

PROBE AT HALIFAX IS NEARING ITS FINISH

Investigation of the Frederick VIII. and the Bernstorff Party About Ended.

KEEP A STRICT GUARD

No Contraband and No Irregularity Found—A Correspondent Balked.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 19.—The German party of former embassy officials and consuls enroute on the Scandinavian-American liner Frederick VIII. from the United States to Germany, entered upon their third day in the hands of examining Canadian immigration officials this morning. It is understood that their ordeal is nearing a conclusion. Those who have been on the ship, though bound by oath to reveal nothing that transpires there, have found it possible to give a few glimpses of the attitude of the Germans towards their examiners.

It would appear that from Count Von Bernstorff, down through the ranks of the minor consul officials, all expected treatment that would be most humiliating, the sort of treatment it is reported German officials handed out to the British, who left Germany early in the war, and more recently to American officials and their wives, making their way out of that country following the breaking off of diplomatic relations by the United States.

Expected Only Formality.

This expectation followed on the disillusionment of their belief that the visit to Halifax was to be most formal, taking up only a cursory examination of safe conduct papers, but when it became known that the Frederick VIII. was to be indefinitely detained in Halifax, and that a most rigid investigation was to take place, something like a reign of terror ensued. It is known that the worst fears of the Germans have not been realized, and that they have been surprised at the consideration

Still No One Allowed Near.

The officials worked all day Saturday and Sunday. It is stated that the majority of the German officials on the Frederick VIII. were given permission to attend divine service on the ship, while the crowds that went out from Halifax to the spot where the ship is anchored, got a long-distance view of the detained party as it passed on the vessel's deck for exercise.

Patrol boats circled the ship and a guard was placed on shore. Residents of houses nearby were instructed to hide all lights, while the wireless of the Frederick VIII. was dismantled as soon as the vessel reached the harbor.

Particular attention is being paid to an American newspaper man who boarded the ship at New York, to prevent press messages being sent from the ship.

Thus far, it has been learned the immigration officials have found no irregularity about the papers of the German party on board the vessel, and no contraband has been found in the cargo.