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The Week



THE President of the French Republic has fallen under the dagger of an assassin. President Carnot was visiting Lyons to honor by his official presence the great Exhibition there in progress. He had on Sunday gone in state to the Exhibition, had then attended a banquet at the Chamber of Commerce, and had just taken his seat in his carriage, at a little after nine o'clock in the evening, to go thence to the Grand Theater, when a young man pressed through the crowd holding in his hand a package supposed by those standing about to be a petition, sprang upon the carriage step, and plunged a dagger concealed in the package into the abdomen of his victim. M. Carnot was taken to the Prefecture, where he died soon after midnight. The assassin was at once arrested, and was with some difficulty rescued from the summary vengeance of the mob. He gives his name as Cesario Giovanni Santo, is an Italian, claims to be about nineteen years of age, and admits that he is an Anarchist. The fact that the murderer is an Italian is likely to fan the flame of hostility between Frenchmen and Italians, already too strong in some of the cities of the two nations. Coming so soon after the attempt upon Signor

Crispi's life, the murder is taken by many as a sign of concerted action among the Anarchist circles, but this is as yet conjecture. The news of President Carnot's death has profoundly shocked all Europe, and the outcry of fierce indignation against the atrocious crime may result in vigorous and effective concerted action against the "wild injustice of blind savagery" involved in all Anarchism, and illustrated so often of late by the terrible acts of the advocates of the "propaganda by deeds." M. Carnot's term as President would have expired next December, and he had signified his intention to decline a re-election. His successor will be appointed by a joint ballot of the Cham-

ber of Deputies and the Senate, to be held at Versailles Wednesday, the result of which will be known by the time this is read. There are several candidates, the two most prominent being M. Casimir-Périer and M. Dupuy. Not by any conceivable theory can any class or body of individuals be benefited by the death of such a quiet, patriotic, pure-minded, reasonable man as M. Carnot; his assassination was causeless, and the result of vicious and brutal instincts aroused by the hideous teaching of desperate Anarchists—for whom, by the way, Lyons has long been

a favorite resort. As has been well said by the London "Standard," "they [the Anarchists] will not succeed in effecting the destruction of society, but they may succeed in necessitating such restrictions upon liberty as will throw back the progress of self-government for an indefinite period."



President Carnot has for his personal history the record of a blameless, useful, and patriotic life. His words before the Deputies in 1887, "All that I possess of strength and devotedness belongs to my country," formed the simple and true expression of a life-principle. Born in 1837, he was the son of that Carnot whose Life of Barère so aroused Macaulay's invective, but who was for all that an able public man; still more distinguished was President Carnot's grandfather, the great war-minister of the First Republic,



Marie François Sadi Carnot

and in a sense Napoleon's "organizer of victory." The son and grandson of these famous men became a civil engineer, and entered the service of France in that capacity. He did good work during the Franco-German war as Prefect of the Lower Seine, and helped to organize the defenses of Paris. He was returned to the National Assembly in 1871, and from that time on consistently advocated moderate Republican measures, placing himself firmly in opposition to anything that threatened the permanency of the Republic. It is precisely this attitude that explains M. Carnot's usefulness to France. As Deputy, as a member in turn of Ferry's and De Freycinet's

Cabinets, and finally as President from 1887 on, he has invariably opposed extravagance, opposed sensationalism, opposed factionalism, opposed personal and political dishonesty. Year by year it became more evident that he was a man to trust. If he did not have the fiery genius of a Gambetta or the subtle diplomacy of a Thiers, he had a calm, strong steadfastness of his own which rallied around him the cool and sane thinkers who believed in the Republic and saw beyond the petty political squabbles of a day into the needs and possibilities of the future. The attempt to connect him with the Panama scandal was a wretched failure; beginning with the boldest charges of personal corruption, it ended in a feeble complaint that he had not dealt severely enough with the guilty. No public man in France in our time goes to the verdict of posterity with a cleaner personal record than Carnot. He stood, moreover, for truly national principles—for unity, stability, and peace. The French Republic owes more to this her fourth President than she is as yet ready to acknowledge. History, as it clarifies the course of really important events from the trifling and specious incidents of the day, will constantly accord him a higher place among those who have directed and strengthened the life of the nation.



