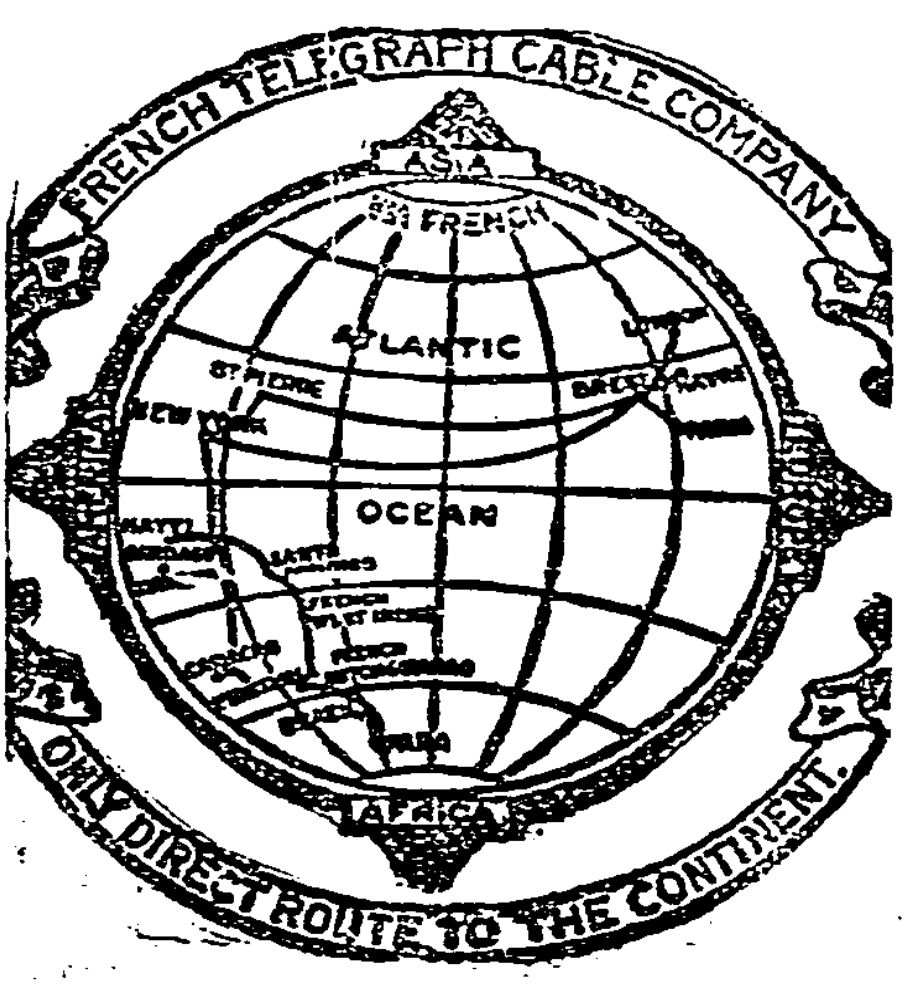
Professional Mourners Strike.

PARIS, March 14.—Those curious, gruesome individuals, made notorious through French romances, known as "croque morts," or professional weepers, have gone on a strike, as they only get 5f. for twelve hours' service and an additional franc when sent out on an extra call.

Although their services as weepers, or mourners, have not been much in demand of late, they are still worked hard by the municipal undertakers. About a fortnight ago some of them flatly refused to lay corpses in their coffins after the usual day's work was over, and the fact that outsiders were called in to assist has not tended to allay the incipient agitation. One of them has just explained that the administration of the pompes funèbres often requisition the men when their work is over at 6 P. M., between that hour and midnight, giving them a mere trifle in return, adding that this alleged abuse has greatly increased owing to the number of suicides.



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