

ACTION OF U. S. GOVERNMENT IN TAKING OVER CABLE SYSTEMS IS CAUSE OF UNREST AT OTTAWA

Canadians Are Heavily Interested in These Companies and Are Taking Action to Protect Their Rights—Federal Government Was Not Consulted Although Canada Has Interest at Stake.

This Action May Result in Confusion of the Free Exchange of Messages of Official, Press and Private Nature—Canadian Newspapers Depend Upon the Anglo-American Cables—Washington May Be Asked for an Explanation.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 8.—The action of the United States Congress in taking control of the Anglo-American (Western Union) and Commercial Cable companies has occasioned considerable surprise and some uneasiness in official circles here. Surprise is felt that such action should be taken without consultation with the Union government, important Canadian interests being involved. Uneasiness is felt that Washington control of these cables for purposes outlined by President Wilson, namely, precedence in transmission to all United States government matter and American news despatches, might considerably interfere with Canadian official, press and business communication.

The matter, it is understood, has been up before the cabinet, but pending some explanation of the action taken from Washington nothing as yet has been done.

Canada, it is pointed out here, has an interest in the matter in more respects than one. In the first place, both cable companies concerned have their terminals in Canada—one at Canada and the other at Sydney, and in the case of the Commercial Cable a large proportion of its shares are held in Canada, and four of its directors, Vincent Morford, Sir Edmund Osler, Charles R. Hosmer and Sir Thomas Skinner—are Canadians.

The Canadian shareholders, it is learned, are somewhat indignant that they should be deprived of their property, without ample justification. They point out that the proclamation of the president, under which congress took action, came after the signing of the armistice, and that therefore, the taking over of the cables could not be justified as a war measure.

President Wilson in his address to congress on December 8 stated that his reasons for recommending taking control of the cables were that it was desirable to have the property for all government business and that the United States sources it has been explained that the action was taken to secure the freest possible flow of news despatches to the United States press during the coming peace conference. It is pointed out here that Canada too has an interest in having the freest possible cable communication with Europe in the coming amount of gas the well will produce are not yet available, as the work of development is not yet completed. Officials of the company, however, are very much pleased with the indications so far shown, and the new strike will tend to relieve the anxiety felt in regard to a possible gas shortage during the winter.

CHILDREN HAUL GUNS TO SAFETY
Everybody Hustling to Drag Armament Away from the Advancing Allied Troops.

Amsterdam, Dec. 7.—A Cologne dispatch in Friday's Rheinisch Westphaelische Gazette, of Essen, says that Cologne has been presenting a strange spectacle recently. Large numbers of discharged soldiers, youths and even school children, stimulated by offers of rewards for saving guns from the Germans troops of occupation, by getting the artillery pieces to the right bank of the Rhine, were harnessing themselves to gun carriages bearing guns, and dragging them to safety.

ANOTHER BIG GAS STRIKE IN ALBERT CO.

Moncton's Fear of a Scarcity During the Coming Winter is Now a Thing of the Past.

CHAS. B. FERGUSON DIED ON SUNDAY

Zero Weather Recorded for the First Time When Mercury Went Seven Below.

CHURCH MEMORIALS WERE UNVEILED

Window Erected to the Memory of William and Robert Chapman and Panels in Memory of R. A. Ripley, Who Was Killed in France.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Dec. 8.—Charles B. Ferguson, a well known citizen and one of the oldest members of the Moncton Fire Department, died this morning after an illness of some months, of heart trouble. Deceased was sixty-four years of age, and was a retired employe of the C. G. Railway. He was a native of Sackville, but had resided in Moncton more than forty-three years, during which time he was employed in the C. G. R., being a machinist by trade. He is survived by a widow and grown-up family of four daughters and three sons. Three of the daughters live in Worcester, Mass., and a daughter, Mrs. Miles Wilson, resides in Sunny Brae. One son, Pte. Jack Ferguson, is overseas. Charlie lives in Whitefield, Mass., and Frank at home. A brother, Jack, and two sisters, reside in Sackville.

The thermometer in Moncton last night registered seven below zero. This is the first below zero recorded this season.

A beautiful memorial window erected in the Central Methodist Church, to the memory of William and Robert Chapman, pioneer Methodists within this country, by Ald. A. C. Chapman, Mrs. Capt. Edward O'Neill (Dorchester), and Hon. C. W. Robinson, and also panels erected in the same edifice to the memory of Robert Arthur Ripley, who was killed in action in France, presented by his father, Robert Ripley, were unveiled this morning by Rev. W. H. Barrecolough, pastor of the church.