The special Conference called by the National Liberal Federation to express the sentiment of the Liberal party with regard to the House of Lords met at Leeds on Wednesday of last week, Albert Hall in that city being crowded by about two thousand delegates and spectators. In his opening speech as Chairman, Mr. Spence Watson declared that the attitude of the House of Lords was unbearable; that the question must now be taken up and fought out to the end; that dangerous schemes ought not to be taken up, but that clear, practical, and united action ought to be agreed upon by the Conference. After considerable discussion, three resolutions were adopted by the Conference, declaring in substance: that the power now exercised by the House of Lords to mutilate and reject measures passed upon by the House of Commons has been systematically used to defeat reforms, and is inconsistent with free popular government; that the Liberal Ministry be called upon to introduce a measure for the abolition of the veto power now held by the House of Lords, by providing that whenever a bill passed by the Commons shall be altered or rejected by the Lords, the same bill may be reaffirmed by the Commons, with or without such alteration, and, subject only to the Royal assent, become thereupon a law; and that the meeting assured the Government the resolute support of the party in any steps that may be deemed necessary to enforce the passage of this great constitutional reform. Mr. Labouchere attempted to secure a resolution declaring that the House of Lords is a useless and dangerous body and ought to be abolished. This resolution, which was put in the form of a substitute for Mr. Watson's resolution, was rejected by a large majority. The sentiment of the meeting has the greater weight because of its moderation, and although it is impossible at this moment to form any just estimate of the immediate importance of the Conference and its declarations, it is certainly notice to the House of Lords that the day of its power to veto popular legislation is fast drawing to a close. The present agitation may not bear definite fruit, but it is a significant and decisive step when it is carried so far as to receive the recognition of a great party and to be embodied in a group of resolutions at once so moderate and so outspoken.



The Hungarian Premier, Dr. Wekerle, has scored a

great victory. On Thursday of last week the Civil Marriage Bill passed the House of Magnates by a majority of four, a result due to the direct interference of the Emperor. Readers of *The Outlook* will remember that the Civil Marriage Bill passed the Hungarian Lower House the first time by a majority of 173, was rejected by the Magnates by a majority of 21, and repassed the House of Representatives by a majority of 166. When the bill came a second time before the House of Magnates, Dr. Wekerle, the Premier, insisted upon the creation of enough new Magnates by the Emperor to insure the passage of the bill through that body. On the Emperor's refusal he resigned, the last day in May. The Emperor then endeavored to form another Cabinet, under the leadership of the Ban of Croatia, who stipulated, however, that Dr. Wekerle's entire programme should be carried out. The Emperor then called Dr. Wekerle in, but insisted peremptorily on the exclusion from the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, Szilagyi, who had been one of the foremost leaders in the agitation for the Civil Marriage Bill. Dr. Wekerle insisted, however, upon the retention of Szilagyi, and upon the adoption by the Upper House of the bill. Francis Joseph refused to create new Magnates, but the end seems to have been secured by the abstaining from voting in the Upper House of a considerable number of the opponents of the bill, which probably means that the Emperor used his personal influence with a number of members. From every point of view Dr. Wekerle has scored a great victory, for he has not only secured the reform which the Hungarian people have at heart, but has retained a Minister who was obnoxious to the Emperor, and has compelled the House of Magnates to pass a measure against which a majority of them were bitterly opposed. In Hungary as elsewhere, under almost every form of government the people rule.



There appears to be good reason for believing that a widespread Nihilist conspiracy has recently been unearthed in Russia—a conspiracy which had many centers, and which assumed the proportions of a revolutionary movement. Naturally, the police suppress the details, and the dimensions of the conspiracy are gathered only from such information as has become current in the European press. The failure of such a movement will tend to confirm the Czar in his autocratic tendencies. Taken in connection with the recent Imperial ukase, which subordinated all official appointments to a committee of inspection directly under the hand of the Czar, it looks as if Russia might expect a more stringent rule in the near future instead of a more liberalizing one.—From Servia come reports of wholesale arrests of Radicals concerned in the recent plot against the reigning family. It is suspected, however, that the plot is mainly a pretext for getting out of the way some of the leading opponents to the new policy which the King has adopted. The immediate outbreak which was feared has not occurred, but it is not likely that M. Stambuloff will rest quietly in the obscurity to which the young King has consigned him.—The sentences of the leaders of the recent outbreak in Sicily show the determination of the Government to deal with social disorders with a strong hand. The leader of that outbreak, Signor de Felice, has been condemned by the court martial to eighteen years of solitary confinement. The evidence upon which he was convicted is reported to have been of the most questionable character. Meanwhile there is talk of putting him forward as a candidate at the coming municipal elections. This will afford the people an oppor-