

ANOTHER RUSSIAN POLICE SCENE

Paris, July 23. — Another scandal in the Russian Political Police is announced by M. Wladimir Burtsef, the writer who revealed the Azeff affair. Everybody knows that an unofficial, or semi-official branch of the Russian Secret Political Police exists in Paris. The present chief of that organisation, appointed in 1905, is, according to M. Burtsef, a person of mysterious identity, though the name under which he goes it is concealed. Who and what is he? M. Burtsef, in a public letter to the Minister of Justice, says that he long wondered, and has now found out. He is one and the same as a man convicted in July, 1890, by the Paris police-courts as the prime mover in a dynamite conspiracy, and was sentenced then by default to five years' imprisonment. Nineteen years ago the Paris police discovered that a plot was being hatched to blow up the then Emperor of Russia, Alexander III, and that the bombs were being manufactured in Paris. A number of conspirators were arrested, convicted and sentenced. But the ringleader escaped, and was tried by default. Four years ago a new chief was appointed to the directorship of the Russian Secret Political Police in Paris, which is the most important of its kind to Europe, outside Russia, as it surveys from here all the Russian "suspects" in Switzerland, England and elsewhere. So M. Burtsef now declares to the Minister of Justice that the ringleader condemned by default nineteen years ago for conspiring against the life of Alexander, and the chief of the Russian Secret Political Police in Paris since 1905, are one and the same man, M. Jaures, in the *Humanité*, takes the "New Azeff Affair" up, and points out that although, owing to the lapse of time since the conviction, no prosecution can now be instituted, yet something may be done, inasmuch as the person in question was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour by the French Government, and Burtsef will prove that the noble knight is an "agent provocateur," formerly condemned by the French courts for preparation of a dynamite outrage. The Prime Minister, M. Clemenceau, has ordered an inquiry into M. Burtsef's allegations.

OBBERS CAPTURED THROUGH A BROKEN WATCH GLASS

London, July 23. — An amazing story of the fraud by means of which Henry Clifford, alias Conrad Harns, is said to have obtained £1,537 from the Notting Hill Gate branch of Parr's Bank was related at the West London Police Court a few days ago, when Clifford was brought before the magistrate. It disclosed that the fraud was actually discovered before the money was obtained — in fact, a messenger was on his way to warn the bank when the money was being drawn — and that but for a broken watch-glass and detective work worthy of Sherlock Holmes an arrest might never have been made. In May Mr. Lyon, of J. E. Bache and Co., New York, came to Europe, and part of his duties consisted of filling in the bodies of bills of exchange drawn by Bache and Co., on the Swiss Bankverein in London, received on Harns. A bill for £1,100, 2d, was drafted on May 7, Harns destroyed this, and substituted a bill for £1,637. With the forged bill and a forged letter of advice Harns opened an account with Parr's Bank, who collected the bill from the Swiss Bankverein. Early on the morning of June 1 (Whit Tuesday), Harns presented of himself at the Notting Hill Gate branch and drew £1,437, chiefly in notes. The extraordinary thing is that the fraud had been discovered in the meantime. The Swiss Bankverein had notified Messrs. Bache of the letter of advice, and the New York house saw at once that something was wrong. They cabled to the bank on the Saturday, but in consequence of the intervention of the Sunday and Whit Monday no steps could be taken until the Tuesday. Early on that day an official from the Bankverein proceeded to Parr's Bank, but he was just too late. The money had already been obtained, and Harns had vanished. One of the £500 notes which Harns had obtained was cashed the same day at a money-changer's in Victoria street, Mr. Muir continued. "It was a curious happening in the money-changer's office that put the police on the track of Harns. While he was changing the note he produced a watch, and mentioned that he had bought it at a shop in the Strand. The police went to that shop and gave the Jeweller certain instructions on which he was to act if a certain thing happened.

