

Political and Social News by Cable and Correspondence from the Old World

MANY WEDDINGS
IN SHORT ORDER

Thirty-Seven Couples Married in Little Over an Hour by English Clergyman.

URGED TO WAIT, BUT REFUSED
Desire to Be Married on Christmas a Growing Fad.

SCOTCH MINERS ARE SOCIALISTS
Bill to Pay Members of Parliament Will Be Rushed.

TO RECEIVE \$2,500 A YEAR
Division of Irish Officeholders is Disturbing London—Quintette of Brothers Have Golden Weddings.

BY PAUL LAMBERT.
LONDON, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—The record for marriage belongs to the town of Canning, in that quaint place there is an increasing fascination about a Christmas wedding, and as a consequence last Christmas there was a greater rush than ever, thirty-seven marriages being celebrated in seventy-five minutes by the vicar and his curate. Despite all the persuasion of the vicar, these thirty-seven couples insisted upon being married on Christmas and calling it a hard-working holiday would have spread the weddings over several days, but Canning refused, and only one couple postponed the ceremony.

A Long-Lived Tribe.
Five brothers belonging to the Sheerness family of Penney have lived to celebrate their golden weddings. Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Penney reached the anniversary last Wednesday and Mr. Penney is the last of five brothers to attain this distinction. Excepting in the case of the eldest brother, who is 90 years of age and had celebrated his golden wedding, the wife of each brother is still alive.

Scotch Miners for Socialism.
At the recent conference at Glasgow the Scottish Miners' Federation unanimously declared that workers cannot obtain the value of their labor and disputes be avoided until the means and instruments of all material production, distribution and exchange are owned and controlled by the state. The conference called for the amendment of the mines act so that miners should have the right to appoint by ballot local pit inspectors to be paid by the state.

Pay for Members.
Members of the labor party say they have been given to understand that the salary which the government proposes to pay to all members of Parliament is £500 a year, and that the proposal will be retroactive, so that salaries fall due at the opening of the new Parliament. The government bill will, therefore, be introduced early in the session and passed rapidly through all its stages.

Eight-Hour Law Sustained.
The first case of the eight-hour law, heard at Newcastle, Staffordshire, recently, when Frank Hall, assistant engineer, and Thomas Dobson, manager at the Silverdale collieries, pleaded guilty to abetting and conniving with William Myott, pump-minder, and others in a violation of the law. The act provides that pump-minders should not be below ground over nine and one-half hours per day. Some of those employed at Silverdale collieries, however, urged Hall to allow them to work double shifts, and it was alleged defendants conspired at this. Dobson was fined 20 shillings and costs, and Hall 10 shillings and costs.

Woman in Hard Luck.
An English woman forty-five years ago married a sailor in one of the seaport towns. The sailor deserted her and during all these forty-five years since the description of the woman has lived a hard-working life, but she cannot obtain her old age pension now because, having married a foreigner, she has lost her English nationality.

Music Makes Prisoners Weep.
There was a touching illustration of the truth of the old saying that "music hath charms to soothe the savage beast" at Wrenwood Square, London, where an entertainment provided by the members of the Western District Choral society, which took the form of selections from Handel's "Messiah." So deeply affected by the music were the prisoners that in many cases tears could be seen trickling down their cheeks. A proportion of them were comparatively young.

The tragic death of Thomas Nestle, who was found murdered in a railway carriage, recalls the fact that the mystery surrounding the death of Miss Money, whose body was found in Merstham tunnel in September, 1903, and Miss Camp, who, in February, 1907, was murdered while traveling between Houslow and Waterloo, has never been solved.

Irish Collectors in London.
The Irish invasion of England has begun. The "Civil Service Gazette" states that James Murray, formerly of Channel and Limerick collection, has been appointed collector for North London. Of the four London collectors three are Irishmen: Messrs. Murphy, O'Hara and Hallaghan.

Vaporized Alcohol.
Prof. Leonard Hill of the London hospital has invented an apparatus by which alcoholic stimulants can be conveyed directly to the system of pneumonia patients in the form of vapor.

GIANT URSUS FALLS ON LYGIA
Actress Seriously Hurt at Geneva When Man Caring Her Stumbles.

