

POLICE RAID SHIP FOR WAR PRISONERS

Fifteen Germans of C.P.R.
Liger Mount Royal's Crew
Marched to Cells

WILL BE HELD DURING WAR.

Sailors Were Stolidly Indif-
ferent When South African
Veteran Placed Them
Under Arrest

Fifteen members of the crew of the steamer Mount Royal, of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Line, firemen and stokers, who are reservists of the German Army, were made prisoners of war yesterday by Lieut. Fisher and a squad of men. The police acted under instructions from Chief Campeau. The Germans were marched from the ship to police headquarters where they were locked up.

Lieut. Fisher, who is a veteran of the South African campaign, found seventeen German army reservists, ranging in age from 27 to 53 years, on board the Mount Royal. Two of them, who were over the half-century mark, were not arrested, when they signed a parole that they would not take up arms against the soldiers of Great Britain, or any of her allies, in the war now raging in Europe.

Those who were under 45 years of age, were made prisoners of war, and will have to remain in Canada. It has not been decided as yet, what will be done with them. Those who are willing to sign a parole, that they will not take any part in the present conflict in Europe, or in any way assist the enemies of Great Britain, may be allowed their liberty on signing the parole. They will be compelled to remain in this country till the war is over. Those who are not willing to do so, will be kept in custody till the end of the war.

ARREST CAUSED COMMOTION.

The arrival of the police, under Lieut. Fisher, on board the Mount Royal, at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon, caused considerable excitement amongst the members of the crew, especially the German stokers and firemen. They knew their country was at war with England, but it had never struck them that they would be made prisoners of war in Canada. Some of them are said to be anxious to return to Germany and take up arms for the Fatherland. This they knew they would have to do in any case if they got back to their own country. It was the expressions of loyalty to the German Emperor by a few of them that led to the visit of the police and the arrest of the fifteen. It was feared, also, that if the men were not taken off the ship and remained here free to come and go along the river front, some of them might take it into their heads to assist their country by causing damage to ships, elevators or other property along the harbor. Anyone of these men might have taken a notion that he could cause some damage here that might be of some benefit to the Fatherland.

It was for that reason that Chief Campeau, after a talk with Mr. R. S. White, collector of Customs for the Port of Montreal, decided to place the German reservists on board the Mount Royal under arrest. The men had been signed on the vessel on the other side by the Canadian Pacific Atlantic Line, and under the articles they had signed, could not be discharged here by the steamship company. But the arrest by the police absolves the company of all responsibility.

When the fifteen stokers and firemen were lined up and informed that they were under arrest as prisoners of war, they showed no signs of making any trouble. They displayed their training as military men, when the circumstances were explained to them. The men were marched from the ship, surrounded by the squad of police, who took them along Commissioners street and up Jacques Cartier square to police headquarters.

It has not been decided yet what is to be done with prisoners of war taken into custody here. Those arrested in Montreal or the surrounding district may be kept here, or a special military prison may be opened in some part of the country, to which all prisoners of war taken in Canada may be sent.