BAGS OF GOLD BARRICADE IN DESPERATE FIGHT

Madrid, July 23. — A night watchman who entrenched himself in the underground strong room of the national pawnshop kept the entire police force of Madrid at bay a few nights ago. He ended the siege by committing suicide. The watchman, whose name was Jose Navarro, quarrelled with another watchman named Thomas Gomez, and mortally wounded him. Navarro then took refuge in the strong room of the pawnshop, where ten rifles and 2,000 cartridges are kept for the use of the night watchmen who guard the building. The door of the strong room was opened, and Navarro piled bags of gold and packages of valuable articles in front, and fired at his pursuers from behind this barricade. When the other watchmen hurried into the basement, accompanied by the governor of the institution and a score of police, Navarro greeted them with a succession of shots. The police and watchmen returned the fire, and the continuous fusillade soon attracted a large crowd. Additional police were summoned, until the streets around the pawnshop, which is in the heart of Madrid, were filled with them. Navarro ignored all commands to surrender. At last the police sent for his sister and his sweetheart, but they, too, failed to move him or elicit any reply, save more shots. At one o'clock in the morning the governor ordered the electric light wires to be cut, and the strong room was in darkness. Navarro continued to fire blindly. At four o'clock he realised that prolonged resistance was useless. The police, who was entrenched in other parts of the basement, heard Navarro stumbling over his barricade. Then he threw a handful of gold and silver coins in the direction of the besieging force, shouting as he did so, "This is for my requiem mass. Let us have done with this farce." Then two reports were heard. The police waited for an hour in silence, and then Navarro's brother made his way to the open door of the strong room. He found the dead body of the watchman lying at the foot of his barricade. That certain thing did happen. Harns broke the glass of the watch, and went to the shop to have it replaced. He was asked to return in half an hour, and when he returned he was arrested. While he was in Vienna he made love to a girl, and he brought her to Dover, where he married her. The question of bigamy will be dealt with later on.

EGYPT TO STAMP OUT SLAVE TRAFFIC

Cairo, July 23. — For some considerable time past the Government of Egypt has been inquiring into the "white slave traffic," the only slave market is Constantinople. As long as harems exist, the slave traffic will probably continue. It has been for long the custom of certain rich persons in Egypt to purchase slaves in Constantinople and bring them into Egypt as servants. But of late times it has been discovered that certain slave agents in Egypt have introduced Circassians, Georgians, and Armenian girls into Egypt, not always for harem purposes. Several persons have lately been summoned to attend either a special court or the ordinary tribunal for having dealt in slaves of various colours, both as vendors and purchasers. There is no doubt that in Constantinople slaves of both sexes, but more often females, can be bought freely. The Circassians, Georgians, and Armenians come from small eastern ports in the Black Sea, and the ships which import them are rarely caught by Russian guardships. Blacks filter through by the Persian Gulf, through Tripoli, across the Red Sea, or the Aegan Islands. It is naturally very difficult to control the ingress of slaves bought by rich Egyptians at Constantinople, and brought by them as servants to Egypt. As a matter of fact, these slaves are very well treated, and, in all probability, not at all discontented with their lot. The inquiries now about to take place here will probably do a great deal to put a stop to this traffic. It is to be hoped that the Turkish Government will organize a proper force to prevent the introduction of slaves into Constantinople.

TWO LIVES FOR A HAT.

Paris, July 23. — A passenger's hat blew into a reservoir just outside St. Laurent Station a few days ago. A man on the platform reached after it and fell in. The stationmaster plunged after him, but both men were drowned.

REVOLTING DEATH OF RUSSIAN GIRL

Paris, July 23. — The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Patrie* telegraphs details of a savage and revolting case of lynching which occurred recently in the village of Voleckhi, in the government of Volhynia. A young and beautiful woman living in the village had succeeded in incurring the hatred of the other women of the village by her flirtations with the men of the neighbourhood, both married and single. The women's hatred for the girl reaching a climax when it became known that on her account once of the young men of the village had broken his promise to marry another girl. On coming out of church on Sunday the women, both old and young, threw themselves upon the flirt, and, in spite of her cries for mercy, tore all her clothes off. They then dragged her through the village by the hair of her head, beating and stoning her mercilessly. At first the men laughed, but when they saw how savagely the girl was being maltreated they attempted to rescue her. The infuriated women, however, drove them off, and then dragged their unhappy victim, who was by now a mass of wounds, to a large tree just outside the village, where they hanged her to one of the branches, and then lighted a fire of brushwood under her. When the police arrived on the scene they found the victim of the women's fury lying dead under the tree, blackened to a cinder.