The Maritime Oil Fields Co. report that an encouraging flow of gas has been struck in one of the wells being deepened at the gas and oil fields in Albert County. The exact figures as to the amount of gas the well will produce are not yet available, as the work of development is not yet completed. Officials of the company, however, are very much pleased with the indications so far shown, and the new strike will tend to relieve the anxiety felt in regard to a possible gas shortage during the winter.

WON'T HANDLE GERMAN CARGO

British Seamen Insist on Boycott and Hope America Will Stand by Them.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 7.—Captain Edward Tupper, of the British seamen's union, speaking at the chamber of commerce, British Day luncheon, today, declared that British labor would support Lloyd George's recent declaration that enemy aliens should be expelled from British soil. He said the seamen and dockers of Great Britain are solidly for boycotting of Germans and German goods, "knowing full well that an influx of cheap German labor in the docks and on the ships meant putting Brits out of work. They also refuse to touch, load or discharge any German cargo," and are confident American seamen will also have the same attitude.

INSURANCE COMPANIES LOST BY INFLUENZA

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 7.—Tabulation of insurance policies paid by reason of deaths from pneumonia and influenza, in October and November, completed here today, shows that life insurance companies with their home offices in Hartford, paid out more than \$4,000,000 throughout the United States.

SCHWAB RESIGNS

Washington, Dec. 7.—The resignation of Charles H. Schwab, as director of the emergency fleet corporation, was accepted today by President Wilson, in a wireless message from the transport George Washington to the White House.

General Pershing Pays a Glowing Tribute to Virtues of Britain and Her Soldiers Whose Works Have Been Beyond All Praise

New York, Dec. 7.—General Pershing, in a cablegram received by Mr. Parker, said: "Steadfast in adversity, wounded with a thousand wounds, Great Britain's hammer blows have never weakened nor faltered. But for the tenacity of her people, the war would have been lost. To those of us who have been associated with them, and fought with their gallant troops, words of praise seem inadequate to express our admiration. These things our kinsmen have done have brought inseparable union between them and ourselves. We offer our right hand in friendship that our two nations may be more firmly linked together, to ensure the future of the world."

BUNGLING ON ALL SIDES AND SERIOUS LOSS OF TIME MARK DISEMBARKATION OF EIGHT HUNDRED INVALID SOLDIERS IN HALIFAX

Hospital Ship Arguaya With Wounded and Insane Soldiers Docked at Noon Saturday and Not Until Last Night Were the New Brunswick Men Able to Board Trains for Their Homes.

Military Authorities Blame Railway for Not Having Trains Ready, While the Railway People Say the Military Are to Blame Because the Yards Were Filled With Cars Waiting for Days for the Olympic, Which Has Not Yet Arrived—Slackness in Method of Handling the Wounded Men is Cause of Sharp Criticism on Both Sides—Simply Another Reason Why St. John Should be Made the Port of Arrival.

Halifax, Dec. 8.—H. M. Hospital ship Arguaya, bringing 801 wounded Canadians, docked at 1:30 yesterday afternoon, after an exceptionally rough trip of eleven days from Liverpool. The last of the patients, those for the New Brunswick district, numbering forty-eight, are only leaving for their homes, after an enforced delay here of upwards of thirty hours. Military transport officers state that if the work had proceeded according to schedule, the men could have been handled in twelve hours, and they are complaining bitterly of the record of the railway officials in making up the trains here.

The railway officials on the other hand, state that the delay was entirely due to their having filled the yards with passenger cars for the accommodation of the Olympic's passengers, they having been notified by the military authorities that the Olympic was due on a date ten days previous to her having actually sailed from England. The first train to leave the ship's side yesterday was the train bound for Coburg, Ont., with ninety-eight mental cases and one hundred guards. It got away in fairly good time at four-thirty o'clock. The next train carrying six officers, one nursing sister and 164 other ranks, all bound for Toronto, was definitely promised for seven o'clock. Acting on this promise, the Toronto contingent was paraded on the deck of the hospital ship at seven o'clock. They were kept there for three-quarters of an hour, and then dismissed, owing to the non-arrival of the train. Again the train was definitely promised for nine o'clock, and the men were paraded, only to be dismissed after what seemed to them, an interminable wait on the decks of a steamer they had grown tired of, and in a temporary structure considerably below the freezing point. The Toronto train finally backed into the pier at 10:45. It pulled out at midnight, last night. As a result of this fiasco the military officials have given orders that under no circumstances in the future will men be paraded until a train is waiting to receive them before the eyes of the Allies in the peace conference.

TWENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT IS NOW ON GERMAN SOIL

Canadian Cavalry and Infantry Brigades Will Make Their Headquarters at the University Town of Bonn, Near Cologne—Others Remain at Mons.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 8.—Canadian forces are now on German soil, according to a cable received by the director of public information from Canadian headquarters in London. Information received in England, the cable states, indicates that the Canadian cavalry brigade, together with the first and second Canadian divisions entered Germany and are today close to Bonn, the German Rhine city, which is one of the famous university centres of Germany, situated a few miles from Cologne. Bonn, it is understood, will be the headquarters of the Canadian corps.

KING GEORGE THANKS U. S. FOR TOKENS OF FRIENDSHIP

Message Read in Hippodrome at Celebration of Britain's Day Yesterday Expresses the Hope That the Two Great Nations May Stand United Through the Era of Peace as They Are Today.

New York, Dec. 8.—A message from King George, expressing the hope that Britons and Americans may be united in peace as they were in war, was read today at a meeting in the Hippodrome arranged as the climax of New York's celebration of Britain's Day.

The King's message, read by Alton B. Parker, who presided, stated that "The people of the British Empire join with me in thanking you for the gifts which you have sent to us in token of your friendship, which will be welcomed as a proof of the true and lasting friendship of the United States. It will be a particular satisfaction to my navy and army to feel that they have won the esteem of the nation that has sent so many gallant men to suffer with them the trials of this great war, and to share in the glories of final victory," continued the message. "In the name of the British Empire, I thank the people of the United States of America, and I pray that the coming era of peace may find our two nations always united as they are today."

MONTREAL CIVIC EMPLOYEES WILL GO ON STRIKE AT NOON WEDNESDAY—OTHERS MAY JOIN

S. S. OLYMPIC DUE FRIDAY

Sailed from Liverpool Yesterday for Halifax with Thousands of Returned Soldiers—Many Anxious People Await Her Arrival.

The big steamship Olympic sailed from Liverpool yesterday and will be due in Halifax next Friday. The ship has thousands of soldiers on board returning to Canada, and there are many relatives and friends awaiting her arrival in the sister city. The Olympic was scheduled to arrive one day early last week, but it is stated that owing to some trouble she was obliged to return to England after starting on her voyage across the Atlantic. This news was given out to the public, but some of the anxious ones were very much afraid that something else had happened to the ship and that she was lost. This last news will be received with gladness by the large number who have been looking for the ship to reach port.

THE AQUITANIA LEFT YESTERDAY

Big Cunarder Sailed from Halifax in Early Morning for Liverpool With Large Passenger List.

Halifax, Dec. 8.—The Cunard liner Aquitania sailed early today for Liverpool. Among her passengers were the following names: Duchess of Devonshire; Lady Maud Marchintosh and child; Lady Dorothy Cavendish; Capt. Kenyon Slaney; Lady Kenyon Slaney; Capt. M. A. Ridley; Capt. H. A. Chivo; Lord Shaughnessy and secretary; Commander and Mrs. Holkway; Captain Benson; Major R. Carling; Major Gray Ashton; Lt. Col. N. T. O. Meek; Lt. Col. Stroom and wife; Major Oulster and wife; Russian Prince Lovy and party.

MORE GERMAN PROPAGANDA

Stories of Massacre of Jews in Poland Were Spread from Berlin to Split the Polish Nation.

Geneva, Dec. 8.—The Central Polish Bureau at Lausanne has received a telegram from Berlin to the effect that there have been no pogroms against the Jews in Poland. Reports that pogroms have been carried out were spread especially by the German press, which since the armistice, has begun an anti-Polish propaganda, the Czechs aside, in order to culminate in the new Poland before the eyes of the Allies in the peace conference.

VICTIMS OF HUNS ARE ENTITLED TO HONOR

National W. C. T. U. Urges Punishment of Their Assaultants and Recognition of the Sufferers.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—A demand that officials of the Central Powers responsible for the mistreatment of French and Belgian women and girls during the war, be punished, and that the peace conference at Paris recognize the victims as honorably wounded in behalf of their country, instead of social outcasts and that action be taken which will render such outrages impossible in the future, was formulated by the executive committee of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which closed its annual sessions today. It is planned to have six million American women sign a petition to this effect for presentation to the peace conference through President Wilson. A committee was appointed to take the petition to President Wilson at Paris.

