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WIRELESS WAR ON THE PACIFIC

MINISTRY ACTED IN PUBLIC INTEREST

Course Pursued Prevented the Carrying Out of a Monopoly on Coast.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The war between the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. and the department of marine and fisheries goes on merrily, the latest development being an open letter by General Manager Oppe, of the Marconi Company, to Hon. W. Templeman, to which the latter has promptly replied. The open letter itself is as follows:

The letter in full is as follows:

"To the Hon. W. Templeman, acting minister of marine and fisheries.

"Sir,—While the government superintendent of wireless telegraphy has lately distinguished himself by a masterful inactivity in connection with the Atlantic wireless stations he is displaying great energy on the west coast.

"He is reported as having expressed himself publicly in the Vancoucer Colonist to the effect that the American Shoemaker apparatus, which the government has purchased in the United States and proposes to erect on the west coast, in disregard of our patent rights and contracts, had after an exhaustive series of tests proved itself to be superior to the Marconi apparatus. This statement is, as your representative must know, highly damaging, as well as absolutely false, and we are considering the advisability of taking an action for libel in respect to its publication.

"Now as to the patent question. About two years ago we brought an action against certain persons in the United States who were using apparatus in infringement of ours. The defendants were not concerned to show that their patent was a good one, but only that the Marconi patents were not good—that they had been anticipated by one or other prior inventor. The Shoemaker so-called inventions were cited. Judge Townsend in his decision rendered in the circuit court on the 4th of May, 1905, thus refers to Shoemaker:

'His testimony is so utterly unsupported and insufficient and improbable that it will not be discussed.'

"From the date of the erection of the first Marconi stations in 1904 until recently, for a period of about three years, we received the co-operation of the department of marine, which the terms of our contracts provide for, and we were able to maintain an efficient service, which has generally proved itself to be of inestimable value.

"I regret to have to state that since about the beginning of this year the department's policy has altered completely; a new superintendent of wireless telegraphy has been appointed; our constract rights have been disregarded, and generally our operations have been retarded and hampered.

"Apart from the question of transport, this newly appointed superintendent has apparently been engaged in disorganizing our service by an attempt to win our employees at the shore stations from us and to make them dissatisfied with their present employment—notwithstanding that we are under contract to give the government an efficient service.

"I have evidence which in my opinion is ample to prove this charge, and I say that an official who acts in this improper manner is not fit to hold his employment.

"The department's campaign extends to the withholding from us of permission to erect stations at points where they are urgently required by the shipping communities; to its failure to issue licenses for vessels trading in Canadian waters desirous of being equipped; and to its failure to issue licenses for vessels trading on the west coast, except on conditions which would compel us to acquiesce in the breach of our contracts and which in consequence we cannot accept.

"Your action alone prevents us from fulfilling contracts to equip several vessels trading on the St. Lawrence; a station at Three Rivers and other shore stations under agreements with the C. P. R. and G. T. Pacific.

"You are aware, sir, that the terms under which we operate the Atlantic stations provide that we shall continue to occupy, maintain and operate them for so long only—in general terms—as we are able to give the best and most useful service, and that our very license to carry on our business depends on the service we are able to provide. I have abundant warrant for knowing and saying that you advocate the government's possessing itself of wireless telegraphy—our business and stations. Both you and your superntendent are eminently well aware that the more we are hampered, and the more we are discredited, and the less we are able to develop our system on ships and shore, the sooner will this end be accomplished.

"Remember, sir, that we have patents, contract rights and vested interests; remember that every stone you hurl at us strikes the shipping interests with their vessels and cargoes of human lives, and cherish particularly the remembrance that we are living in a country, fortunately for some of us, in which injustice is not for long tolerated.

"In a recent letter I was officially notified by the department not to write to you personally, and I am therefore adopting this method of addressing you with the expectation that public opinion, where I have failed, will direct your attention to the abuses which you are allowing to exist.

"I have the honor to be, sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"JOHN D. OPPE,

"General Manager."

As before stated in the Times, the action of the government is based largely on grounds of public policy. Any offer made by the Marconi Company to the government contained a provision that the Marconi people would not be obliged to communicate with vesseds or stations employing any other system of wireless telegraphy.