HEROISM OF YOUNG BOY

London, July 23. — The papers devote considerable space to the heroism of a fourteen year old lad in connection with the work of rescue at the west of the Alexandra dock at Newport where a number of the workmen were burned and many terribly injured. Four names, however, stand out from among the roll of workers. Three are doctors, and one is a small fourteen-year-old newspaper seller. His name is Tom Lewis, and he picked up an odd living with his papers round the docks. Curiosity drew him to the trench when the news of the disaster was known, and as he stood watching among the agonised crowd his opportunity came. A rescuer, looking down a long crevice, had seen a living boy thirty feet below, pinquined by the hands. No man could have wriggled down the gap. Would a boy dare? Tom dared. Head first, with a saw in one hand and a chisel in the other, he was lowered down. He put out his hand in the darkness and touched a dead man. A few inches away, and his fingers enabled in the blood of a living one. Then he found the imprisoned boy. For two hours he worked with the beams which held the man captive. It was one saw and a chisel against tons of weight, but the saw and chisel began to win. Lewis wrenched one hand free, and nearly the other, chatting the while with the living man near by, who lay patient in his agony, hoping that the small rescuer would soon be able to reach him. Ten minutes more would have finished the work. But there was a move among the timbers above, the heard of another fall of timber. Hastily the men above halted their boy helper up, leaving his work unfinished, just as the crevice along which he had come closed up. He came to the surface scarlet and torn, stood up a moment, and fell into the hands of the men before him. He awoke slowly and half dazed, until the memory of his ordeal — and that it had failed — came back with a flood of hysterical tears.

NARROW ESCAPE OF SUBMARINES

Paris, July 23. — A submarine has saved itself from disaster by a remarkable diving feat. During manoeuvres off Toulon the *Gronin* suddenly found herself in the course of the battleship *Massena*, a hundred feet away. The tiny submarine seemed doomed, but her commanding officer, with fine presence of mind, sent her below the surface in the nick of time. She dived like a fish, and the watch of the *Massena* saw her disappear beneath the battleship. A few moments later the submarine came safely up to the surface astern of the *Massena*, cheered by the battleship's officers and crew.

MANY WILL HAVE TO RE-MARRY

Brussels, July 23. — A strange incident has just occurred in Liege. It has been discovered that a municipal magistrate, M. Ruffin, who has been acting in that official capacity for several months, is not a Belgian, but a German, his father having never been naturalised. The curious point in this is that this gentleman has married more than 500 couples, and these marriages are now, from a legal standpoint, devoid of any value. The couples will probably have to be married afresh.



BOY WHO SUCCEEDS HIS FATHER AS SHAH OF PERSIA

PARIS HAS PECULIAR PAPER

Paris, July 23. — With its first issue a new contemporary announces that it will "fill a long-felt want." The long looked-for paper in question is the *Journal des Femmes*, which will be "a friend and counsellor to all who wish to keep their legs fit, and to all who, weary, impatient or worn out, wrongly believe that they have lost the use of their beyond return." The journal will "deal with all medical, surgical, choreographic, sporting, or other questions relating to the human leg, of either sex."

MYSTERIOUS SICKNESS OF SOLDIERS.

St. Petersburg, July 23. — It is stated that 500 men of one of the regiments sent to guard the railway near Kieff for the Transvaal, have fallen ill with a gastric ailment, due to bad food. The *Morose Russ*, in referring to this, says that while soldiers are set to protect the railway another had better be appointed to protect them from the tainted viands of the Kieff Commissariat, especially in time of cholera.

LOVE HEED TO A TRAGEDY.

Vienna, July 23. — A strange tragedy took place on the Danube steamer *Josef Karl* when it arrived at the Roumanian port of Zurgievo recently. A Turk named Assan, one of the crew, had fallen in love with a pretty Roumanian peasant girl who was one of the passengers. When she rejected his advances he declared that he would land with her. The girl appealed to the captain, who ordered the crew to prevent Assan from leaving the steamer. Thereupon the Turk drew a knife and killed one sailor and wounded two others who tried to stop him from crossing the gangway. Assan was then placed in irons, but he managed to reach the side of the steamer after it left Zurgievo, and threw himself into the water. He was drowned before he could be rescued.

RHODESIA MAY GO TO UNITED SOUTH AFRICA.

Frankfurt, July 23. — The State Railway authorities have decided to add a completely equipped first-aid hospital to each train running through Prussia and Hesse. This hospital will occupy the space of two first-class compartments. It will contain three cots or beds, an instrument case, and a complete dispensary.

DOUBLE MURDER AND CREMATION.

Lisbon, July 23. — A terrible tragedy is reported from Valladolid. A merchant named Ibanez, who suffered from fits of depression, was seized with madness. Securing a revolver and hatchet, he rushed into the streets half naked, firing and striking at all who came within reach. The terrorised people fled in all directions. Two persons were shot dead and a child's head was cut open. A force of Civil Guards appeared on the scene and the madman rushed back home and abridged himself in the house. Then he soaked the furniture with petroleum and set alight to the building, which was soon a mass of flames. The guards endeavored to force the door, but they were received with shots and had to retreat. The house was now blazing like a red-hot furnace, and from the room in which the madman was scarce fearful yells and shrieks. At last the building collapsed and buried the unhappy victim.

