

# THE TEST SARRIEN

### French Now Have Chance to See What He Can Do.

### New Premier, a Prominent Radical—Has Been an Unknown Quantity and Disturbing Element.

Paris, April 7.—The selection of Ferdinand Sarrien as prime minister has come as something of a relief for France, because he has been hanging as the sword of Damocles over the people's heads for eight years. The power behind the throne in the radical-socialist party, which governs France in every action the word would be passed around "It will be Sarrien."

Somewhat, it never was, but that did not keep the prophecy from being repeated next time. It was said that Sarrien would be elected president on Felix Faure's death, but Louis was elected instead. It was also said that if Fallières were not elected at the first ballot last January Sarrien would get in himself, and indeed, only Fallières got in. When Dupuy's ministry fell, when Waldeck-Rousseau resigned, when Combes was overthrown, when Discepoli all broke up the Rouvier ministry last year, and caused considerable changes, Sarrien's name was regularly brought forward as the man who would take up the reins of government. But he never did. And so when Rouvier resigned at last and people began to say nothing would do but the premier, it was a relief even for Sarrien's political adversaries to see him there at last, where his value could be judged.

For considerable as Sarrien's influence has undoubtedly been on his party, he came really to the front only once, as minister of justice in the Brisson cabinet in 1898, when he transmitted the request for the Dreyfus revision to the Council of Ministers disregarding the report of the government commission, which was adverse to this measure. Sarrien's action caused a campaign in his honor, and war, to resign, and not long after the entire cabinet fell in consequence of the Dreyfus agitation.

Ferdinand Sarrien was born in 1849 at Bourlain Lacy, in the east of France, and studied to be a lawyer. He fought through the Franco-German war, and rose to the rank of captain, returning to his native town when peace was concluded and entered himself in the bar of Metz. Elected mayor, he retained this post until he entered national politics in 1876, by being elected member of the chamber of deputies. He drew the flag of moderate republicanism and devoted himself particularly to scholastic and colonial questions. He held office in 1885 in the Brisson cabinet, as minister of posts and telegraphs; and in 1886 was minister of the interior in the Dufaure cabinet. In the Goblet cabinet at the end of 1886 he was minister of justice, and resumed the portfolio of the interior in the Tardieu cabinet, 1891-92. During the ten years after this he was little heard of, but his political opinions began to change. From moderate republican he became an extreme radical, and with the exception of former Premier Combes there is not in France today a name more inveterate and clerical than Sarrien. Sarrien was next heard of in the Brisson cabinet in 1898, and was then eclipsed again until 1906.

The cabinet which Sarrien has formed has awakened part surprise, part dismay in France. No such heterogeneous combination was ever seen. There is Polmarre, the Anglo-maniac, and Bourgeois, the Germanophile; Briand, who framed the associations law in its present vigorous form and who has sworn that it shall be carried out in every detail; and Leygues, who has pledged himself to see fair play for churches and Catholics. The general feeling is that if the ministry can live during the six weeks which separate France from the general elections for the chamber it will be nothing less than a miracle.

# HONOR A DRUNKARD POET

### French People Object to Statue of Alfred de Musset.

Paris, April 7.—The plain French middle class do not approve of the erection of a statue to Alfred de Musset. Musset, the good people contended, was a bad man, who led a vicious life, put evil thoughts into the heads of the young, and made the whole nation self-conscious.

The poet drank, and absinthe at that; he might be seen almost every day of his life on the terrace of the Cafe de la Regence pouring the green liquid down his throat before all Paris. Then he was, it seems, dissolve in other ways, and many an unhappy home owed its ruin to De Musset's lack of scruples. That was not wise, come think, to build of Cararra marble a pillar to the memory of this man.

The statue is about to be unveiled. It shows the poet sitting in a meditative attitude, with his head bowed in melancholy, while a smiling, cheery, graceful marble girl, who represents the muse, extends to him in a half-suppliative attitude a branch of laurel. The girl's original is a little flower girl of Paris, who begged to be allowed to pose by the figure of her "beloved poet," and whose identity has been from a sense of decency kept a secret.

George Sand, in reply to a question as to what might be seen almost every day of his life on the terrace of the Cafe de la Regence pouring the green liquid down his throat before all Paris. Then he was, it seems, dissolve in other ways, and many an unhappy home owed its ruin to De Musset's lack of scruples. That was not wise, come think, to build of Cararra marble a pillar to the memory of this man.

# A NEW AERIAL NAVIGATOR

### Thinks He Has Solved the Problem of Air Transportation.

London, April 7.—James Shanks of Clapham Park, an ex-bootmaker and now an auxiliary postman, claims to have solved the problem of aerial navigation.

spent his leisure moments studying aerodynamics, and more especially the flight of birds, for like many others who are working in the same direction, he is convinced that man can only fly when he has mastered the "science" of the bird's wing.

