senger trains.

Our second batch of mail from American arrived today.

As we are now "marking time", waiting for action by the Ministry on our report, I am completing the job of putting my railway data together. I have to do most of the work by writing long-hand, as I cannot get a stenographer to dictate to. Am much hampered in getting translating done, as our interpreters are constantly out somewhere with members of the Commission (and often on their own business). Between working hours, I walk about the City and sit in the park. I have been amused in watching the "Death Battalion" or womens regiment, drilling in the grounds of the Academy of Engineering. They take the performance quite seriously. This organization headed by the husky peasant Botchkarova was started to show the Russian soldier how to fight, after the lamentable disorganization of the army took place. Much sentimental gush has been, and will doubtless be, written about them, but the fact is that they have really behaved well in a small way at the front. Can't say I like the idea, however, and if the Russians do this sort of thing, why not the Germans too? This would be bad.

August 8th. I have had several talks lately with Stevens about the necessity of having a member of the Commission go at once to American to straighten out matters with the Department; the whole scheme of our recommendations is in a muddle and apparently nothing has been done toward carrying out our promises (made by authority to the Department). Stevens agrees that