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TWELFTH YEAR.

BERLIN BANKERS SUICIDE.

FATHER AND SON SHOOT THEMSELVES THROUGH THE HEAD.

They Were Hopelessly Embarrassed and Preferred Death to Disgrace—The Firm an Old One Well Known in the Financial World—Hirschfeld & Wolff's Failure—Startling Revelations of Financial Crookedness.

BERLIN, Nov. 8.—A sensation was caused in financial circles here yesterday by the collapse of the banking institution of Friedlander & Sommerfeld. The usual scenes of excitement among the holders of the notes and drafts of the firm, and the efforts to get the money, were being made when it was announced that the leading partner in the concern, together with his son, had committed suicide.

The failure is associated with the recent suspension of the Bankers Hirschfeld & Wolff. The fact that Friedlander & Sommerfeld were financially embarrassed and that they would find difficulty in meeting their obligations was known to some of the operators on the Bourse here early in the day.

As the facts in the case developed it appeared that father and son met in their office in the bank early this morning and discussed the crisis in their affairs. They concluded that as they were hopelessly embarrassed that they would die. It is understood that this resolution to take their own lives was due in a great measure to the fact that their arrest was pending, as Felix Sommerfeld, the son, had been arrested on a charge of having arrived at the bank with a revolver, and that he had shot himself in the head, and that his father had done the same.

Had a bare chance of his recovery. The firm has been in existence for a long time and has earned a solid reputation as a steady-going house. Its customers, who were chiefly in the mercantile and industrial circles, were scattered throughout the Empire. Since the Hirschfeld & Wolff failure many of the principal clients of Friedlander & Sommerfeld have become alarmed regarding the stability of private banking houses, made heavy withdrawals of their deposits, and are attempting to realize on their investments. These, however, were tackled by the bank, and a large amount of money was made available for the firm to meet its engagements.

A large crowd assembled in front of the bank and threatened to carry the building by storm and to break down the doors. The police had great difficulty in restraining the mob from carrying their threats into execution. The many arrivals at the bank, the senior and surviving partner, is staying at Mentone. A telegram has been sent summoning him to return to Berlin.

The firm was established in 1873. It was involved in the conversion of a large amount of private securities into public securities during the '80's, besides furnishing money for the development of Bing, a securities promoter, and for the purchase of the assets of the bankrupt firm. The firm's assets were valued at 400,000 marks. Other members of the firm, including the millionaire Pinkus, all have been personally extravagant. Felix Sommerfeld, the son, was a gambler and a speculator. Many creditors and small capitalists were attracted to the firm by the Hirschfeld & Wolff failure.

The inquiry into the affairs of Hirschfeld & Wolff realizes the worst anticipation. The firm had been in existence for years and had as its chief financial agent Herr Wolff, who had occupied several other positions of trust. He is a prominent society man who lived a life of ostentatious wealth, his household expenses running to 400,000 marks a year. He had several mistresses, and until recent years, when his private extravagance and losses at the gambling table led to a complete loss through dealing on the Paris and Berlin Bourses. As a matter of fact the firm had a large amount of money in the hands of its depositors, and the securities of depositors, Wolff, who had been in connection with the bank since 1888. It is asserted that Wolff, with all the facts being known to Leipziger, had a party in his box at the opera house. After the performance the party visited Dressel's restaurant, where a costly supper was served.

Wolff was president of the Reserve Club, an organization composed of wealthy financiers and financiers who are addicted to reckless playing. It is recorded that upon the eve of the failure of the firm Wolff had picked up a couple of thousand marks from a gambler, which he had accidentally dropped at the gambling table. He left the money on the floor for the waiter.

The Foreign Bourse. LONDON, Nov. 8.—The Bourse was quiet during the past week. The export demand for gold has almost ceased, and money is plentiful. The India market is also quiet. The Bank of England is expected to raise the rate of discount to 10 per cent. The relief of cash from the Bank's provisions promises to be a relief to the market.

SILHETTES OUT OF SIGHT.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH CASTLE FOR BREEDING PURPOSES HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE SENATE.

In a duel with swords Sunday between M. Carré, dramatic artist, and M. Harcourt, poet, at Paris, the former received a slight wound in the breast.

The free city of Hamburg is treating with Prussia for the lease of Chaxhaven to the Government. It is probable that the compensation will be thecession of Altona to Hamburg.

Sir John Gort, Under Secretary of State for India, has been appointed Financial Secretary to the Treasury in succession to William Brewster, who has been appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland.

The Socialists Lafrange has been elected to the chair of Deputies in the Chamber of Deputies in succession to M. de la Porte, who has been appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland.

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FROM FISH AND SNAKE TOMAN.

REV. T. C. JACKSON COMBATS THE PREVALENT THEORY.

He Inclines to the Belief That a Fish Was the Original Type of Life—A.O.U.V. at Bond-street—Church Parsonage at Crutch Crook—A MacKenzie River Prelate.

The "Origin of Man" was the subject of Rev. T. C. Jackson's discourse in the United Church Parsonage, last night. He said that tradition asserted that there was a time when man was in a higher condition than from his present state. He is to be seen in the Bible by the "foundation upon which this theory is based. It is based upon nothing more than the fact that the word 'man' is used in the Bible to denote a creature of the length of theologians in the interpretation of the word 'man'.

It is believed by most persons that God made all things in a mechanical construction of every organism directly as man formed machinery to-day. The first of Genesis tells us that the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and that the earth was without form and void, and that the light was not yet created. How, it is asked, did the light come into existence? The answer is given in the Bible: "And God said, Let there be light, and there was light." The light was created by the word of God, and it is believed that the same power which created the light created the man.

The accident was caused by the explosion of a safety lamp, the flame of which had been extinguished. The explosion occurred in the mine, and it is believed that the same power which created the light created the man.

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A NAKED SAFETY LAMP.

CAUSES AN EXPLOSION OF GAS IN A PENNSYLVANIA COLLIERY WHICH SPREADS DEATH.

IN ALL DIRECTIONS—THE UNUSUAL SUNDAY QUIET WAS INTERRUPTED BY 4.30 THIS AFTERNOON BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION OF GAS HAD OCCURRED IN NO. 12 OF THE MOUNTAIN COAL COMPANY.

Owing to the fact that this was Sunday there were but 14 men at work in the mine. Four died shortly after and several others so badly burned and injured that they can not survive.

The Killed. WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS, miner. HENRY R. JONES, town clerk of Nanticoke, five hours. WILLIAM DONATIAN, miner. JOHN ALBERT, miner. HOWELL JOHNSKI, aged 33 years, leaves a wife and family of small children. JOHN MALONEY, 30 years, leaves a wife and three children. DAVID R. JAMES, 37 years. JOHN J. MALONEY, 30 years, leaves a wife and three children. JOHN J. MALONEY, 30 years, leaves a wife and three children.

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