

**STRIKES AT CANADA;  
NOW IN MAINE JAIL**

***Attempt to Wreck the C.P.R. Bridge at  
Maine Boundary Partially Succeeds;  
Admits He Committed "Act of War;"  
Held by Maine Police***

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Vanceboro, Me., Feb. 2.—An attempt to destroy the railroad bridge spanning the St. Croix River, which forms the international boundary line between eastern Maine and New Brunswick was made early to-day. One of the three spans of the structure was blown up by dynamite.

The bridge is the connecting link between the Maine Central and the Canadian Pacific tracks, the Canadian Pacific having traffic rights over the former road from Mattawamkeag to the boundary. This is the through route from upper and Western Canada to the Maritime Provinces, directly connecting Montreal with the ports of St. John and Halifax.

### **New Brunswickers Excited.**

The attack on the bridge caused great excitement on the New Brunswick side, where rumors of a German plot spread rapidly, and resulted in an immediate investigation by the Provincial authorities.

Inquiry was also begun on this side, and this led to the arrest at a local hotel of a man who gave his name as Werner VanHorn. According to the police, the prisoner claimed to be an officer in the service of Germany, but refused to divulge his rank. The police assert that he admitted that he exploded the dynamite under a section of the bridge, and that a dynamite cap and a plan of the bridge were found in his pockets.

### **Is Short and Stout.**

VanHorn, according to the police, described himself as 37 years old, was five feet five inches in height and weighs about 200 pounds. He is smooth shaven.

The arrest was made by Deputy Sheriff George W. Ross, who was accompanied by a Maine Central detective, and two Canadian officers from McAdam Junction, N.B.

He was removed to the United

States immigration rooms, where he was closely guarded. Deputy Sheriff Ross notified the United States Marshal and the United States District Attorney at Portland, asking for instructions.

When taken into custody at his room in the hotel, VanHorn made no resistance, but is alleged to have told the officers the circumstances of the dynamiting. He did not appear to be able to speak very good English. There were no papers found to identify him. In a coat pocket he carried a German flag.

### **At War With Canada.**

Asked why he had dynamited the bridge, the prisoner, the police say, made the simple explanation that his country was at war with Great Britain and that Canada was a part of the enemy's country. He said, according to the officers, that he came from New York, having left

that city on Friday night, and arrived here Saturday. Immediately after discharging the explosive he returned to the hotel. As evidence of his experience, he displayed a frost-bitten thumb. His clothing had been encrusted with ice and was soaked through.

### A Prisoner of America.

The arrest of VanHorn has aroused special interest because of the fact that he was taken into custody on American territory and was made a prisoner of the State of Maine. To avoid possible complications the local authorities made no further move pending advice from the Federal Government. The Canadian authorities indicated that they would immediately make representations at Washington with a view to extradition on the ground that the dynamiting had been done on the Canadian side of the border. On the other hand it was said that VanHorn would be defended against extradition basing his claim for the protection of the United States on his assertion that he had committed an act of war and that his offense was political.

### THE C. P. R. STATEMENT.

Montreal, Feb. 2.—According to the official report issued on the dynamiting of the railway bridge near Vanceboro' this morning by the C. P. R., the structure is only slightly damaged. The report says the alleged German officer under arrest is said to have admitted trying to blow up the bridge.

The C. P. R. official statement follows:

"At 2 o'clock this morning an explosion of dynamite slightly damaged the bridge over the St. Croix River, near Vanceboro; the joint property of the Maine Central Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Only a slight delay occurred to traffic, No. 16 train, Montreal to St. John, being twenty minutes late. Passenger trains are crossing the bridge, passengers not requiring to leave the cars.

"A suspicious looking character has been hanging around the neighborhood for the past few days, and a full description of him was put into the hands of the United States and Canadian police, who captured him at 7.30. He proved to be a German officer, and is said to have admitted the deed. He is now in charge of the United States Marshal at Vanceboro.

"The bridge is located at the international boundary, and a steel beam has been damaged, also six bridge ties and an inside bolster post."

### HOW OTTAWA SEES IT.

From a Staff Correspondent.

Ottawa, Feb. 2.—The Dominion Police received word to-day of the arrest of a man believed to be a German officer, on suspicion of having blown up the Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge across the St. Croix River, on the New Brunswick boundary line. The arrest was made by the American authorities, and any prosecution will be in their hands.

Little significance is attached to the affair, as it is hard to see what object could be gained by dynamiting a bridge at this point. As the C.P.R. runs across Main territory, Canadian troops leaving for the Old Country could not be carried by the C. P. R. They will go to Halifax by the Intercolonial. It is reported that as a result of the dynamiting there is a German scare along the New Brunswick boundary line and fears of a raid. The Maine lumber woods are said to be filled with German and Austrian lumber jacks. Such rumors are not taken very seriously, but the Militia Department is well prepared for any such raid, no matter on what part of Canada it should take place.