GENEVA, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—During the presentation of "Quo Vadis" at the Geneva Grand theater, a serious accident happened to the leading lady, Miss Kossa, who was taking the role of Lydia. It was in the scene act that M. Humbert, a giant Ursus, carried off Lygia from Vincius, but on arriving behind the wings he fell heavily with the little actress underneath. No bones were broken, but Miss Kossa was severely bruised and shaken.

TORIES STIRRING UP STRIFE
Use Orangemen's Prejudices to Work Against Home Rule.

JOHN DILLON IN PLAIN TALK
White Orange Agitators Are Busy Protestant Business Men Express Their Sentiments in Hearty Fashion.

BY THOMAS EMMETT.
DUBLIN, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—Tory politicians are doing their utmost to stir up religious prejudice throughout the country, using the Orangemen's organizations for this purpose. They have among their number those endeavoring to make it appear that the Catholic archbishops, bishops and clergy are opposed to the Irish nationalist movement and that the movement is controlled by English atheists and socialists. Discussing the subject recently at a public gathering John Dillon, M. P., said:

"It is a strange thing, if we are the bond slaves of the secularists and the atheists of England, that all the bishops of Ireland, with the exception of three men, are our supporters. It is a strange thing that ninety-nine out of every 100 priests are at our back and it is a strange thing that across the Atlantic and in Australia, where there exist the noblest bishops and priests of the whole Catholic church, they are a man with us."

Orange Agitators Busy.
Rev. John McDermott, formerly moderator of the Presbyterian church in Ireland, has issued an appeal to Ulstermen for financial aid, in view of the imminence of home rule. He suggests the holding of another great Ulster convention and asks for further funds to send competent Ulster unionists to work all over England. Mr. McDermott is a Tory and an Orangeman who lifts his hat every time the king's name is mentioned.

In marked contrast stand out patriotic Protestants like the Episcopalian rector of Kenmare and R. Ginn, a well known business man at Castlelyons, Fermoy, who in a recent letter says:

"Twenty-five years ago I came to this village a stranger from the black north and started business and thanks to the patronage of my Catholic neighbors, I succeeded beyond my expectations; and in all those years and all my dealings with them I have never met one who insult me or throw a slur on my religion. I have reared my family Protestants and have been for one of the church wardens and yet my best customer and friend is the parish priest, Canon O'Leary; so I think this gives a fair idea of Catholic tolerance in the south. I may add that I was in the north a few years ago and explained this to some of my old friends and they would not give it credit. I will not enter into the merits of home rule, but I certainly say if it were granted tomorrow, I believe it would make no difference to the Protestant minority."

A Blunt Statement.
T. W. Russell, another patriotic Protestant, discussed the firebrands who are trying to revive religious hatred and in a speech at Rathfriland, he said men were making speeches and writing letters, declaring that if a home rule bill was passed they would refuse to pay taxes. They asserted that they would take out not a sword, but their revolvers. These were the words of a man who said he was the best customer of his friend, the parish priest, Canon O'Leary; so I think this gives a fair idea of Catholic tolerance in the south. I may add that I was in the north a few years ago and explained this to some of my old friends and they would not give it credit. I will not enter into the merits of home rule, but I certainly say if it were granted tomorrow, I believe it would make no difference to the Protestant minority."

Liberal to Charities.
The late Colonel James Craig, who was well known in Belfast, left an estate of £100,000, and his will bequeathed to various charitable objects represented £1,000.

ARMENIA'S HEAD PRIEST
IS VICTIM OF APOPLEXY

Had Been Exiled by the Sultan for Supporting the Cause of His People.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—A telegram from Echinoidin states that Matthew II, Catholicos of the Armenians, has died of apoplexy. Matthew was born some sixty-seven years ago in Turkey, and was educated in the Armenian schools in the capital. He was consecrated bishop in 1875 and from 1881 to 1884 was head of the See of Smyrna. Towards the end of 1884 he was elected patriarch of Constantinople.

When, at the end of 1890, the Armenian massacres broke out in Asia Minor and in Constantinople, he took up the defence of his co-religionists and appealed to the representatives of the powers, boldly accusing the Turkish government of organizing the massacres. Akad, Hamid therefore exiled him from the patriarchate and exiled him to Jerusalem, whence he only returned after twelve years, when the Hamid, Jan regime was overthrown by the revolution of 1908.

In person his holiness was a tall, dignified figure with a flowing grey beard. When he was in Constantinople he was called "Vargate Patriarch" (the iron patriarch), because of the firmness with which, in succession to a line of complaint patriarchs, he refused to do the sultan's bidding.

