

Political and Social News of the Old World Reported by Special Cable and Correspondence

JAPAN LEADS ALL IN DIVORCE EVIL

United States Follows in Second Place on List of the Mismatched.

COMMISSION FINDS STATISTICS

England and Wales Have Few Separations.

FRANCE ON A MIDDLE GROUND

In Florida "Violent Temper" is Plea of Action.

DIVORCE NOT A PUBLIC ISSUE

General Belief that Matrimony Concerns Only the Parties Who Are Directly Involved.

BY PAUL LAMBETH. LONDON, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Japan leads the world in the number of divorces, and the United States a poor second. This was brought out in the testimony given before the royal commission on divorce, which has resumed its session. Mr. R. Newton Crane, number of divorces, with the United States and also of the English bar, gave this information in a paper showing the number of divorces per 100,000 of population. They were:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Divorces per 100,000 of population. Japan: 215; United States: 70; Switzerland: 22; France: 22; Germany: 15; England and Wales: 12.

Divorce in United States.

It appeared to be fairly well established, he said, that at the present time one marriage in every fifty, or possibly sixteen, in the United States would ultimately be dissolved by divorce. In all the states adultery was ground for divorce, but, independently of adultery, there was a variety of other grounds. Desertion and cruelty, in varying forms and degrees, were common grounds for divorce. Sixteen states the desertion need be for only one year; in seven states it must be for two years, and in one state for five years. Cruelty was a cause in nearly every state, and in some of the states "outrages rendering life together insupportable," "intemperate and vicious conduct," "personal abuse or conduct rendering burdensome," and "treatment endangering health or reason" were also specified grounds.

Minor Causes.

In five states conviction for felony prior to marriage and unknown to the other party, and in one of the states the fact that a spouse was a fugitive from justice, was a sufficient cause. Associated with drunkenness in some of the states was habitual addiction to various drugs, such as opium, morphia and chloral. Insanity in varying degrees, from mental incapacity to incurable lunacy, was a cause in nine states. Vagrancy was a ground in two states, and neglect to provide for the wife and children was a ground in one state. In nineteen states a husband guilty of defamation of one party by the other, in Florida "violent temper," and in Kentucky "violent and ungovernable temper" were causes. In Kentucky, New Hampshire and Massachusetts the joining of a religious sect or society which believed, or professed to believe, that the relation between husband and wife void or unlawful was a ground for divorce.

No Concern of Public.

The view was spreading, he said, that if an unhappily married couple desired to have their marriage dissolved it was a matter which was peculiarly their own affair, and one which the public had nothing to do. Of nearly 1,000 divorces only about 15 per cent were defended. It was of the opinion that the frequency of divorce in the United States and the growing indifference to the duty and obligation of marriage were primarily due to the fact that the marriage in America was defined by statute, by merely civil contract, and that no form of solemnizing the ceremony was provided or required. There were too many causes for divorce in America and too few in England. The health of the race, from a eugenic point of view, was imperiled by obliging a woman to live in marital relations with a husband who was a confirmed drunkard, or was subject to recurring attacks of insanity, or who had in him the seeds of an incurable disease. When the strain to which either spouse was subject by the continuous cruelty of the other had reached the breaking point, it was wise, not only in the interests of the parties themselves, but of the state and the church that the law should intervene.

Not a Sign of Immorality.

Mr. Crane added that the greater number of divorces cases in the United States as compared with England did not mean that there was greater immorality in the States. It was due rather to the levity with which people regarded marriage, and legal laxity as to the marriage tie. J. A. Barrett, another American barrister, thought the comparative cheapness of divorce in England was the direct means of avoiding a great deal of irregularity. The statement that one marriage in fifteen was likely to be dissolved was true only so far as registered marriages were concerned, but there were thousands of marriages which were never registered at all, so that the figure was misleading. The cause of divorce was as numerous and liberal in other countries as in the United States. In Formosa "loquacity" was a cause of divorcing a wife.

IRISH POLITICIANS ARE BUSY

Members of Parliamentary Party Hostile.

LEADERS MAKE MANY SPEECHES

Sudden Death of General Butler is Greatly Deplored Throughout the British Isles.

