

THE NEW FRENCH CABLE

M. Depelley, the Emissary to This Country, Leaves Well Satisfied with Its Prospects.

OPPOSITION WAS HINTED AT.

The Landing at Cape Cod Made Under Cover of Night Although the Duty Was Paid—Scheme to Thwart England's Monopoly of All Cable Lines.

"France has opened her eyes to the menace exercised toward her and her sister republic, the United States of America, by what is practically a British monopoly of submarine cables," said J. B. Depelley to a reporter for THE NEW YORK TIMES at the Waldorf Friday.

M. Depelley, formerly of the French Government telegraph, is Managing Director of La Compagnie Française des Cables Télégraphiques, which is now engaged in laying its second line from Brest to Cape Cod. There seems to have been an impression abroad that the laying of this second French wire might meet with opposition on the part of the American people and the press here, if not with absolute prohibition on the part of the United States Government. And for the purpose of promoting a feeling of glad welcome for the new cable, and to impress upon the Washington Government the deplorable state of submarine communication in case of an unpleasantness with Great Britain, M. Depelley has visited this country. It is believed that success has crowned his efforts, as he returned to France yesterday.

One End Laid by Stealth.

The French Cable Company asserts that it has already laid about 1,000 miles of cable from the Brest landing, and it is known to have buried in the sea about 150 miles of line from the Cape Cod side. The latter was laid with great stealth and at night. Which showed that La Compagnie Française des Cables Télégraphiques feared some sort of opposition either on the part of citizens or Government officials, although the duty on twelve miles of cable (covering the sea limit) had been paid to the Custom House authorities.

M. Depelley is much pleased with American institutions and particularly with the surprising readiness with which the American people welcome the laying of the duplex cable. Neither the Government nor the press offered the faintest opposition to the enterprise. He said:

"One of the greatest factors in the development of an entente cordiale between nations that have much of a common interest in matters political, financial, and commercial is the submarine cable. In war times this factor becomes of infinite value.

"For the last fifty years Great Britain has been pertinaciously weaving over the globe a web of cables, which in times of peace are harmless enough. But in time of war her officials, according to the charters of the companies, would assume entire control of them. In case of war between Great Britain and the United States, which no one desires or contemplates, you would be absolutely cut off from any telegraphic communication with Europe. Your policy would be hampered, your strategy hampered, your commerce and finance ruined. The consequences would be incalculable.

The French Government Interested.

"France, your sister republic, to which you are so closely allied by ties of traditional amity, has opened her eyes to the danger which threatens you and her. Startled by the dangerous possibilities, a powerful group of far seeing and energetic Frenchmen have set themselves to work to organize a company which has found the financial and political support of the French Government. The company has already employed a capital of close on to 70,000,000f.

"The doubling of the cable connecting Brest, the great military basis of the French Navy, with Cape Cod will secure a permanent and efficient service between the two countries. This will assure absolute independence from the British cables for telegraphic communication between the United States and Europe. In case of war with Great Britain your sole means of communication with Europe will be by means of these French cables—for it is reasonable to assume that postal communication with Europe would be at least greatly retarded.

"This enterprise, of such paramount importance to you, has entailed no expense on the part of America. The Treasury has not spent one dime—neither the taxpayers a single cent.

"Another important point is the fact that by its charter and agreement with the French Government the company cannot under any circumstances amalgamate or enter into any syndicate or combination with the object of raising the tariffs. We prefer safe investments to unnaturally high interest. There is a higher point of view than dividends—the best interests of two great nations which have stood together for over a century. My company is a patriotic institution under commercial guise.

Feared Opposition in This Country.

"I am pleased with the ultimate success of my visit to this country. We had been informed that so strong was the influence of the practically British companies that we would not be allowed to make a landing. This influence I found to a certain extent prevalent on my arrival in Washington. I was told that the Government would never grant us a charter, and that there were revenue contingencies which would thwart us. In the end, however, everything was satisfactorily adjusted."

On being asked what impressed him most in this country, M. Depelley replied: "I already knew of the widespread influence of your press, but was amazed at its excellence, its magnitude, and power—it is truly the voice of the people.

"I also admire your railways very much, both for the comfort of the carriages and the rapidity of locomotion. I have also been much impressed with the perfection and development of your telegraphic systems, but what surprises me is that both you and we should have been so long blind to the obvious danger of being dependent for our communications on cables which are all practically in the hands of the English, or, are capable of being 'tapped' by them."