DON JAIME READY TO WED

His Intended is One of Seven of the Daughters of the Duke of Parma.

MADRID, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—According to a Carlist rumor Don Jaime, the pretender to the Spanish throne, is to marry a sister of the duke of Parma next spring.

FIVE MILLION IN
KAISER'S ARMY

Colonel Gaedke Startles Europe by a Calculation Based on Recent Census.

DOES NOT TAKE IN "RESERVES"
This Year's Maneuvers Planned on a Vast Scale.

KAISER BUSY ON NEW YEAR DAY
Received Butchers' Guild at Quaint Ceremony.

OLD HUSBAND GIVEN A SURPRISE
Young Wife Locks Him in a Room on Innocent Pretext, Then Robs His Safe and Elopes with Her Lover.

BY MALCOLM J. CLARKE.
BERLIN, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—That Germany is able to send 5,200,000 soldiers and sailors into action is the startling statement made in a paper by Colonel Gaedke, whose calculations are based on the census taken December 1.

Colonel Gaedke calculates that the nation will have actually under arms not less than 714,000 soldiers and sailors, "and probably more." Without calling upon the "substituted reserves," Colonel Gaedke states, Germany can at any time now put 4,800,000 trained men in the field from among the 6,064,000 who have done service with the colors by land and sea during the last twenty-five years.

The North German Gazette in a description of this year's maneuvers, which are to be on an extraordinarily extensive scale, says that the theater of war will embrace Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz and Pomerania, Hanover and Brandenburg. The maneuvers will consist of joint operations between the army and navy. The battlefleets and cruisers of the high seas will all take part. The navy's operations will be off the east coast of southern Schleswig-Holstein and Rugen.

Tired of Old Hubby.
An elopement unique in the history of domestic infidelities occurred recently. There was a robbery in connection with the crime.

A merchant, who is well-to-do and 25 years of age, has been living in ideal happiness with his 25-year-old wife since their marriage in 1905. He did not suspect her affection for a bookkeeper who entered his employ, and the young man was invited to join the family festivities Christmas eve.

Just after the midnight hour the bookkeeper's clerk a purse and his wife a collection of jewels, the lady asked him to hide himself in his bedroom for a moment and he would see how she "wanted to carry out a little surprise for him." He laughingly complied and offered no objection when his wife cried merrily to him, "For safety's sake, I am going to lock you in."

The merchant waited patiently to be called, but as the minutes rolled on he became impatient and called to the servants to let him out. With the aid of a locksmith his release was effected, and then to his horror the merchant discovered that his wife and the bookkeeper were missing, together with money from the safe.

New Year's Resolutions.
New Year's day was one of the busiest in the busy kaiser's calendar. The day began at 5 o'clock with a trumpet fanfare, followed by the traditional parade of the Life Guard.

The family at 10 o'clock attended a service in the castle chapel. Then followed the brilliant "complimental levee," one of the kaiser's favorite occasions for confidential chat. Later the kaiser, accompanied by his sons, went to the arsenal in Unter den Linden to hold his annual secret "council of war" with commanding generals and admirals.

Luncheon at the castle was the occasion for one of the quaintest of Hohenzollern customs—the presentation of New Year's salt, eggs and sausage by the ancient Master Butchers' guild.

Immediately after the soup three butchers were ushered into the luncheon hall. Their spokesman greeted the kaiser in verse. The kaiser caused the sausages to be served to his guests, and after he had tasted them he addressed the addressed jocular words to the deputation.

Newlyweds Plant Trees.
Princess Augusta Wilhelmine, wife of the kaiser's fourth son, has set herself the task of reviving some of Germany's oldest customs, that according to which newly-wedded couples immediately after the marriage ceremony plant a couple of oak saplings in a park or by a roadside of their native town. A municipal official appears at the church door after every wedding and invites the bride and bridegroom to drive with him in a carriage to a new road near the town and there plant new oak saplings.

German Wives Must Obey.
One of our magistrates who sought relief from the marriage tie, explained to the court that his wife, in order to wear a hubble skirt with grace, had taken strenuous measures to reduce her weight. She sat thirty pounds in a few months, and in doing so he maintained the "trained her complexion, her digestion and her temper." This course was persisted in, despite his remonstrances, and was sufficient cause for divorce. The judge granted his application on the grounds of disobedience.