BY THOMAS EMMETT.

DUBLIN, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Realizing the importance of presenting a united front in the next parliament, the Irish parliamentary party is campaigning as actively almost as though a general election was in progress. The Redmonds, Devlin, Dillon, O'Connor and the other leaders are making speeches constantly and are paying especial attention to the constituencies represented by O'Brien malcontents. It is confidently predicted that the O'Brientes will not be able to carry more than three or four seats at most, and it is regarded as well within the line of possibility that both O'Brien and his lieutenant, Timothy Healy, will be defeated. Bishop O'Donnell's nephew said recently: "I do not remember any time when the country was more united in support of the Irish party than it is at present; neither was there any time when that support was better deserved."

Beneficial Harbor Improvements.

The Belfast harbor commissioners have tentatively adopted a scheme for the reclamation of nearly 1,000 acres of silt land and at the same time have agreed to a proposal submitted by their engineer for dredging from the ship channel to the sea 1,500,000 tons of soil so as to provide sufficient depth for liners and warships of the largest class.

Sorrow for General Butler.

The painfully sudden death of General Sir William Butler will be deplored throughout Ireland, as well as in England and in those colonies where he had seen much active service. A brave and capable soldier, he served the British empire in Canada and Africa and rose to a high rank in the army, though, owing to his frank, honest and, as events proved, sensible advice given to the government on the day before the outbreak of hostilities in South Africa, he was for a time most unpopular in England and scarcely received the full measure of reward which his services merited. He was a skilled with the pen as well as the sword and some of his books make most entrancing reading and will be regarded as valuable additions to British military history. His wife, too, as Miss Thompson, earned undying fame by her paintings, two military subjects, "The Hot Call" and "The Scots Greys at Waterloo," being among the most admired of the pictures shown at the Dublin International exhibition of 1907. It is, however, as a patriotic Irishman that Sir William Butler will be best remembered in this country. He was a convinced home ruler, but, though his name was several times mentioned for consideration, he never entered Parliament. Still, in another sphere, he rendered good services to his country, being a prominent member of the National University commission and of the senate.

Real Fish Story.

The leading Irish papers published the other day a queer fish story from County Carlow. It is said that two anglers in a small boat near the mouth of the river Fin saw an enormous fish approaching them from Lough Erne. Its back was above the water and it raised great waves on each side. The men quickly pulled their boat aside, but the fish gave chase and was soon alongside, plunging on to a small boat in a furious rage. It appeared to be fully ten feet long, with proportionate girth, and had a very large head. The scared men—Francis and Philip McDonagh—shot into a weedy place, whence they watched the monster dash up the river to a small, deep lake, where it disappeared from view. The anglers say that it was unlike any other fish they ever saw. Crowds of people, it is stated, are watching for the reappearance of this strange monster of the deep.

Redmond Children Busy.

Among those called to the Irish bar recently was Mr. William Archer Redmond, only son of Mr. John Redmond, M. P. Miss Johanna Redmond, daughter of John Redmond, has written a comedy sketch, which is to be produced at a London music hall.

TORTURES WIVES TO FIND GOVERNOR'S TREASURES

Ruler of Fes is in Prison, While the Women of His Household Are Subjected to Indignities.

TANGIER, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—After the imprisonment of the ruler of Fes, the governor of Fes, who was arrested by the sultan's orders a few weeks ago, his womankind were all seized. As the sultan's agents failed to discover the governor's hidden treasure, his wife was tortured in order to make her disclose its whereabouts, which as it did not exist, she was unable to do. Her hands were sewed up in damp rawhide, which contracts and causes extreme pain; her breasts were crushed between bars of wood closed by screws, and she was suspended by her wrists from a beam of wood. She died. Letters from Fes state that her son is under similar torture, and that his fiancée himself is at the point of death from cruelities perpetrated upon him. It is about a month since the European representatives at Tangier received a voluntary and explicit undertaking from the sultan to abolish all cruel punishments. Mutual hatred has been known for some time past, to be addicted to the use of drugs, and letters from Fes state that the rulers have difficulty in dissuading him from wholesale murders. The state of affairs at Fes is critical, and the general impression reigns here that the expansion of the native population will soon find an outlet.

