. I cannot too warmly express my admiration for the spirit with which Canada will always be a glorious page in the history of the sons of men."

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