

THE PORT OF MONTREAL PRACTICALLY CLOSED

First Time This Has Happened
in Its History

CONGESTION OF SHIPS

Tug Fleet Patrols Lower Harbor —
Military Guard Wharves and Ele-
vators—Officials Awaiting Instruc-
tions as to Exportation of Grain.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Montreal, Aug. 3.—The port of Montreal was practically closed tonight, for the first time in its history. To-day a tug fleet patrolled the lower harbor, and a force of two hundred men were sworn in this evening to exclude all landsmen from the wharves. Sailors on vessels in port will be allowed to leave their ships only under escort. No vessel will be permitted to come into port or to leave without an express writ being granted.

Disorganization of Port.

Precautionary war measures have resulted in a complete disorganization of the ships and men in Montreal port. All concerned were notified personally this morning of the immediate calling out of the navy reserves, and that all must report to the collector of the port.

Captain Rostrom, of the new Cunard liner Alaunia, and his Chief Mate, Mr. Storey, also Third Mate Thinney, are among the number called, but may not have to abandon their vessel.

Captain O'Reilly of the Monmouth is also an R. N. R. man, as are several officers of the Victorian. Over one hundred and fifty men, forming part of the crews of vessels in port will also be called.

The men are ordered home and will take the Victorian, which sails to-morrow morning, but the Captains may be allowed to go back on their own vessels.

Ship Congestion Begun.

Local ship congestion has begun. Three tramps that should have cleared Saturday, being fully loaded with grain then, are still in dock. They are the Upland, for Rotterdam; Border Knight, for the Mediterranean, and the Hans B., for continental ports.

Twelve tramp vessels are on the way here for grain cargoes for continental ports, and will swell the number of detentions unless they find orders for British ports instead. They are as follows: SS. Nantwen, Penvern, Keramia, Burnsford, Heatherbe, Salmonpool, Fishpool, Kenilworth, Clearpool, Willerby, Ennisbrock, and Brockly.

Another German vessel is on her way to port, a sister vessel of the Willehad, named the Wittekind. Whether she will arrive here is doubtful, as, unlike the tramps, she carries wireless and can be directed to New York. The harbor elevators were still to-day, and the usual activity around wharf 11 was absent. Only two vessels, the Sicilian and Statia, have cleared in the last thirty-six hours. Bookings for the Alaunia and Allan liners continue.

The Roth Line sailings to Montreal from Rotterdam have been cancelled.

With five million dollars' worth of grain lying in the elevators of Montreal under special guard, the docks lined with vessels whose sailing dates have been cancelled, and with all officials constantly looking for definite instructions as to the course of action they shall pursue regarding the exportation of foodstuffs and the departure of Austrian and German reservists, Montreal's water front is in a state of keen suspense.

Carload of Ammunition.

Montreal, Aug. 3. — (C. P. Despatch.)—For almost three days at least—and it may be longer—traffic from Montreal to oversea points has been suspended. The Victorian is due to leave to-morrow on her regular route. It is likely, however, that she will carry over one thousand French reservists who are responding to the call of the President of the French Republic.

The Canadian Pacific Railway yesterday shipped to the Pacific coast from the Government arsenal at Quebec a carload of ammunition for field pieces and machine guns and rifles. The exact destination of the shipment was not known, and the whole matter was conducted as secretly as possible.

Troop Trains in Readiness.

The C.P.R. is holding trains in readiness all over the country for the shipment of troops if necessary, and all the trains which had been engaged by the Dominion Government for the taking of troops to the camp at Petawawa have been recalled. Yesterday one train was held fifteen minutes for the Minister of Militia.