BOMB MAKERS ARE ARRESTED

Seven Men and One Woman Are Taken Into Custody at Tokio.

TOKYO, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Seven men and one woman have been arrested here on a charge of manufacturing bombs for anarchistic purposes.

MEN OF AFFAIRS ARE COMMONERS

Notables of France Are Inclined to the Plain, Simple Life.

PRESIDENT SETS THE EXAMPLE

M. Briand of the People, and Glad of It.

CHILDLESS, BUT ADOPTS THREE

Home in an Unfashionable Section of City.

GREATLY DEVOTED TO MASONRY

Young Men Now Seem to Have the Ascendancy in French Politics—Many Good Things for Officials.

BY PAUL VILLIERS.

PARIS, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The men of the hour in France are all men of simple habits, the quiet unassuming democracy of President Fallieres, is perhaps the most noteworthy characteristic. M. Briand the premier who may succeed Fallieres, is also a man of the people and is not ashamed of it. M. Brisson, who has been elected president of the chamber of deputies, is a worthy confrere of Fallieres and Briand. He measures up to former President Roosevelt's ideal citizen of a republic. If he has no children, he and his good and accomplished wife adopted three orphans, whom they brought up as if they were their own. They belonged to a close friend, M. Albert Joly, an advocate, who rendered noble services to the cause they had at heart under the empire and during the first republic.

Witty and Accomplished.

Yet he can be witty and even humorous and is a man of the finest culture. He has never attempted to climb the beaten paths of Parliament. None the less he might have shone on them, for he is a poet of rare finish and delicacy. He never took up residence in his wife's time in the Petit Bourbon. They gave their official dinners, concerts and receptions, but continued to have their home among his electors in the unfashionable neighborhood of the Chateau d'Eau. More than ever he prefers the home where he lived with the simplicity of sentiment and intellectual pursuits and of parentage to the orphans of the dear, cherished friend, whom they adopted. His private friend, without being large, is sufficient to secure independence. The general goes in for democracy and Masonic fraternity, for he is a devoted Freemason. All his influence, tact and experience will be needed in presiding over this chamber. It contains far more young members than any previous one.

Advantage of Deputies.

It is, by the way, a somewhat peculiar development of French political life that an unusual number of quite young men are taking an active interest in politics. A seat in the chamber now brings a salary of 10,000 francs a year, a first-class ticket through four years of the railways of France and Algeria, patronage in all directions, the freedom of stalls and balconies of all of the subsidized theaters, and access to the wings.

Think of the field of operations which this gives to a young man, and the susceptibility of a young man to the wiles of a hardened boulevardier through their hands. They can do what they please with a member green in years and in want of knowledge of la vie Parisienne. At the last elections the young candidates secured a vast number of good things membership in the chamber of the right, they carried away stores. They ebbed out with spirit the hair pates and the greybeards.

Pontifical Zouaves Declining.

The pontifical zouaves are thinning; they were about 2,000 years ago when they fought for the Pope. But recently at the muster in the Vatican only 200 answered the roll-call. The celebration began by a parade outside the Sacre Coeur, the great basilica that dominates all Paris and the flat Seine valley from the northern point, the one hill of the city, the Mount of Martyrs, the terraces, grey or white, all of them, but stretch away still as fighting men should be, were reviewed by their own chief, General de Charette, who with them all the touching French accolade and the greeting of an old brother in arms. After the review, high mass, with an oration by Monsieigneur de Cabrières, bishop of Montpellier, who read the interesting reflection that most of the zouaves in the Papal service were of noble birth, that an Italian general, into whose hands a good batch of them had fallen by the luck of war, said the roll of his captives read like a guest list from the court of Louis XIV. The "De Profundis" was sung for the dead of the legion, and then the veterans drove off to the social celebration under the presidency of their chief.

Journalism in Paris.