Wilhelm Burned His Mus.
Prof. Karl Rosenfeld, who is paid for the officers' convalescent home, near Wiesbaden, a representation of the kaiser, burning himself in tasting a bowl of soup as served to the troops at maneuvers. The incident actually occurred. The kaiser, as usual, insisted on tasting the rations, and burned his mouth, when he observed in Berlin dialect, "Ach! Wilhelm, thou hast properly burnt thy mus."

Student Dies of Wounds.
Another student has died of wounds received in a duel near Halle. Arno Heise, a member of the Leipzig University Students' corps, received a slight insult from a fellow student, who he challenged to a duel with heavy sabres. Since no student dueling is allowed in Leipzig, the disputants went to Halle, where "conventions" were speedily placed at their disposal.

WIDOW WAS TOO WINSOME
Engaged to One Brother, Two Others Loved Her.

ONE IS DEAD, ONE IN EXILE
Portuguese Charge d'Affaires Calls on Pope with View to Strengthening Republic—Petrified Woman Found at Pompeii.

BY CLEMENT J. BARRIETT.
ROME, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—A love match in which a beautiful and honorable young widow figured has been the cause of a sad tragedy here, affecting three brothers, one of whom was engaged to her. Some time ago Alfredo Marinotti, a librarian, fell in love in Giuseppe Sbordani, a widow of 28. They became engaged, Alfredo's two brothers, both unmarried, were delighted with their future sister-in-law, and they congratulated the lover on his luck. One day Cesare, youngest of the three, left without a word of explanation. Alfredo was deeply affected, but whenever he mentioned the matter to the second brother, Gennaro, the latter seemed to be much depressed. It was not until a few days ago that the mystery was solved. Gennaro was found dead and beside him was a letter informing his brother that he had resolved to die because of his love for the beautiful Giuseppe, and that a similar passion had driven Cesare into exile. The young woman was so overcome with grief at the tragedy which she had unwittingly caused that she broke off her engagement with Alfredo, who will probably go to the United States in the hope of forgetting the tragedy.

Portugal is Finishing.
The most remarkable incident of the pope's New Year's reception of diplomats, according to the Vatican, was the presence of the Portuguese charge d'affaires, Marquis Lagosca, who since the outbreak of the republic had not called at the Vatican. The marquis received a telegram from the republican government advising him to pay his respects to the pope. It is believed that the Lisbon cabinet will attempt to diminish its difficulties by seeking to regain for itself the sympathy of Catholics.

Petrified Woman Found.
In the course of building operations just outside the buried city of Pompeii, the petrified body of a woman has been unearthed, with both hands full of jewels. The jewels are numerous and valuable, consisting of bracelets, necklets, rings and chains. Among the jewels is a pair of earrings, considered to be a unique specimen of ancient gold work of extraordinary value. Each earring is shaped like a bunch of grapes with twenty-one perfect pearls representing the grapes, set in gold of exquisite workmanship.

Priest Killed by Mafia.
A nonagenarian priest was a few days ago found murdered at Quisquina in Sicily. The priest's head was almost severed from the body and the face was horribly disfigured, while the servant had been strangled. As the small sum of money which was in the house was found intact, it is believed the case is related to be in the work of the Mafia. The priest had been vigorous in denunciation of the Mafia.

Prince Max Retractions.
Prince Max of Saxony, who is a Jesuit priest, has been here on the union of the eastern and western churches, and had several interviews with the pope. It is said that he wrote a complete retraction of the writings to which the pope objected.

Pope Returns to Church.
Gomul-Led one of the greatest poets and writers of Portugal, and who for many years carried on a war against the church, has returned to the faith of his childhood, after a public retraction of his writings.

Elkins-Abruzzi Romance.
Little has been heard recently of the Elkins-Abruzzi romance, and no one seems to know the exact whereabouts of the lady in the case. She is reported to be in Washington with her father, in Virginia, in Switzerland, and in this city and in New York.

Tarnowska to Be Pardoned.
The minister of justice decided to propose to the king a pardon for the Countess Tarnowska. The most recent reports as to the condition of this famous murderess were to the effect that she was seized with acute insanity.

Motor Race from Capetown to Cairo Will Soon Be On

Two Parties, English and German, Have Preparations Made for Great Run.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—One of the most interesting races by motor which has ever been arranged will begin at Capetown at an early date, and with good luck, will end at Cairo.