How fatal this would be to the operation of a government owned chain of wireless stations, whose main business would be that of aids to navigation and as life-saving stations, has already been pointed out in the Times. For the government to make such a contract would mean to perpetuate a cruel monopoly.

Other statements made in the foregoing open letter are equally groundless. The charge that its operators were being induced to leave their employment by the government, is controverted by the fact that when the government decided to take over the control of the wireless equipment placed on their boats and operate them themselves, the Marconi Company issued a circular to all their operators stating the fact and adding that if they wished to join the government service they were at liberty to do so. As a result of this circular the department had so many applications for positions that the Marconi Company evidently repented of their action and are now hoping to [illegible] out of the fact that their operators desired to join the government service.

As to the charge that the government are withholding licenses to the Marconi Company to establish stations on the St. Lawrence between Quebec and Montreal, such is not the case. The government has the entire regulation of wireless telegraphy in Canada under Chap 49, Statutes of Canada, 1905, clause 3 of which reads as follows:

"No person shall establish any wireless telegraph station or instal or work any apparatus for wireless telegraphy in any place or on board any ship registered in Canada except under and in accordance with a license granted in that behalf by the minister with the consent of the governor in council.

"Every such license shall be in such form and for such period as the minister may determine and shall contain the terms, conditions and restrictions on and subject to which the license is granted, and any such license may include two or more stations, places or ships."

Under the foregoing the department is perfectly justified in safeguarding the public interest, and on the ground of public policy in taking every precaution to see that wireless telegraphy, which is practically only in its infancy, is not hampered by the granting of exclusive rights or fostering a monopoly to the detriment of shipping and of the general good.

The government, it is believed, were perfectly willing to grant Marconi licenses on the same terms as those which would be granted any other company which might apply for the same, but properly refused to grant any exclusive principle to the Marconi or any other company. It has been demonstrated in practice that a limited number of stations only can operate within a certain zone, and hence any company which desires the right to establish stations must agree to interchange messages with the other systems besides its own.

Regarding the validity of the Marconi company's patents, an opinion cannot be given, but as before pointed out, the courts are open for them and there and there only can their claims be established or controverted. In this connection it appears to be rather strange that if the Marconi Company's patents are valid they have not taken any actions against the other companies operating in Canada, such as the Mt. Forrest and the Pacific Wireless Company, which has had a station operating in this city for a long time.

In view of these facts it seems that the Marconi Company is only weakening its case by pursuing a course widely divergent from the only one by which their alleged rights can be established, and Hon. Mr. Templeman who is acting as chief of the marine department during the absence of Hon. Mr. Brodeur, is adopting a policy which is in the interest of the public at large, and of the people of the Pacific Coast in particular.

"PEDLAR" PALMER INDICTED.

Guildford, Eng., July 17.—The grand jury has returned an indictment for manslaughter against "Pedlar" Palmer, the English pugilist, who with another man was arrested April 24th last on suspicion of having caused the death of Robert Choat, a gas house stoker of Deptford. Palmer is alleged to have struck Choat when he refused to stop singing when Palmer requested him to do so.

THERE IS TO BE NO DELAY

IN CONNECTION WITH SCHOOL BUILDING

Trustees Refused to Comply With Wishes Expressed in Resolution From Victoria West

(From Thursday's Daily.)

At the meeting of the school board held last evening in the board room in the city hall, amongst other communications was one from Dr. Tory, of the Royal Institution of Learning, dated from Vancouver, enclosing a resolution which had passed their board, and asking for the approval of the Victoria board of education in regard to the present existing staff of teachers at the High school whose salaries would be supplemented by the Royal Institution should the Royal Institution deem that such a course be necessary in the interests of higher education. Various tenders for the painting, kalsomining and cementing of the various schools in Victoria were received and were referred back to the building and grounds committee to adjudicate upon in order that the lowest tender might be accepted.

A copy of the resolution of the residents of Victoria West expressing their disapproval of the present site selected for the new school and asking for an extension of time so that Hon. Mr. Templeman might be communicated with and waited upon on his return, was summarily dealt with after a short discussion, the secretary being instructed to reply and inform the secretary representing the residents of Victoria West that the board had determined on their line of policy and failed to comply with the request of the inhabitants of Victoria West.