Two fiery Paris journalists met in the night telegraph office of the Bourse, whence they telephoned their journals, and fell out throwing their visiting cards in each other's faces. This meant a duel, but the antagonists were too much in a hurry to wait until seconds had arranged meetings. The two, who always carry loaded revolvers, strode out into the street, walked peaceably apart, drew their firearms and blazed away without result. Before more shots could be exchanged the police arrived and the impatient duellists were summoned.

HONORS FOR TURKISH HEIR

King Meets Prince Iseddin at Railway Station with Great Ceremony.

BELGRADE, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The reception of the Turkish heir apparent here was of the most sincere character. Prince Iseddin was met at the railway station by King Peter, the crown prince and members of the cabinet. The meeting was very cordial. His imperial highness drove with the king through the streets which were decorated with Turkish and Serbian flags. Enormous crowds cheered the party enthusiastically.

BUILDS MANY BATTLESHIPS

Portuguese Government is Strengthening Its Naval Equipment.

LISBON, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Two battleships, six protected cruisers, eighteen destroyers and six submarines are to be built by the Portuguese government at an estimated cost of \$30,000,000.

AUSTRIA SEEKS THE FINISH

Anxiously Awaiting End of Cretan Difficulty.

ELEMENTS OF GRAVEST DANGER

Turkey Stands Ready to Administer Lasting Lesson to Greece, It is Believed in Official Circles.

BY EMILE ANDRASSY.

VIENNA, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The Austrian government will be heartily glad when the Cretan situation is finally settled. That it contains elements of the gravest danger is felt certain here. Advice from Turkey indicates that the Turkish government will avail itself of any reasonable pretext to administer another and lasting lesson to Greece. The boycotting movement of Greek goods is spreading. This boycotting movement was organized by a committee at Salonika, where the harbor is closed to all Greek vessels, the stevedores being forbidden under pain of death to unload Greek ships or to assist their passengers.

Outbreak at Smyrna.

At Smyrna the Greek traders were forced by the Cretan Mussulmans to close their shops. The foreign consuls intervened with the government to protect the Greek consuls, who was threatened with serious injury. Pourparlers on the subject of Crete continue to be conducted by the Fahrenselt, and the evening and morning papers are not contemplating a final solution of the Cretan problem, but intend to address a warning to the islanders that they must admit the Moslem deputies to the assembly and respect the rights of Moslems in general. Should this warning fall, energetic steps will probably be taken.

Hot in Vienna.

Vienna has been suffering from almost tropical heat. The thermometer at midnight has registered as high as 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and the evening and early mornings are abnormally hot. Many cases of prostration from the heat are recorded, and there appears to be little prospect of any immediate change.

Work on Dreadnoughts.

The keel of the first Austro-Hungarian Dreadnought has, according to the Zeit, been laid in the evening of the 28th of June. The keel of the second Dreadnought will be laid in September, and it is hoped that the first vessel will be ready for launching in the summer of 1911.

Centenarians Wed.

A remarkable wedding has just been celebrated at Braila. The bridegroom was Joseph Stof, a centenarian, and he married Maria Light, whose age was 101. These aged people had loved each other in youth, eighty years ago, but their parents would not consent to their marriage, and the girl was married to another man. This man died a few months ago, and the sweetheart of eighty years had, as the bridegroom said, been waiting for him. The wedding was a grand affair, and several thousand people assembled outside the church. Both the bride and bridegroom are in good health and comfortable circumstances.

Strange Pair of Twins.

Remarkable interest has been aroused among members of the medical profession in Vienna by the birth of another pair of Siamese twins. The infants, which have some remarkable developments, were born to a gipsy woman in a field near Brunn. Both children are normally developed in the upper parts, but there is only one pair of legs. While the twins are appearing to be third leg has grown, with the distinct toes. Both infants are well. The stronger child a great deal and takes nourishment eagerly, but the other, though breathing regularly and normally, shows little activity and takes very little nourishment.

Russia and Japan Have Old Scores

Fourteen Points of Dispute Are Yet to Be Adjusted, but Only One is Serious.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The question of Russo-Japanese relations, which has lately given rise to sensational reports in the foreign and in the Russian press, may be briefly stated as follows. Both countries have realized the expediency of a closer understanding. This view has been dictated by political and economic considerations. The attitude of the other powers—in some cases friendly, but in others adverse—to the respective interests of Russia and Japan has only strengthened the tendency on the part of St. Petersburg and Tokio to come together.

