

SHIPPING HELD AS PRECAUTION AGAINST ENEMY

German Cruisers Must Be Cap- tured or Sunk to Ensure Safety

MINES IN SOME HARBORS

Rainbow and Two Submarines Will Attack Cruiser Leipzig on Sight in the Pacific

(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, August 10—Under directions from the Naval Department, all shipping on the St. Lawrence route, with the exception of incoming vessels, was stopped today, pending further instructions. The stopping of sailing on the Atlantic coast, pending the location and either sinking or capture of the four German cruisers, three on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific, known to be hovering about looking for prizes of war. In addition mines have been placed in the St. Lawrence and at the entrances to the harbors at Halifax and Vancouver. The location of these mines is of course known only to the Naval Department and that is another reason why it is considered unwise for the present at least, to allow vessels to leave. Special provision will be made for piloting incoming vessels so as to avoid danger from submerged mines.

It is not expected that this embargo on sailings will last for more than a few days. The ships of the enemy are almost certain to be picked up by the British or Canadian cruisers this week. The three German cruisers on the Atlantic, the Karlsruhe, Dresden and Strassburg, are dependent on German bottoms for their fuel supplies, and their predatory operations cannot be long continued. There are now five British ships of war on this side of the Atlantic, namely the Essex, Berwick, Lancaster, Bristol and Suffolk. The cruiser Drake is now on the way across, and the Niobe will be in commission by the end of this week. With all these vessels searching for the enemy, it should not take long to clear the north Atlantic, and make the passage to England again secure. It is understood that the Essex sighted one of the German cruisers about 200 miles off Halifax last week, but the latter, being speedier than the British cruiser, rapidly got out of sight. On the Pacific coast, the Rainbow and the two new Canadian submarines are looking for the German cruiser Leipzig. The Rainbow is of heavier armament and has been ordered to engage the Leipzig at the first opportunity.

QUEBEC IS CLOSED.

Quebec, August 10—The port of Quebec is now closed under orders from the Federal authorities. No outgoing ships will be allowed to leave port. The following ships, which left Quebec Saturday or Sunday, are held at Father Point: Donaldson liner Letitia; Allan, Sicilian; C.P.R., Tyrolia; Cunard, Alania, and the Bray Head.

The Empress of Britain and the Victorian are reported as having made port in Halifax. The Scandinavian left Quebec at 7.30 yesterday evening and she is to be notified to put in at Halifax.

MUST PASS INSPECTOR.

Halifax, N.S., August 10—The port of Halifax has been declared closed to shipping, and no vessel was allowed today to leave port. This order, it is understood, is temporary, but although a reason is rumored it could not be confirmed by either the naval or customs authorities. In addition no shipping of any kind will be permitted to enter port unless it is passed by the examining ship, the C.G.S. Canada.

AUTHORITIES RETICENT.

Ottawa, August 10—The reply of military authorities here to inquiries for the reasons of the closing of the ports of Montreal, Quebec and Halifax, leaves it to be inferred that they are in possession of information that it is not considered wise to make public, though they would not say so in as many words. A high official told the Canadian Press that from time to time certain information was received pointing to the necessity of certain precautionary measures and action must be taken without giving any special reasons. The ports, he said, were not actually closed, though vessels were forbidden to sail. The order might not be maintained for longer than a few days.

Owing to the rigid restrictions on news of all strategic moves it is difficult to obtain explanations of orders issued from military headquarters.

SIGHTED THE RAINBOW.

Stocks, Cal., August 10—The steamer City of Topeka, which arrived today from San Francisco, reported that she had sighted the Canadian protected cruiser Rainbow off Point Reyes yesterday evening.