The remainder of the meeting was mainly taken up with the consideration of Mr. Ridgway-Wilson's plans for the new school in Victoria West. It was thought advisable owing to the existing estimates for all contract work on the part of the contractors of Victoria being exceedingly high, to construct the new school so as to provide for the ground floor accommodation for the present, leaving the completion of the second floor with its roof and finish the inside work when it could be carried out at a reasonable figure.

Trustee Jay occupied the chair, Trustees Mrs. Jenkins, Lewis, Riddle, McKeown and Bishop were also present. The architect of the board, Mr. Ridgway-Wilson, was in attendance.

A communication from the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company was read, stating that at present they could not give quotations for wood four feet long to be delivered to the board, as they had too many orders on their books.

Edward Bragg applied for the position of superintendent in the construction of the new school in Victoria West, stating in his letter that he had had over thirty years' experience in building construction.

Phil. Smith, acting as secretary on behalf of the residents of Victoria West, sent the following resolution embodied in his communication, to the board: "That this meeting considers the present school site is not a suitable one and therefore request the school board to withhold action committing them to build upon that site for sixty days, or until it has been found impossible to secure a free site upon the Indian reserve." The letter explained that Hon. W. Templeman had been communicated with and informed of the resolution as well as of the fact that a deputation of five representing the inhabitants, would wait upon him on his arrival in this city.

The communication was discussed and it was stated by Trustee Lewis that Mr. Templeman could keep it in his inside pocket.

The board failed to see how the present site was unsuitable, moreover they asserted that it was sanitary. There had been expended $1,000 to ensure proper sanitation for the school and they failed to se any objections to the site from this point of view. They could not see what would be gained by removing to another site. It would be an act of folly to move to another part of the town after laying out so large a sum as $1,000 on their present site to perfect the sanitary arrangement of the school.

The secretary was instructed to inform the inhabitants of Victoria West that the board having determined on its line of policy could not see its way to comply with their request..

Dr. Tory's communication was read in which he stated that he enclosed a resolution from the Royal Institution of Learning. The resolution reads as follows:

1. That such teachers in the employ of the school board, doing the work of the higher years of Victoria College, under the affiliation arrangement, as the Royal Institution may from time to time designate, shall, while remaining under the control of the school board, become, jointly with the teachers that may hereafter be employed by the Royal Institution in the said College, a faculty of the Victoria College of McGill University.

2. That the school board continue to pay the salaries of the persons so employed by them according to the usual schedule of salaries for teachers, the Royal Institution being permitted to supplement such as they may see fit, and to supply and provide for the salaries of such other teachers as may, in the opinion of the Royal Institution, be deemed requisite.

3. The discipline and management of the faculty to be brought under the by-laws of the Royal Institution provided always that nothing affecting discipline or instruction shall be inconsistent with the provisions of the School Act of the province of British Columbia as it now stands.

It was explained that the Vancouver board had agreed to adopt a modified form of the resolution. That the school board would continue to pay the teachers according to the scale of salaries, but that the Royal Institution would supplement salaries as they deemed necessary. In other words, if they would supplement such salary or salaries, the Royal Institution would further provide salaries for such other teachers as they deemed necessary and in this case it would be the entire salary. Secretary Eaton further explained that the faculty of the college was independent of the school board, but that the High school had no relation to the Royal Institution, although they might make suggestions to the High school. Steps were being already taken to raise a building fund in Vancouver.

Trustee Lewis moved that the agreement be ratified.

The chairman, Trustee Jay, was appointed as representative of the board on the Royal Insitution.

It was deemed advisable that Dr. Tory should look up a man for the new department of applied science. It was again mentioned that the Royal Institution did not suggest any changes in the present staff of teachers except that they would make suggestions to enable the staff to do its work properly. The motion was carried ratifying the agreement.

The architect to the board, Mr. Ridgway-Wilson, submitted his tentative plans for the new school. The plans for the heating of the building will be furnished at the next meeting. The system he proposed to adopt was the circulation of heated air throughout the building by means of an electric fan, the same system as is in use in Seattle and all around the coast, but he definitely stated that in order to prevent any possible vitiation of the atmosphere the lavatories would be entirely cut off from the general heating system of the school. The architect stated that although the general plan of the proposed building was submitted with the tracing of the building it was of course subject to any slight modification that may be found necessary.

