

RETURNS WIRE LINES TO PRIVATE OWNERS

Postmaster General Issues Order to Become Effective Immediately. Rates for Service not to be Changed.

Washington, June 5.—Telegraph and telephone companies whose lines have been controlled and operated by the government since last August 1, were ordered tonight to resume immediately operations for their own account by Postmaster General Burleson. The postoffice department, however, under terms of Mr. Burleson's order, retains a measure of control of the services, pending final legislative action by congress.

Regulations prohibiting discrimination against wire employees because of union affiliations, maintaining existing rates and charges and instructing companies to keep special accounts to facilitate cost settlement between themselves and the government are retained in effect under the order issued by the postmaster general.

Mr. Burleson accompanied the order with a statement giving the reasons which impelled him to take the action. He asserted that the president having recommended the return of the properties, the senate interstate commerce committee having indicated that immediate return was advisable and the house committee having through hear-

ings manifested a desire for action toward that end, he felt it his duty to return operative control to the various private owners.

"The president having recommended the return of the wire systems and the control of the owning companies with certain legislation designed to stabilize their operation," Mr. Burleson said, "and the senate committee having taken action looking to their immediate return and the house committee in its hearings on the proposed legislation having indicated concurrence in the suggested immediate return with or without legislation so recommended, I feel it my duty to now return actual control of operations to the companies.

"Some days ago I directed the necessary orders to be prepared to accomplish this and have today issued same. These orders do not affect questions of rates and finance with which the congress may determine to deal. The rates now in force and the financial relations between the government and the companies and the order of October 2, 1918, prohibiting discrimination because of union affiliation will continue unless the congress in its wisdom may decide to change them or the 'emergency' is terminated by the proclamation of peace.

"By the action taken, however, the wire companies resume actual control of operations of their respective property and are free to formulate and put into effect their own policies unrestricted by government control which is to continue in any case but a few weeks and thus will be able to prepare themselves for a complete resumption of the management of their property. It will be necessary for each company to so keep its accounts during the continuance of government control, that its books may be closed on the day government control ends in order that a full and accurate statement may be promptly made when it is called on for same."

Strikes threatened by telephone and telegraph employees' union had no bearing on the department's action, officials said.

TUNNEL EXPLOSION KILLS EIGHTY-THREE

Disaster at Wilkes-Barre Coal Mine Also Seriously Injures Fifty Others, Many of Whom are Expected to Die.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., June 5.—Eighty-three men dead and 50 others burned and maimed, many of whom will die, is the toll of a disaster in the Baltimore tunnel of the Delaware & Hudson Coal Company in the east end section of this city early today. Seven kegs of black powder, 300 pounds in all, were detonated and the dead and the maimed were literally roasted by the superheated gas flames following the explosion.

The tragedy occurred while the men were on their way to work this morning. Owing to their working places being two miles from the mouth of the tunnel, the men were making the trip in a train of 14 mine cars drawn by an electric motor, the powder being carried in two cars in the middle of the train.

The train had penetrated the tunnel about 200 yards when August Ruddle, one of the survivors, states the overhead trolley wire sagged and touching a steel powder keg formed a short circuit. In an instant there was a shower of sparks and a terrific blast. A great sheet of flames drawn by the air current enveloped the helpless men, who were huddled closely together in the cars with no possible chance to escape.

Owing to the ventilating system, the smoke and flames were drawn inward and the first intimation of the disaster to those on the surface was the shrieks of anguish of the injured. Rescue corps were at once formed and the dead and injured were rapidly brought to the surface where the living were given first aid treatment by physicians and then rushed to hospitals, even the fire apparatus being used in the emergency.

When the rescuers first entered the tunnel they found the dead and dying piled in heaps in the cars and along the tunnel. Bodies of the dead were burned to a crisp. Of the dead, 69 were found dead in the tunnel and 11 other succumbed to their injuries at the hospitals. Only 49 have been identified.

Among the men killed outright was James J. McCloskey, a former baseball pitcher, at one time a member of the Philadelphia National League club.

Assistant General Manager Buchanan of the Delaware & Hudson Coal Company, after investigation at the scene of the disaster, gave it as his opinion a steel bar or drill carried by one of the men came in contact with the overhead wire, forming the short circuit. According to the company's figures, 143 men and boys were on the train.

Seward Button, chief of the State bureau of mines, informed the Associated Press tonight that the State code contained regulations governing the storage of explosives in magazines and working places, but did not refer to the transportation of the same.

HIGHEST HONOR FOR BRAVE MAN

Heroic Performance of Sergeant Hall Remembered. Father to Get Medal.