The road to a final understanding, however, must be cleared of disputes arising out of the late war. Altogether fourteen controversial matters are pending. All of these, with one exception, are trifling. The exception relates to the capture of Russian hospital ships, which the Japanese justify on the ground that they carried war stores. Russia contests this assertion, and raises the question of principle. The case is one which seems to pertain to the jurisdiction of The Hague tribunal.

M. Isovskiy and Baron Motono will probably resume in the immediate future conversations which will tend towards a settlement of the outstanding disputes. The desire on both sides to pass to the more important negotiations for a general agreement is coupled with a hearty readiness on the part of the allies of Russia and Japan to cooperate, so that there is substantial ground for the hope that that desire may be gratified without loss of time. The statements that Japan contemplates the immediate annexation of Korea are misleading. When that event occurs it may be presumed that Japan's allies and friends will not suffer.

FIGHTS BIG ODDS AND STEPS DOWN

Departure of Herr Dernburg Ends Ministerial Experiment in Germany.

RESIGNATION NOT EXPECTED

Strong Opposition of the Center Party.

OLD STORY OF "PLENTY OF ROPE"

Southwest African Policy Very Unpopular.

GERMAN POLITICS IN TURMOIL

Kaiser is Proving to Be a Decidedly Expensive Proposition to Maintain Year After Year.

BY MALCOLM CLARKE.

BERLIN, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The resignation of Colonial Minister Dernburg was not expected. The importance and significance of Herr Dernburg's departure far transcend the limited sphere of German colonial policy and enterprise. It is the end, at any rate for the present, of about the most remarkable ministerial experiment in modern German history, and it will accentuate afresh not only party differences, but the deeper divisions of economic interests and social traditions which still underlie German politics. When Herr Dernburg was brought to the colonial office of the Darmstadter bank, in 1906, he was expected to merely to sweep away the traces of unpleasant colonial scandals but to put the German colonies on a business basis for the encouragement of the public and the edification of foreign countries.

Plans for His Administration.

His appointment was to be the introduction of the commercial spirit into German administration, and was to forge a link between the government and the immediate interests of an industrial people. He was expected to merely to sweep away the exaggerated hopes of the experiment. Since Prince Bulow's fall and the renewal of the alliance of the conservative and center parties Herr Dernburg has had to fight against increasing odds. The primarily commercial colonial policy—not least because they fear that colonial imports will hurt their agrarian interest. The conservatives, moreover, include a number of former colonial administrators, who resented the policy which they applied. The center party was Herr Dernburg's natural enemy. They gave him "plenty of rope," but seized the opportunity afforded in April by a bill dealing with the expenditure for suppression of the risings in German southwest Africa to inflict upon Herr Dernburg a series of humiliations.

When the bill was carried it was generally supposed that Herr Dernburg had been relieved. It is now clear that he had already recognized that his position was in the long run untenable. The attacks at home were supported in the colonies themselves, and especially in southwest Africa, where there has been violent criticism of Herr Dernburg's policy in regard to diamond claims and other company concessions. Herr Dernburg complained bitterly of colonial disloyalty, and declared in the Reichstag that the officials who fought him with public messages to politicians and the press ought to be taught a sharp lesson.

These are the circumstances of Herr Dernburg's resignation. It causes an inevitable reaction in popular feeling after the exaggeration of colonial prospects and possibilities which marked Herr Dernburg's arrival in office.

Herr Dernburg's resignation will probably increase, and certainly will expose, the position of the political situation. Rightly or wrongly, the public will ask tomorrow, "Who will be next?" and a very confident answer will be forthcoming. The dominant parties will, no doubt, protest that Herr Dernburg's resignation is uncalculated for and unnecessary, but in no quarter will they fail to produce an uncomfortable feeling of insecurity.

This will be increased rather than diminished by the appointment of Herr von Lindquist as his successor. He is a typical German bureaucrat, narrow opinionated and autocratic.