The most pressing matter before the board yesterday evening in his opinion, was for the trustees to take steps to arrange for the blasting of the rock on the new site during the holidays. As this would take a month, or it might be less, he was instructed to advertise for tenders at once. Specifications of what is wanted will be drawn up by him for the next meeting. He stated that the estimates which he drew up last January might require alterations for the reason that builders' prices were going up from day to day. But as an approximate estimate including heating and ventilation and other contingencies he considered that the work could be done for $32,497, which was $5,000 in excess of the prices prevailing three years ago. This estimate, however, did not include the architect's commission, nor the cost of blasting the rock which might run to about $500.

His proposal was to get in the tenders, leaving the second floor in the rough as it would not be a great expense to finish the other part when necessary. He felt disinclined to complete school at present prices which, in his opinion, were excessive. As an alternative suggestion, he said he would propose that a one-story building be erected with the lower walls built thick enough to carry another story when it became necessary to build one.

The position of the Assembly hall in the new building was fully discussed and it was felt that as this hall was only in use about twice a year, the best place for it undoubtedly was on the second floor. Secretary Eaton stating that the best place for class rooms was on the ground floor and if money was no consideration he would have every school altered to gain this end.

It was thought advisable to carry out the suggestion of the architect and to take for their main idea the plan of the South Park school, the architect explaining that as regards one or two details, structural alterations would be necessary. For instance, he had thought it better to have a different pitch of roof. He preferred a quarter pitch for the present building instead of the forty-five pitch of the South Park school. There would be other differences, but in the main the South Park model might well be followed, in size and in other ways with the exception of the heating and, he though, sanitary arrangements. An alteration in the cloak room arrangements was deemed advisable in the new school, namely to have the cloak room lead out of the class room with an outside door as well. This, according to teachers in Seattle, was found to be the more satisfactory arrangement. Eight-roomed accomodation was considered necessary and was to be so arranged as to make the building as compact as possible. Yet at the same time every allowance must be made in the way of accommodation for the future expansion of the district.

The discussion ended on a motion of Trustee Lewis that the architect draw

(Continued on page 5.)

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

AMERICAN EXPERTS HAVE ISSUED REPORT

An Interesting Review of Conditions as They Exist in Great Britain.

New York, July 18.—Municipal operation of public utilities in Great Britain, as observed by a committee of experts sent abroad last year by the National Civic Federation, is treated at length in a series of reviews by members of the committee which were made public to-day.

These reviews of the experts, written by Milor Maltbie, Walton Clark, vice-president of the United Gas Improvement Company, of Philadelphia, and Charles Leigar, president of the Edison Electric & Illuminating Company, of Boston, are

Divided in Opinion

as to the success of the undertakings as a whole.

Mr. Maltbie is one of the members of the newly created public service commission for Greater New York. This body has the widest powers and the greatest responsibilities of any commission to which the regulation of corporation has been entrusted up to this time in the United States. Mr. Maltbie spent six months in Great Britain supervising the work of the expert accountants and engineers. He says that municipal operation of public utilities in Great Britain has passed the experimental stage. He declares that the gas and electric plants operated by municipalities generally give

A Superior Service

at a relatively lower cost than compared with the privately owned companies. This end, he finds, to be due principally to the high rate of interest and profit, and the greater amount of liabilities to the private companies.

By far the most interesting part of Mr. Maltbie's conclusion, however, is that actual ownership and operation is not necessary for the success for the municipal ownership idea. He says that the power to operate if necessary or desirable in many instances has been as effective as actual operation, that the mere fact that a city has the power to step in and operate an undertaking itself often makes the exercise of this power unnecessary.

"It has been found in Great Britain that no system of

Control or Regulation

is complete without the power in the hands of the municipalities to purchase and operate," says Mr. Maltbie. "If one company may be succeeded only by another, or only hedged about by restrictions, there comes time when action, not repression, is wanted, and then no remedy is adequate unless it be the power of the city to step in and operate the undertaking itself. But the mere fact that it has the power often makes its exercise unnecessary, and what the Britisher desires is not the universal adoption of some method of producing results, but the results themselves."