The British party consists of five men under command of Captain Bede Bentley, who has already driven a car through Somaliland and Abyssinia. The others are Captain Kelsey, African big game hunter; Mr. John Henderson, a London newspaper correspondent in Central African travel; a professional photographer and a motor mechanic.

The British party will make their way through the Transvaal, British Central Africa, Lake Tanganyika and British East Africa to Fainodia and along a proposed track. The expedition is assured of the cordial co-operation of the colonial office and the British South Africa company. The Germans will be subsidized by their government to the extent of £20,000.

The 7500 miles from the Cape to Cairo will, it is hoped, be completed in about 120 days. In the untraveled wastes of Central Africa a passage for the car will have to be made by cutting rough roads through high thorn jungles. Progress in these places will not, in the best conditions, exceed two miles a day. In other districts a way must be found across loose sand fields and rushing rivers.

With good fortune the cars should reach Cairo by about mid-midnight.

PARIS LAUGHING
OVER HUGE JOKE

One Thousand Would-Be Brides and Grooms Gather at Restaurant at Certain Hour.

EACH PERSON WORE A ROSE
Joker Had Advertised for a Wife and a Husband.

SUIT TO COPYRIGHT GOWNS
One Dressmaker Sought Big Damages from Another.

DESIGN WAS FILED TOO LATE
Successor of Hobbie Skirt in Paris is Divided Skirt on the Turkish Plan—Reformers Would Close Bad Taverns.

PARIS, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—Paris is splitting its sides with laughter over a practical joke which went off splendidly and left 2,000 would-be matrimonial enthusiasts standing staring at one another. The other day two advertisements appeared in a newspaper. One ran thus: "A rich woman, even without fortune."

Replies were to be sent poste restante, and nearly 2,000 letters arrived. Answers returned to the women in a man's hand, and to the gentlemen in a woman's, appointed a meeting at a certain cafe, all of them being asked to wear a white rose to assist recognition. One thousand men and women gathered in and around the restaurant. Several other men not decorated were there. They were detectives, who had been sent by the prefecture of police, as the perpetrator of the hoax, who is also suspected, and with good reason, of having been present to enjoy the fun, had forwarded a letter informing the authorities that a party of royalists, bent on hatching a plot, were to meet at the cafe at that hour.

Copyright for Gown.
A dress may be a work of art and cannot be monopolized in trade. A question of great interest in dressmaking circles was settled, namely, that of copyright for a dress, in that case this week. Two customers were at loggerheads over the matter. One accused the other of having copied and reproduced one of his exclusive creations. Suit was brought, and \$4,000 damages were demanded.

Maitre Mailard, counsel for the plaintiffs, cited the copyright law regulating the rights of literary and artistic property, as well as the law on manufacturers' designs. According to him, all these laws had been infringed. A dress enjoyed copyright as well as any other artistic production.

Maitre Levallois, for the defendant, said a dress may be an artistic creation; nevertheless he held literary and artistic copyright laws could not apply to it, nor the law as to manufacturers' drawings. Besides, he added, the firm had sold its dresses before registering the sign, and therefore it was public property.

The court also adopted this view and decided the case against the plaintiff.

New Divided Skirt.
The successor of the hobbie skirt has arrived. A new form of divided skirt, to come into fashion in the spring, is to be launched by the "mantequins" of a well known dressmaking firm. The new costume comes from Turkey and is an almost exact reproduction of the dress worn by the harem women. It consists of a long loose divided skirt, fitting tightly at each ankle.

Reformers After Bad Taverns.
The latest object of reforming zeal is the celebrated tavern of the Halles, known as the "Ange Gabriel." Notwithstanding its title, its clientele were far from being angelic, held her court. The foreign visitors were invariably shown the "Ange Gabriel," and experienced all the emotions of passing through a dangerous experience, without much danger. As a matter of fact, the landlords pointed out by guides generally proved to be innocent all night workers. However, some ugly episodes have taken place in this quaint-looking house and police officers in uniform have themselves been stabbed on the threshold. And now it is to disappear, with its quadrangular lantern and painted angel, the Ville de Paris having condemned the property.

Chauvarchard Collection on View.
The incomparable Chauvarchard collection is at last visible in the Louvre. It is the more precious, in that the Louvre buyers have had no elaborate collections of the great painters of 1830, the Milletts, the Corots, Tyrons, Daubignies, Rousseaus and Jules Dupres.

