

NATIONAL LOSS.

Wreck of Clifden Station.

SET-BACK TO SCIENCE.

By the destruction by Irregulars of the transatlantic wireless station at Clifden, Ireland has suffered not only severe monetary loss, but great damage has also been inflicted on the commercial community, and the measure of the check to scientific progress is incalculable.

A gentleman prominently identified with wireless development, in an interview with an "Irish Independent" representative, referred to the wrecking of the institution as an national loss, much greater than any monetary consideration might suggest. Not alone, he pointed out, had hundreds of skilled workers been thrown out of employment but a national service had been demolished, the scope of which, from a commercial point of view, could not be exaggerated.

It was a service floted, in the first instance, by Irish money, and at present a large amount of Irish capital was invested in it.

Its national importance could be gauged by the fact that only one other station of its nature exists on this side of the Atlantic, and this is in Wales.

Clifden station was in direct touch with Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, from which all transatlantic messages were distributed to the Western world. As a receiving station it served not alone Great Britain, but also the Continent, and when messages were received they were transmitted by the overland lines. So much was it availed of that it was continually engaged either in the transmission or reception of messages, mostly of a commercial nature.

In the transmission of messages the work was divided between Clifden and the Welsh station. The result of its destruction may not alone mean a great delay in the reception or transmission of important messages.

But what is of greater consequence, the complete wiping out of the service.

Its destruction will also entail considerable delay in the experimental telephony development which was in progress. Notwithstanding the great strides recently made in wireless, Clifden station had kept full pace with the times, new developments being introduced as the occasion presented.

Only recently had a development in continuous wave transmission been introduced and further schemes for advancement were under consideration. The station was situated on an excellent position, and our informant expressed the opinion that it would be a great calamity were steps not taken immediately to have it reerected before some other enterprising country would step in and deprive Ireland of such a notable national landmark.

The manner in which the news of the destruction reached Mr. Marconi is graphically told in "The Times." The famous scientist was returning from America, where he had been making investigations relating to wireless developments, towards the end of the return journey he had the curious experience of being "cut off" from communication. "I was getting some messages sent me for test purposes, and also news, from Clifden station, Ireland," he said. "On Monday when I was approaching England and when I was expecting to receive important messages, I was surprised to find that nothing was reaching me. I could not make it out. On arrival here I found that Clifden station had been seized by the Irish revolutionaries and some of the buildings burned. The staff were expelled."

"I understand that the main buildings have not been damaged, but minor ones have been destroyed. It is hoped that control of the station will soon be regained."

Mauretania's Quick Trip.

The Mauretania of the Cunard Line, which arrived at Southampton recently, completed the fastest passage from New York since the war. The distance across the Atlantic is just over 3,200 miles, and although this last voyage is a record, it occupied but two minutes longer than the previous one. The remarkable regularity of the time taken by this great ship in steaming the Atlantic is unrivalled by a railway train. There has not been more than five minutes difference in the last three trips. On four days during the last voyage the passengers had the unique experience of seeing the ship cut her way through numerous shoals of flying fish. As the sharp stem of the Mauretania struck the shoals, the huge bow wave was a glittering mass of struggling fish.

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