WRECKAGE FOUND IN LAKE SUPERIOR

Points to Loss During Storm of Two French Mine Sweepers Which Sailed November 24th.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Dec. 8.—Wreckage found off Grandmarais, points strongly to the loss of the two French mine sweepers in the storm of November 24 last. It has been reported that a lifeboat, unpaired, and small pieces of newly-matched lumber, probably portions of hatch covers, painted a lead color, have been picked up by coastguard men cruising in the section. Captain Leclerc, in charge of the sweepers, however, is loath to believe that they are gone, and that the crews of 74 men found a watery grave in Lake Superior. He is still making endeavors to procure a tug to search in the vicinity of Michipicoten Harbor and Island. The vessels have been missing for fourteen days.

SEVEN U. S. SEAMEN WERE DROWNED

Paris, Dec. 7.—One officer and six men of the American destroyer Lansdale, were drowned Saturday when attempting to rejoin their ship, according to a Havas despatch from Tangier. They were of a party of thirty officers and men who had spent the day in the Moroccan seaport, and were returning to the Lansdale when their boat capsized in a heavy sea.

BRITISH ADVANCING

London, Dec. 7.—An official statement issued today by the British war office, reporting the progress of the British army of occupation in Germany, says: "On Friday our troops continued their advance. By evening they had reached the general line of Rheinfelden, west of Bergheim and Wesslinghoven."

Police, Firemen and Other Unions Refuse to Recede an Inch from Their Original Demands and Unless All Requests Are Met by the City Some Thousands of Public Officers Will go to Their Homes—An Intimation That the Tramways Union May Take Action in Sympathy.

Men Want More Pay, Better Holidays, Change in Hours of Work, and the Dismissal of Several Departmental Heads Who Are Regarded as Incompetent—No Disorder to be Permitted if Strike Occurs.

FOUR KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Canadian Electro Plant at Shawinigan Falls Blew up on Saturday With Fatal Results.

Quebec, Dec. 8.—It was reported here tonight that an explosion occurred in one of the buildings of the Canadian Electro Products Company at Shawinigan Falls about 9:46 Saturday night. Three men were killed and one girl is missing, while the building was badly damaged. No further details were given.

Shawinigan Falls, Dec. 8.—The bodies of three men and one woman were recovered from the ruins of one of the isolated buildings in the plant following an explosion of a gas-pipe which kept the town fire brigade under Chief Longval occupied for over two hours. The building in which the explosion took place was a brick structure devoted to the production of acetic acid. So far the cause has not been determined, all that is officially known is that there was an explosion of gas. One of the dead has been identified—one Lacourriere, 30 years, of this town, he was married only ten days ago.

The other two men are thought to be French-Canadians while the woman is a native of England. The plant gives employment to 300 men and 40 women and it is thought there are no further casualties.

BACK FROM THE EASTERN TRIP

D. B. Hanna Has Nothing Much to Say About the Eastern Lines.

Montreal, Dec. 8.—Mr. D. B. Hanna, president of the Canadian government railway board, returned to the Windsor Hotel this morning, accompanied by his fellow directors and the high officials who had been over the system in the lower provinces and Prince Edward Island. Mr. Hanna while speaking of the lower province trip said that a good number of the directors had not been over the I.C.R., and the trip of inspection was considered necessary to some of the party before being in a position to discuss in a practical manner the many questions coming before them. They found the roadbed in splendid condition, the trains running on good time, and considered the earning powers of the road and the outlook generally exceedingly promising. In Prince Edward Island, he said, the gauge was being changed from three feet, six inches, to the standard, this being accomplished by the laying of an additional rail. The party also visited the new terminals at Halifax and expressed the opinion that they will meet the requirements of the system for many years to come.

INSANE SOLDIER PROBABLY PERISHED

One of the Returned Men Who Arrived Saturday at Halifax Escaped from Train After Leaving Moncton.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Dec. 8.—Private Nevejins, a Spaniard, a returned soldier on board hospital train No. 1167 from Halifax en route to Coburg, Ont., escaped this morning somewhere between Moncton and Newcastle, and up to a late hour tonight had not been found. The soldier is described as insane and was very thin and as the weather was very cold, being eight or ten degrees below zero, the authorities fear that this unfortunate man has perished. At the time he escaped from the train he was bare-headed and in his stocking feet, wearing pants and a sweater. Search has been going on since he was missed, but without avail. Considering his condition it seems highly improbable that he would long survive the intense cold unless he happened to have been found and taken care of.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The name of Charles R. Reardon, Charlottetown, P. E. I., appears in today's United States casualty list as "returned to duty, previously reported missing."