The reasons that have led to British municipalization, Mr. Maltbie finds are many. First among them, although not the most general nor the most important, is the desire to secure for the public the

Financial Profits

of the undertaking; second, the desire to keep the city from being mulcted by a private company, and third, general demand for better service at lower rates. He mentions also a fourth cause which has played a prominent part in the United States, and which is not unknown in Great Britain, namely, the opposition of privately operated public utility company to the welfare of the city. A fifth factor was the belief that municipal operation would permit the co-operation of public services in a way that it is not possible where different services are operated by private companies.

Messrs. Edgar and Clark favor some form of regulation of private companies rather than the adoption of the municipal ownership idea. They declare it is to be plainly proven that municipal ownership is productive of many and serious ills, with little or no compensating good. It is held that a solution of present difficulties is to be found, not in municipal ownership and operation of the public utilities, but in the election of municipal officers who will protect the government against injustice on the part of individuals or corporations.

ANOTHER DEATH.

Seaman Injured on the Battleship Georgia Succumbs in Hospital—Dead Now Number Nine.

Boston, Mass., July 16.—Edmund J. Walsh, seaman, died at the naval hospital at Chelsea to-day, making the ninth victim of the accident on the batleship Georgia in Cape Cod bay yesterday. Twelve injured remain in the hospital, of whom Midshipman James Cruse, of Nebraska, and Seaman James P. Thomas, of Brooklyn, are not expected to recover.

'FRISCO CIVIC AFFAIRS.

Eugene Schmitz Appoints a Supervisor to Succeed Dr. Boxton.

San Francisco, July 17.—Eugene E. Schmitz, who was recently convicted of extortion, is yet a factor to be reckoned with in the solving of the municipal problem. Yesterday he appointed Samuel Sawyer, a member of the Typographical Union, a supervisor to succeed Charles Boxton, who resigned to be appointed temporary mayor by the graft prosecution. It is announced that Schmitz will appoint successors to the remaining fifteen supervisors, who will be forced by the district attorney to resign. The city will then have two governments, one headed by Taylor, the other by Schmitz, who claims that he is not incapacitated until after the court of last resort, has confirmed his conviction.

It is held by the prosecution that the conviction of Mayor Schmitz in the trial court incapacitated him from further holding office, and on that theory has chosen Mayor Taylor.

Chief of Police Dinan announces that he will recognize no one but Schmitz as mayor.

MURDERER HANGED AT KAMLOOPS JAIL

James Dale, Who Killed Two Men at Carmi, Pays Penalty for Crime.

Kamloops, B. C., July 18.—James A. Dale, who murdered Peter Godreau and Joseph Celle at Carmi, near Greenwood last October, was hanged in the jail yard here this morning at 8 o'clock.

Much sympathy is expressed for his aged father, who was constantly in attendance until the last.

NEW DEPOT AND HOTEL.

Grand Trunk Company Proposed to Spend Million and a Quarter in Ottawa.

Ottawa, July 17.—Plans for the new Grand Trunk station and million dollar hotel have been filed with the railway committee of the Privy Council. The plans contemplate a terminal station on the site of the present station, to cost about $250,000.

WIRELESS SITE HAS BEEN BOUGHT

Selection Has Been Finally Made at Shotbolt's Hill and Land Transferred.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

This morning the negotiations looking to the purchase of a site in Victoria for the government wireless station, were completed, the site secured being Lot 14, comprising about an acre of land on Shotbolt's Hill.

The location is an ideal one, there being an uninterrupted sweep along the Gulf of Georgia and in a direct line with Tatoosh Island at Capt Flattery, through which station the Pachena point messages will in all probability be relayed. On account of the exceedingly mountainous nature of the country lying between Victoria and Pachena Point, it will be impossible to communicate with Victoria without establishing both here and at Pachena Point stations of very great power.

The consideration paid for the site was about $2,000.

The erection of the buildings will be proceded with immediately.

SAVED BY HIS STAR.

Chief of Police Had Narrow Escape—An Unknown Man Killed in Duel in Dark.

Butte, July 17.—Chief of Police Packson, of Miles City, shot and instantly killed an unknown tramp during a duel in the dark. Chief Jackson had been called to the railroad yards to arrest a half-dozen hoboes, who were shooting up the place. He compelled four of the gang to throw up their hands and line up against a fence, when another crept from the darkness and blazed away at the officer. The bullet hit Jackson's star and was deflected into his arm, the star undoubtedly saving the chief's life.