Charleston, June 4.—A congressional medal of honor—the highest award of any that an American soldier can win—has been received at the Southeastern department headquarters to be presented to the father of Sergt. Thomas Lee Hall of Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Infantry. The medal was awarded posthumously, the heroic South Carolinian having been mortally wounded in action. Sergeant Hall was from Fort Mill, S. C., at which place his father, William L. Hall, resides. The medal will be presented by the commanding officer of the Southeastern department, Brig. Gen. Clarence H. McNeil is at present commander of the department, pending the arrival of Lieutenant General Bullis L. As General McNeil, who commands the South Atlantic coast artillery district, is to be succeeded by Brig. Gen. John D. Barnett, it is not known yet just who will present the precious token that commemorates one of the most heroic deeds recorded in the history of American arms.

Few distinguished deeds in the recent war equalled the courageous action of Sergeant Hall, whose act of heroism, according to the official citation, was calmly calculated. It was not a feat performed on the spur of a moment, but a deliberate deed of daring, done in the full consciousness of the risk assumed. Sergeant Hall was a member of the famous One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment of the Thirtieth Division, a regiment which has won six of the 70 congressional medals of honor awarded during the war. The following is the official record of his act:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Montbrechain, France, October 8, 1918. Having overcome two machine gun nests under his skillful leadership, Sergeant Hall's platoon was stopped 500 yards from its final objective by machine gun fire of particular intensity. Ordering his men to take cover in a sunken road, he advanced alone on the enemy machine gun post and killed five members of the crew with his bayonet and thereby made possible the further advance of the line. While attacking another machine gun nest later in the day the gallant soldier was mortally wounded."

It is not known as yet just when the medal will be presented to the soldier's father, nor where it will be presented. General McNeil is now corresponding with Mr. Hall to arrange these two matters.

HOW SOLDIER DISPERSED ATTACKS

"For two years my stomach trouble was very bad, my doctor had to inject morphine on several occasions when I was stricken with these attacks. Since taking 4 bottles of Mayr's Wonderful Remedy I have been entirely well and am serving in the artillery, having been pronounced in perfect health by government physicians. It is a simple, harmless preparation that removes the catarrhal mucus from the intestinal tract and allays the inflammation which causes practically all stomach, liver and intestinal ailments, including appendicitis. One dose will convince or money refunded. The Laurens Drug Co., and Drugists everywhere.

WAVES BLOODY SHIRT ON IRISH QUESTION

Cohalan in Chicago Speech Attempts to Raise Sectional Feeling of Former Days.

Chicago, June 7.—Justice Daniel F. Cohalan of the New York supreme court was the guest today of the friends of Irish liberty and spoke at several gatherings, chiefly tonight at a mass meeting. Among his utterances was the declaration that "nativism is just as bad as autocracy or militarism"; that in "the army of George Washington 38 per cent of the soldiers were men of Irish blood; in the Civil War Irish soldiers fought by thousands. A Southern Democratic administration can not forget the ancient hatred for a race that spilled its blood to down a slave Confederacy."

The justice declared that "while America won the war" none of the president's 14 points had been applied in workings of the peace conference; that England had drafted both the treaty and the league of nations covenant, and added:

"America, which entered the war as a sovereign state, will emerge from the war, if the English plan becomes effective, in a position where she must give away part of her independence to foreign powers. In the last analysis she leaves England the right to fix the size of our army and navy as well as when and where our sons may be called to fight."

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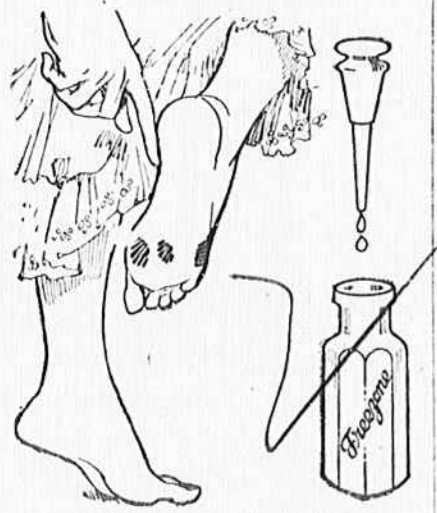
Only Aspirin Tablets with the safety "Bayer Cross" on them are genuine "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin," owned and made by Americans and proved safe by millions of people. Unknown quantities of fraudulent Aspirin Tablets were sold recently by a Brooklyn dealer which proved to be composed mostly of Talcum Powder.

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LIFT CORNS OR CALLUSES OFF

Doesn't hurt! Lift any corn or callus off with fingers



Don't suffer! A tiny bottle of Frez-one costs but a few cents at any drug store. Apply a few drops on the corns, calluses and "hard skin" on bottom of feet, then lift them off.

When Frez-one removes corns from the toes or calluses from the bottom of feet, the skin beneath is left pink and health and never sore, tender or irritated.



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