In order to raise sufficiently money to perfect his flying machine, Mr. Shanks has constructed a "flying roundabout," which is propelled not by a gas engine, but by a balloon and a pair of silk wings, made after much study of angles and air resistance to give the power exercised by a bird's other day under one of the arches of Clapham station.

There are six seats on the "roundabout" carrying twelve persons. In front of each seat is a balloon and a pair of silk wings, made after much study of angles and air resistance to give the power exercised by a bird's other day under one of the arches of Clapham station.

# CHILDREN'S BRITTLE BONES

### Case on Record Where They Dared Not Run for Fear of Breakage.

London, April 7.—In a case at Blackpool in which a man was charged with neglecting to send his children to school, he stated that both children had suffered from broken thighs, and every time they walked or ran their bones snapped. In the circumstances he dare not send them to a public school, as he was afraid the other children would be rough with them.

"Children whose bones are as fragile as porcelain, whose limbs almost break in a puff of wind, or if they laugh excessively, are rare," says an eminent physician. "Such a disease is confined almost to adults, and though common on the continent, is almost unknown in England. It is the most rare disease of childhood."

"Brittle children will always be with us, and by this one does not limit the statement to the brittle-boned child. There are those whose constitution is so delicate that they acquire almost any disease with astounding rapidity.

# TO EUROPE IN 4 DAYS

### New York, April 7.—To Europe in an airship in four days, is the prediction made by Major C. J. S. Miller of Franklin, Pa., the millionaire enthusiast on airships.

"It does seem ridiculous to talk about covering 3,000 miles in that time traveling through the air," said Mr. Miller, "yet I believe ten or fifteen years from now it will be an accomplished fact."

The gasoline engine, which has such an unlimited future, will solve the problem. Gas bags will do for general ascensions, but the future of aerial navigation rests with the use of gas bags.

Johnson's victim was Miss Nevada Taylor, aged 18, who was waylaid while on her way home in the suburbs. She is a working girl. Johnson was convicted in the state court last February 6 and sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of 10 years. Johnson was taken into his own hands, as he has been so often done in the South, by a band of determined individuals to uphold the rather popular principle that crimes against the honor of white women must be met with the same penalty as the only practicable deterrent.

# CHINESE HEBREWS

### Colonies of Abraham's Descendants Discovered There.

### Supposed to Have Come From Persia Almost 500 B. C.—Perhaps Remnants of Ten Tribes.

For more than two thousand years there has been a colony of Jews established at Kailfengfu, China. The exact date of their entrance into the country is not known, but it is supposed from a tablet found in their synagogue at that place they must have appeared there about 500 B. C., although it may have been as late as 58 A. D. It is not until the third or fourth century that they are mentioned in Chinese annals, says the Cleveland Leader, when their synagogue is referred to as a Chinese written as a "heaven spirit monastery." Western Persia is given as their starting point, by which Persia probably means Mesopotamia, the number of Persian words which are used by the Chinese Hebrews.

Mr. Ezra, who is an authority on the subject, thinks that there is no good reason for the theory that the Chinese Hebrews are descended from the ten tribes. There are many references to these Hebrews from the year 578. An Arabian writer mentions them as one of the sects that perished in a general massacre at Khatfu, in the year 958. There are records of the Chinese district officials conferring honors on Hebrews, and in 1163 the erection of a synagogue was begun in China.

Hebrews were invited to Pekin to join the imperial army. In the fifteenth century, when many Hebrews were in the empire in China. The best information we have about these communities comes through the Jesuits who endeavored to reach the end of the sixteenth century.

The discovery of the Chinese Hebrews was made by Father Ricci, one of the first Jesuit missionaries in China. Early in the seventeenth century, one summer day in Pekin, a visitor, prompted by rumors of the arrival of certain foreigners who worshipped a single God and yet were not Moham-medans, called on Father Ricci. The missionary notices the difference of features from the ordinary Chinese, led him to the oratory and knelt on his knees before a picture of the Virgin and the infant Jesus and St. John the Baptist. Nearly was another picture representing four of the apostles.

The visitor knelt also, remarking, "We in China do reverence your ancestors. This is Rebecca with her sons Jacob and Esau, but as to the other picture, who worshipped a single God and yet were not Moham-medans, called on Father Ricci. The missionary notices the difference of features from the ordinary Chinese, led him to the oratory and knelt on his knees before a picture of the Virgin and the infant Jesus and St. John the Baptist. Nearly was another picture representing four of the apostles.