Every one of the numerous Corots are masterpieces. His pictures may be called the poetry of nature. Corot is more appreciated as he grows older. Mr. Aynard once asked Chavannes who was the greatest painter of the nineteenth century, and the artist said, "You know very well that it is Corot." Chenevard was asked the same question, and he said: "What a foolish question, you know as well as I do that it is Corot." Corot remained unappreciated for years; he was refused in the Salon. The pictures which, during his lifetime could have been bought for 100 francs, cost \$25,000, or cannot be had for any price.

Profitable Walled Farm.
In and around this city fruit is abundantly cultivated. In Montreuil the best peaches in the world are cultivated. 200 hectares a hectare has about the surface of two and one-half acres—belong to about 80 gardeners, and this surface is covered with a stone wall. On these walls are spread the branches of peach and pear trees and strawberries. Every year there is a harvest of 120,000 peaches and a little less of pears and bunches of grapes.

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ARCHDUKE FRANZ BLUNDERS
Heir to Austrian Throne Angers the Hungarians.

MAKES AN ILL-ADVISED SPEECH
Would Make Position of Sister Kingdom Continual on Voting Big Sums for Proposed Increase in the Navy.

BY EMIL ANDRASSY.
VIENNA, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—Hungary is in a ferment again, and all because of the ill-advised remarks of the heir presumptive, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, to the Hungarian premier, Count Kluevenhedy. The archduke said:

"Every good patriot will learn with pain that Hungary's good fame has become somewhat dimmed in Europe. Hungarians must again endeavor to restore their good reputation, which can be accomplished if the Hungarian nation shows proof of its complete political maturity. The position of the Hungarians will be entirely restored in Europe if Hungary presents the possibility of becoming a great nation by granting to the military and naval administrations their new and increased demands."

The result which these words have had in Hungary is certainly not that intended by Franz Ferdinand. Even the newspapers friendly to the government say that the heir presumptive actually makes Hungary's future dependent upon voting without opposition countless millions for military purposes.

Cautious Comment.
An Ujmag, the organ which voices the opinions of Count Tisza, observes that the archduke will only allow the country's prestige to be lowered by the millions voted for the army and navy, which is a humiliation for Hungary. The Pest Herald says: "To grant Dreadnaughts without receiving any equivalent in national concessions would severely increase our prestige." Other newspapers express the fear that the passionate current of national feeling in Hungary will again break forth.

The Vienna Times says that there is no occasion to expect any far-reaching consequences from the archduke's words, as "Francis Joseph still reigns in Austria and as king of Hungary, and we know that he is guided by wise and inexhaustible benevolence."

Photograph Showed Big Feet.
An amusing action has just been heard of at Debrecen, Hungary, against an actress. Who was photographed with her feet, who refused to pay for the photograph, alleging that her feet were made to appear ridiculously large.

In court she was asked to take off her shoes and stockings in order that a comparison might be made. This, however, she refused to do. It was then decided to compare the finished photograph with the original negative, and it was seen that the photographer in "retouching" had re-modeled the actress' feet so as to make them appear really smaller than represented in the negative. He, consequently, won his case, the actress leaving the court in high dudgeon.

Abdul Hamid Very Ill.
According to the Vienna Telegraph, the health of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid is so unsatisfactory that it is proposed to remove him to a sanatorium in Germany. Commenting upon this proposal, the Neue Freie Presse remarks that this at once raises the question whether the ex-sultan should go to Vienna, a matter which has already been the subject of an application by the Porte through the Austrian ambassador at Constantinople.

Oil for Locomotive Fuel.
Negotiations between the Austrian government and the Crude Oil Producers' union have resulted in the practical completion of a contract by which the government will buy 300,000 tons of petroleum for use as fuel on the locomotives of the state railways. This is in addition to the contract for 1,500,000 tons already made between the government and the union for the fuel purposes of the Galician railway system.

New Zealanders Must Join the Army
Compulsory Service Act is Well Received, According to the Premier.

WELLINGTON, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—In the course of an interview Sir Joseph Ward, the prime minister, said he was highly satisfied with the reception accorded to the new Zealand Defence act. Compulsory service was the keynote of the act, but judging from the reports received from all parts of the Dominion, the compulsory spirit had been stimulated to an extent which, if that spirit continued, would render compulsion unnecessary. The object aimed at, he said, was to turn out 25,000 fully trained men, and if that result was not achieved in the next five years without compulsion then compulsion would be resorted to.