Cost of the Kaiser.

It is being discovered in Germany that the Kaiser is an expensive institution to keep up. A comparison shows that every day the Kaiser costs Germany in Prussia, on the upkeep of the Kaiser, which is nearly three times as much as England pays for the maintenance of her royal family, five times as much as the Russians pay for theirs, and more than twice as much as the Austrians have to provide. Compared with these princely republics are "dirt cheap" for the president of France only cost each Frenchman a trifle over a half cent a year, while Americans only pay about 1-95th cent apiece for their president, and expect to get a first-class article, too.

During a debate in the Diet on the proposal to increase the Kaiser's "civil list," otherwise, his income, Herr Hoffman analyzed the latter, and made out that it amounted to 36 cents a second. To this principle, however, Herr Hoffman objected, complaining that the wearer of the crown was often absent, and suggesting that the principle of "payment by attendance" should be applied. This idea of putting the Kaiser "on piece," so to speak, is a decidedly novel one.

Prize for Eighth Child.

True to his promise to stand as godfather to the eighth child in any German family, rich or poor, the Kaiser, at Berlin, recently attended the christening of the eighth boy of a house painter named Busch, of Barchin. Herr Busch has received a sum of \$5 through the local authorities, from the Kaiser's private purse. The rate of increase of the population of the country has recently diminished. This was regretted by the Kaiser, who, like Mr. Roosevelt regards large families as a guarantee for the future of the nation. It was this feeling that led the Kaiser to offer a signal honor to parents with eight children.

DOCTOR KILLS NOBLEMAN

Poisoning of Baturin Creates Big Sensation.

SON OF FAMOUS GENERAL

Aged Physician Confesses to Subcutaneous Injection of Poisons Into His Victim's System.

BY GEORGE FRASEL.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—It has been a long time since St. Petersburg society has been so shocked as it has been by the poisoning of Vassil Buturlin, only son of General Buturlin, a member of a noble family which has been prominent in court circles since the time of Peter the Great. The arrest and subsequent confession of Dr. Pantchenko, a man of 70 years had added to the sensation. Young Vassil Buturlin was 25 years of age, and an officer in the famous Preobrajenski regiment of guards. A couple of years ago he fell in love with a German music hall singer named Marie Sleske, and resigned his commission in order to marry her. He subsequently obtained a position in the ministry of the interior, and although he owned a large property in the province of Vilna, as well as a house in St. Petersburg, besides being the heir to about \$5,000,000 he lived a very retired life.

Killed by Physician.

On May 24, last, Vassil Buturlin became seriously ill and died the next day. After that doctor who was attending him had administered several subcutaneous injections. General Buturlin permitted a post mortem to be held, the result of which was to establish the fact that the young man had been poisoned. Suspicion fell upon Doctor Pantchenko. Pantchenko, under police pressure, confessed that he willfully poisoned young Buturlin, by injecting cholera anti-toxin obtained from the Cronstad laboratory. The dose was calculated to ensure death with a few days. He declared he was instigated by M. O'Brien de Lassy, the brother-in-law of the dead man, who, however, protests his innocence.

General Buturlin at first resented the "assault" of his son, but eventually became reconciled to the marriage, and is now on very affectionate terms with his daughter-in-law. The general's only other child is a daughter, married to M. O'Brien de Lassy, a Vilna land owner and a descendant of the famous French Marshal de Lassy. Count Rottiker, who has been arrested on suspicion of having instigated the crime, is a distant connection of M. O'Brien de Lassy, who is now in jail in connection with the Buturlin case.

Similar Case at Warsaw.

The poisoning of Buturlin occurred almost simultaneously with a similar case at Warsaw, where the son of a wealthy Polish land owner named Krjanowsky, has been murdered in some furnished rooms which he occasionally frequented. By a most extraordinary coincidence his brother-in-law, Count Rottiker, who has been arrested on suspicion of having instigated the crime, is a distant connection of M. O'Brien de Lassy, who is now in jail in connection with the Buturlin case.

Count Easily Caught.