Returning to the former apartment mutual explanations followed and an unforeseen solution ensued. The stranger was a Hebrew, Nzal by name, who had come to Pekin from Kailfengfu to procure literary honors. He stated that in his city there were some twelve families of Israelites, with a fair synagogue in which they preserved a roll of the law more than four hundred years old, and in Hangchow; the capital of Chekiang, there were many more families, also with a synagogue.

Sent over the length and breadth of China there were others of his sect, but these were gradually being lost, from having no meeting place. When shown a Bible in Hebrew he confessed his inability to read it, though he recognized the characters. He said that his preference for Gentile literature subjected him to many reproaches from the chief of the synagogue, Father Ricci was able to test the truth of these statements, and despatched some Chinese Christian messengers before for purposes of investigation, and soon received visits from other native Hebrews.

The condition of the Chinese Hebrews has been declining very fast since that time. A missionary in 1866 found them in an impoverished condition. They had been obliged to tear down a part of their synagogue to sell it. Finally, some thirty years later, a society for the rescue of these people was established, and in response to an urgent invitation eight Chinese Hebrews left Kailfengfu for Shanghai. They arrived in that city in March, 1894, where they were cordially received by the Hebrew colony. Questioned as to their observance of their ancient religion, these Hebrews admitted that their faith was rapidly declining. At present they do not observe any of the ordinances of the Hebrew religion, nor do they observe the idolatrous practices of the heathen.

Many of them have been scattered, but their still remain to the seven clans about one fifth of their original number. Their condition is so deplorable that they have no leader, no synagogue and no school for their children.

# A WAR WAGED ON ABSINTHE

### Swiss People Petition Government to Forbid its Manufacture.

Geneva, April 7.—Absinthe has been responsible during the past few months for so many terrible crimes in France Switzerland that an active crusade is being made to prohibit the sale of the liquor.

In the cantons of Vaud and Geneva over 100,000 signatures have been obtained to a petition urging the government to suppress the distilleries in the Canton of Neuchatel, and make the sale of the "green monster" an unlawful trade. Most of the absinthe is sold in small cafes at 2 cents a large wineglassful, and is made from chemicals and raw alcohol. Good quality of the same price as good whisky, but the terrible combination of chemicals and raw alcohol can be made very cheaply, and the poor people of the low cost, prefer it to wine and beer.

The Canton of Neuchatel depends for its revenue chiefly on the manufacture and sale of absinthe. It is naturally in this quarter there is much opposition to the crusade.

Not only men, but the women, and to a less extent the girls, and boys, have developed the absinthe habit, which threatens to sap the manhood of the Swiss in the French cantons.

# NOVEL TESTIMONY

### Berlin, April 7.—A strange experiment has been carried out on the railroad between Frankenstein and Lambricht by the railroad authorities, who wished to escape liability for the death of a traveler, who was killed in a tunnel seven years ago.

Ever since that time litigation has been going on, the relatives of the dead man claiming \$15,000 damages against the railroad, whose negligence, they declare, was the cause of his death. The railroad people appealed, and in support of their contention caused the experiment to be made.

A dummy, made of the same size and weight of the victim, was placed on the railroad, and a train which was a replica of the one in which he made the fatal journey. The door of the engine was left open during the run at express speed, through the tunnel, for the allegation was that the door had been left insecurely fastened.

The experiment was made to show that it was impossible to fall out even with the door wide open, and as the dummy never budged from its seat, the appellants made out their case.

# U. S. SUPREME COURT COULDN'T STOP A LYNCING

### Ed Johnson Who Was Lynched.

the jail office. Then a few more came in, and after awhile there were about 75. About one-third of them were actively engaged in what followed.

While some of them argued with Gibson, two heavy doors were laboriously battered down. Just two and one-half hours were consumed at the jail by the mob, and by the course of that time Sheriff Shipp was summoned to the jail by telephone. He endeavored to argue with the mob but was locked up in a jail room.

After securing him, the mob dragged the negro through the street, veiling the eyes and ears of Johnson. Since then the city has been in a ferment. Numerous clashes between whites and blacks have occurred, and at times rioting. If the city was on the verge of a huge race battle. There is somewhat of a lull to see the federal authorities will act on this first nullification in history of an order of the highest court. If action does follow, it will be a precedent. Results seem to hinge upon whether, under a strict construction of the law, the man Johnson was in the custody of the federal court at the time he was taken from jail.

# SOON TO BE SHOT

### American Murderers in Hands of Mexican Government.

### Were Insurance Swindlers—President Roosevelt Has Been Urged to Intervene—Probably Will Not.

Washington, April 7.—Pressure is being brought to bear upon President Roosevelt to have him intervene in behalf of the three Americans, Richardson, Mason and Harle, who are under sentence of death in Mexico for the murder of Mitchell and Devers at Chihuahua four years ago. The Supreme court of Mexico has just affirmed the sentence of death and unless Governor Creel pardons them they will be executed by shooting.

