

SECTION OF C.P.R. BRIDGE BLOWN UP; GERMAN UNDER ARREST ADMITS THE DEED

Bridge Crosses the St. Croix River, Over Deep, Narrow Gully, at International Border—Slight Delay Occurs to Traffic.

**SUSPICIOUS LOOKING STRANGER UNDER ARREST,
CLAIMS THAT HE IS OFFICER OF GERMAN ARMY**

**Until Repairs are Made it Will be Necessary to Transfer Passengers
Over the Ice—Arrest Made by U. S. Marshal.**

By Canadian Press.

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 damaged 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 Mattawamkag 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.

RUMORS OF GERMAN PLOT SPREAD.

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 Van Horn. 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 possession.

Van Horn, according to the police, described himself as 37 years of age, is five feet eleven 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 Main Central railroad 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 instructions.

PRISONER SAID TO HAVE CONFESSED.

When taken into custody at his room in the hotel, Van Horn 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. Asked why he 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 exhibited a frost-bitten thumb.

The arrest of Van Horn has aroused special interest because of the fact that he was taken into custody on American territory and he is a prisoner of the State of Maine. To avoid complications the authorities made no further move pending instructions from the Federal government. It was said that Van Horn 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.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM COMPANY.

The C.P.R. official statement follows:—

"At two 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, number 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 stranger 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."