An unknown man at Dillon attempted to assassinate Chief of Police Stone by shooting at him. The bullet struck the officer in the hand, shattering it.

ANXIOUS TO AVOID TROUBLE.

Paris, July 18.—United States Rear Admiral Stockton states that the Japanese sailors will not be invited to the entertainment arranged for the American sailors, and that shore leave will be curtailed while the squadron is at Brest in order to avoid all chance of unpleasant incidents which are always possible when blue-jackets of different nationalities meet on shore.

ABDICATION OF KOREAN EMPEROR

HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY CABINET MINISTERS

Crown Prince May Ascend Throne--Precautions Taken to Prevent Riots in Capital.

Seoul, July 17.—Following a cabine meeting yesterday which lasted four hours, the Premier had an audience with the Emperor in the evening, which continued three hours. It transpires the Premier made a strong worded representation of the gravity of the situation caused by his majesty's sending a deputation to the peace conference at The Hague. He boldly pointed out the necessity of the Emperor's abdication in favor of the Crown Prince and of his proceeding to Tokio and apologizing to the Emperor of Japan. The Korean Emperer made no definite reply.

On retiring from the palace, the Premier immediately called another cabinet meeting which lasted until 2 o'clock this morning. The cabinet is determined to decide definitely on Korea's attitude to-day or by the time of the arrival of Viscount Hayashi, Japanese foreign minister. It is believed the ministers will insist on the abdication of the Emperor at all hazards.

Will Probably Abdicate.

Tokio, July 18.—As a result of the urgent representations by the ministers it is very probable that the Emperor of Korea will abdicate in favor of the crown prince as the first step toward reform in Korea. This will most likely be followed by the calling of a new convention which will keep Korea's national existence intact, will limit the sovereign power in some form whereby the ruler can exercise his powers only with the consent and approval of Japanese resident general.

The present ministers in Seoul are actuated by true patriotism and are determined to place the Korean government upon a firm basis and free from court intrigues and selfish plots.

Urged to Kill Japanese.

Seoul, via Tokio, July 18.—Placards were posted to-day in one of the thoroughfares calling for death of all Japanese officials in Seoul. The ministers are strongly guarded and every precaution has been taken to prevent riots and attacks upon officials.

The Emperor is reported to be too worried to take sleep, but this report is considered to be one of his usual manoeuvres to enlist the sympathy of the public.

OIL FIRM'S COMPLAINT.

Allege That Standard Oil Is Trying to Force Them Out of Business.

New York, July 17.—Charges were made in the United States Circuit court to-day by Henry A. Powell, representing Preston & Davis, & Brooklyn oil firm, that the Standard Oil Company was endeavoring by unfair methods to force his clients out of business. Mr. Powell said his clients were the principal competitors of the Standard Oil Company in Brooklyn.

The charges were an outgrowth of an argument on an application of the Delaware, Lackawana & Westren railroad against Preston and Davis and the United States Interstate commerce commission to restrain them from enforcing an order of the commission directing the company to deliver to them all oil shipped to them from independent oil concerns in Pennsylvania.

Counsel for Preston and Davis allege that the Lackawanna road formerly made such delivery, but discontinued it as the result of a trunk line agreement, and at the request of the Standard Oil Company, when Preston and Davis began to purchase oil from independent concerns. A complaint to the interstate commission resulted in an order by the commission restoring the delivery of oil at the Brooklyn terminus. The railroad restored the service, but now seeks to appeal from the commission's order, and also asks that the federal courts restrain the enforcement of the order pending a final hearing.

Counsel for the plaintiff insists that the railroad's application really covers a scheme of the Standard Oil Company to force the firm out of business. Decision was reserved.

DEATHS FROM HEAT.

Pittsburg, July 17.—A dozen or more deaths and many prostrations occured here yesterday from the heat. The maximum temperature was 87 degrees.

GIFT TO OUIDA.

Rome, July 18.—The minister of public instruction. Signor Bava, has sent a large contribution to Louise De La Rammee (Ouida) which she accepted most gratefully.