This is the case in which charges of a sensational nature have been brought against the New York life insurance company. The alleged crime of the three men was committed in order to collect insurance on the lives of the victims. It has been alleged that the New York Life, in which company the policies of insurance were held, spent large sums of money and used undue influence to bring about the conviction of the accused men.

The story of the alleged murders and conspiracy to secure the insurance money is of a most sensational character. In the fall of 1902, while looking over some Mexican policies, the directors of the Chihuahua Life Insurance company, noticed a peculiar coincidence in two Chihuahua claims. The claim was for \$100,000. The same agent, C. T. Richardson, were certified by the same doctor, C. S. Harle, and in both cases Dr. Harle claimed that the victim had been insured for \$15,000, had died on February 14, the other man, Devers, who was insured for \$10,000, died on February 22. Yet the Mitchell claim was presented in February, and the Devers claim not until May. In both cases the insured had no other relative than the beneficiary. In the first case the beneficiary was Richardson's wife; in the second case it was William Mitchell, who posed as Devers' half-brother.

An investigation it was shown that the men had died and been buried, as stated. Then the check for the Devers claim came back to the New York bank. It was endorsed by C. T. Richardson, whose true name was Hubert and who some years previous had run away from Rochester, N. Y., with seven indentments hanging over his head for running a "divorce mill." The other claim had been presented to the Chihuahua Life Insurance Co. by a sister of the murdered Harry Mitchell.

After the frauds the fraud removed to Dallas, Tex. A detective named Gray was sent to Dallas and fitted out as a lumber merchant. He was supplied with lumber orders from New York to keep up the game. One day Richardson spoke to Gray's little girl. The men met, became intimate, and Richardson broached the subject of the chest the company out of \$50,000. He said he had had experience. Detective Gray proposed that they insure Gray's brother-in-law. He was dying of consumption. William Mitchell posed as Evans and two reputable physicians examined him and pronounced him a good man. He was known as Meredith when he wasn't Evans.

The whole crowd, including Gray, was arrested early in November. A fellow detective of his had already overheard Mitchell and Richardson scheming to kill off Gray. Richardson in the prison, at El Paso, Mitchell discovered that Gray's real name was a detective.

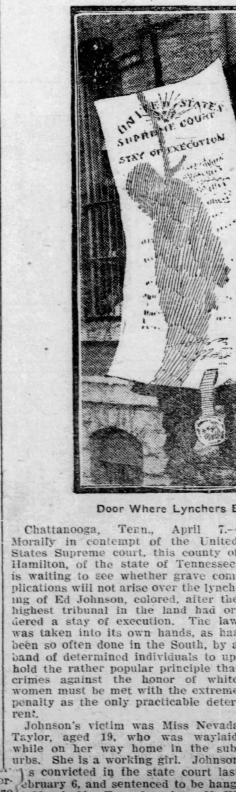
He at once went into a sham caustic pit that lasted two months. San Francisco experts watched him, and declared that he was playing possum. Yet all the time Richardson kept recognizing the attendants or speak an intelligible word. He didn't move from his bed, the detectives stuck their noses half an inch into his face. One night they suddenly rolled him out of his bed, when he should have been asleep, and dropped him into a tank of cold water. He sank to the bottom, stiff. He was fed on milk introduced through his nose by a class tube, because his teeth were clenched. At last, they mixed his daily milk with whisky. He got howling drunk, jumped off his cot, and cursed at everybody in sight.

Finally Dr. Harle, who was still in Chihuahua, was induced to come into the United States and was arrested. He was brought through the third degree and made a full confession of his connection with the two Chihuahua claims. This was the first confession needed. The proceedings against Mitchell and Richardson on the Dallas plot were dropped. All three were extradited to Mexico on the murder charge. The three criminals fought the case in the Mexican courts, but their trial resulted in conviction and sentences of death. In view of this fact and also the previous records of the men it is not regarded as likely that President Roosevelt will take any very active steps in their behalf.

# TROD ON CORNS \$5 FINE

### St. Louis, Mo., April 7.—In the Dayton street police court Judge Pollard fined Harry Cherry \$5 for trampling on William McDonald's corn in a street car.

Cherry forced his way into a crowded car during the night and trod on McDonald's corn. The conductor and some passengers tried them apart finally and Cherry was arrested. Police Judge Klieber recently rendered a decision that a passenger has a right to swear at a conductor when carried past his street. The name of the conductor has called to call out.



Door Where Lynchers Entered Chattanooga Jail.