SUICIDE OF POLISH PRINCE.

Vienna, July 23. — Much sympathy is caused among the Austro-Polish aristocracy by the death of Prince Stanislas Jablonowski, who committed suicide on his Burstyn estate in Galicia by shooting himself with a revolver. He belonged to one of the most distinguished Polish families. Prince Stanislas, whose extravagance threatened to dissipate his great wealth, was for a long time under guardianship, and lived for some decades in complete retirement. Of late years this amiable and gifted Prince was the victim of melancholy, and committed suicide at the age of 63, when left for a moment unguarded by his family.

PARSON'S STOLEN LOVE MAKES STRIFE

Vienna, July 23. — A singular church boycott caused by a love affair has just come to an end in Buda-Pesth. Benjamin Haypal, the pastor of the Reformed Church at Buda-Pesth, a married man with several children, who was formerly immensely popular, fell in love with the wife of a civil servant. The latter ultimately divorced his wife, but Haypal continued his intrigue. The pastor's conduct caused such indignation that meetings were held, and his congregation decided not to attend church as long as he remained in office. The effect of this boycott was that when Haypal officiated or preached there was absolutely nobody in the church but himself and the sexton. The elders and heads of the church tried to induce Haypal to renounce his ministry, but he refused, and continued to preach sermons to the sexton, while his parishioners went to other churches. The boycott lasted four weeks, when the public authorities interfered, and ordered Pastor Haypal to be taken to an asylum.

PARSONS TRAGEDY IN BELGIUM

Brussels, July 23. — A terrible drama has just occurred in the convict prison at Termonde. One of the prisoners, a man named Van Belleghem, succeeded in escaping from his cell. He made his way to the office of the prison-keeper, where he found a loaded revolver. Possessing himself of this weapon, he sallied out into the quadrangle and attempted to scale the prison wall. He was seen by some gendarmes, and in reply to their summons to surrender, he opened fire with his revolver, and shot one of the policemen dead. The gendarmes then began firing at the prisoner, who presently fell from the wall with a shattered arm, and was promptly seized and taken back to his cell.

GERMANY'S RICH DIAMOND FILES

Berlin, July 23. — As a result of the complaints evoked by the German Government's policy in regard to the diamond industry of German South West Africa, Herr Dernburg, the Colonial Secretary, has explained the situation to some German Deputies. According to the Minister, the value of the diamondiferous deposit in South West Africa amounts to £50,000,000. An essential point of his policy is that he has banded the 4,000 to 5,000 persons interested in the trade into a coalition, the importance of which may be gathered from the fact that after this circumstance became known a representative of the De Beers Company applied to Herr Dernburg with an offer of reciprocal prices. The Minister refused, for, as things stand in South West Africa, he believes he can fix prices independent of De Beers and if necessary dictate prices to the latter.

OSTEND GAMBLERS WIN OUT

Ostend, July 23. — After two years' litigation the Court of Appeal at Oshera has quashed the conviction against M. Marquet and the Committee of the Ostend Kursaal on the question of allowing gambling there. The Kursaal Club Prize is to be re-established. This decision has caused great rejoicing at Ostend, as the previous judgment had meant serious loss to the municipality.

BAD FEELING IN ITALY IS REVIVED.

Rome, July 23. — A very serious situation has been created in Italy by the Maritime Convention Bill before the Chamber. The Bill was framed in such a way as to favor the interests of Genoa, to the detriment of the interests of other Italian ports, in particular Naples and Palermo. This has, of course, provoked the protests of those ports, and the agitation is now so strong that it seems likely to cause the fall of the Ministry. Signor Giolitti thought he could have the Bill passed by his usually docile majority, but the deputies have rebelled against their chief. The Premier has now promised some alteration in the Bill, but a Ministerial crisis sooner or later seems inevitable. The worst feature of the matter is that the apparent favouring of Genoa has revived the old distrust and animosity between North and South. Excitement in Naples and Palermo is very serious indeed, and has led to violent demonstrations, during which hundreds of arrests have been made. The secretary of Signor di Traffia, the representative of Palermo in the Chamber, has been assaulted and cut about the face with a razor. Grave disorders are feared.