RUSSIAN TRIP NOTES

(From Memoranda In My Note-Books)

January, 1918.

INTRODUCTION:

The following are notes jotted down during my journey to Russia in the summer of 1917 and preserved in this form for my own amusement and to recall the incidents of an unusual trip. The account is fragmentary in form and of a personal character largely; it is not intended as a professional report nor for publication. This has been officially dealt with in my report to the Secretary of State. A brief statement of Russian political conditions, as well as an explanation of the purpose and duties of our Commission is, however, attached.

My connection with the mission was an unsought for honor; the men probably responsible for the suggestion were old friends-- Daniel Willard, President of the B. & O. Railway and Chairman of the Advisory Commission of the National Defense Council; Mr. Samuel Rea, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad and Samuel Vauclain of the Baldwin Locomotive Works and advisor to the Defense Council.

The invitation came suddenly and I was urged by these gentlemen to accept. Probably the fact that I had made two visits to Russia in the past influenced them in selecting me. It seems that I had been scheduled to head a Commission of Railway men to France but was switched to the Russian mission as the more important one of the two. Stevens was a friend of the President and was appointed chairman by him. I knew Stevens slightly but none of the other members.