One of the newspapers mentioned Count Rottiker's name in connection with the affair, and the count, who was married to the victim's sister went of his own accord to the detective department, and asked that an explanation should be demanded from the editor of the paper. The chief of the secret police confronted Count Rottiker with the two men under arrest, and they identified the count as the person who had rented the rooms. Count Rottiker was forthwith arrested. Marks of scratches were found on his throat. A school-fellow of Krjanowsky testified that he had seen the count conversing with the deceased very shortly before the murder.

Count Rottiker is described as being of very engaging personality. He enjoyed great popularity in Polish society and is the author of several novels and successful plays.

SEVENTEEN ARE DEVoured BY ZAMBESI RIVER SHARKS

Steamer Striker Block and Sinks—Passengers Eat Raw While Swimming to Shore.

LISBON, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Seventeen persons have been eaten by sharks in the Zambesi river while journeying through Portuguese territory. The steamer Striker, loaded with merchandise, struck a submerged rock and rapidly filled with water. The four passengers and the crew jumped into their boats, which were overturned in their frenzy. When they tried to swim ashore they were attacked by sharks and, despite the efforts at rescue made by the Portuguese gunboats Tete and Sena, only the captain, one passenger and two sailors were saved, the remaining three passengers and fourteen of the crew being eaten.

OFFICER DETERMINED TO DIE

Tries to Suffocate Himself with Charcoal and Finishes with a Bullet.

TOULON, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—A curious incident in respect to the police. A naval officer, 27 years of age, who, as he had failed to suffocate himself with a couple of pans of charcoal, lodged a bullet in his heart. He had been living six years with a young woman, and he left a letter in which he asked his parents, who reside at Paris, to give her sums of money which he had lying at the savings bank, and the remainder to his sister. The officer's motive for putting an end to his days seems utterly absurd. He paid a visit to a barber, and his hair was so closely cropped that his appearance was completely changed. This, it is said, preyed on his mind, and he felt that he could live no longer.

MAY CHANGE THE PAPAL SECRETARY

Cardinal Merry Del Val is Likely to Be Transferred to Some Other Place.

HE LACKS TACT, IS CHARGE

Places the Vatican in Embarrassing Positions.

MANY EXPLANATIONS IN ORDER

Precipitated the Roosevelt Church Incident.

DETAILS CONCERNING MAD KING

Otto Suffers Acutely from Insomnia and Has a Horror of Soap, Water and Manicure Implements.

BY CLEMENT J. BARRETT.

ROME, July 2.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The papal secretary of state, Cardinal Merry Del Val, may be transferred to some other post and a man of more tact be placed in charge of the outside relations of the Vatican. This opinion is held by many churchmen as well as laymen. While it is recognized that the cardinal secretary of state is a man of ability and a most devout churchman, he is widely lacking in diplomacy and has placed the Vatican in most difficult positions on more than one occasion. The latest instance is the encyclical regarding St. Charles Borromeo, which is said to be the work of Cardinal del Val and which has caused such great indignation in Protestant Germany that the government has made formal protest and the Vatican has been compelled to make explanations if not apologies which were rather humiliating.

The encyclical contrasted the character of St. Charles Borromeo with those of the reformers—namely, the saintly, humane and the reformer were said to have "called the perversion of faith and morals 'reform.'" "In truth," it says, "they were seducers."

Germany Makes Protest.

The German chancellor, von Bethmann-Hollweg, instructed the German minister at the Vatican to inform the curia that "the encyclical contains opinions upon the reformers and the reformation and princes and peoples favorable to the movement which grievously offend the religious, political and moral feelings of our protestant population. These opinions, which are offensive also in form, involve serious danger to religious peace."

The Vatican's response to the note, presented by the Prussian minister, forwarded to the Prussian government a declaration that the Barromeo encyclical was not directed against the German protestants, coupled with explanations which, according to the Vatican officials, may be expected to afford German satisfaction. It is regarded as particularly unfortunate that this should have occurred at a time when the agitation for the revision of the coronation oath prescribed for the king of England and the elimination of the offensive references to the Catholic church had practically been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. It is feared it will furnish enemies of the church fresh ammunition not only in England and Germany, but in Spain, France and Italy as well