UNWISE PRISONER IS HARD HIT
Serbian Judge, in Response to Tsarist, Gives Man Longest Sentence on Record.

BELGRADE, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—A judge at the Kragevatsk Assizes, Serbia, was just getting slowly into swing with his speech at the end of a trial when the man in the dock interjected, "Stop all that, and tell me straight how long I get for smashing the fellow's head." The judge passed a moment, and gave him the longest sentence on record in the Serbian courts.

QUEER RUSSIAN LAW ON WILLS
Rich Woman Wrote Last Testament on Half Sheet of Paper and It Is No Good.

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—The Russian law requires that a will shall be made on a whole sheet of paper. An old lady made her will in proper form, but on a half sheet of paper, and then died. The probate courts regard the will as nonexistent, and the legatees are fighting the case to prevent the property (worth \$25,000) going to distant heirs, who are French subjects.

COUNT TOLSTOI
WAS TORMENTED

New Zest Given to Discussion of His Life by a Letter to His Countess.

CONDITION MADE HIM BITTER
Only Responsibility to Family Held Him at Home.

HAD A LONGING FOR SOLITUDE
Instances Hindu Custom of Retirement as His Ideal.

LETTER INDICATES FRETFULNESS
Departed Philosopher Goes Into the Details of His Changing Opinions and Expresses Great Dislike for Conventionalities.

BY GEORGE FRASER.
ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 21.—(Special to The Bee.)—The strange conclusion of the life of Tolstoy still is a fruitful source of discussion in the Russian capital. No sooner is there an indication that interest is dying down, than there is some strange new turn which brings it fresh before the public again.

For instance, it now develops that the great philosopher's departure from home was no sudden freak, but a carefully thought out purpose of many years' standing. This is evidenced by a letter just made public by Countess Sofia Andreevna Tolstoy, which was dated thirteen years ago and supererogated. Tolstoy's leave directions to the contrary, this letter is to be handed to S. A. after his death. It effectually disposes of all speculation as to the motives for Tolstoy's flight from Yasnyaya Polyana. The letter is as follows:

Tormented Because of Beliefs.
"Dearest Sofia: Long have I been tormented by the discord between my life and my beliefs. To compel you all to change your life, the habits to which I myself had accustomed you, I could not; and to leave you ere this I also could not, believing that I would deprive my children while they were so young of that small influence which I could have over them, and would grieve you on the other hand, to continue to live as I have lived these sixteen years, struggling and irritating you, falling myself under those influences and temptations to which I had become accustomed and by which I am surrounded, I also cannot; and I have now decided to do what I have long wished to do: go away, because, first, for me, in my advancing years, this life becomes more and more burdensome and I long more and more for solitude; and secondly, because the children have grown up, my influence is not needed, and you all have livelier interests which will render my absence little noticeable."

Hindu Custom His Ideal.
"The chief thing is, that just as the Hindus nearing 60 retire into the woods, and as old religious men seek to devote their last years to God, so for me, entering my seventieth year, all the soul-absorbing desire for tranquillity, for solitude, and if not for entire harmony, at least not for crying discord between my life and my beliefs and conscience.

"If I did this openly, there would be entreaties, pleadings, criticism, quarrels, till my decision not to return and not to fulfill, and so, pray forgive me if my act causes you pain, and, above all, in your soul, Sofia, leave me free to go and do not reprove or condemn me.

"That I should have gone away from you does not mean that I am displeased with you. I know that you could not literally do that, and therefore could not and cannot change your life and sacrifice yourself for something which you do not recognize. And, therefore, I do not blame you, but on the contrary, recall with love and gratitude the long thirty-five years of our life, especially the first half of this period, when you, with the maintenance of your natural health and energetically here, which you considered to be your duty. You have given me and the world what you could give. You cannot but be prized for giving great motherly love and devotion. But, during the last period of our life—the last fifteen years—we have drifted asunder. I cannot think that I am to blame, because I know that I have changed, not for myself, nor for other people's sake, but because I could not otherwise. Neither can I blame you that you did not follow me, but thank and lovingly remember, and shall continue to remember you for what you gave me.

"Goodby, dear Sofia, your loving, "LEO TOLSTOY."