

## THE PRETEXT

ON JUNE 28, 1914, the heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, were shot to death driving through the capital. A youthful Servian student fired the shots that ended the lives and added another to the list of terrible tragedies that had darkened the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph.

First a bomb was thrown at the automobile in which they were driving to the Town Hall, but being forewarned of a possible attempt against his life, the Archduke was watchful, and hurled the missile aside. It fell under an automobile which carried some of the members of his suite, wounding Count von Boos Waldeck and Colonel Merizzo.

The bomb was filled with nails and lead fillings and the explosion was very violent. The iron shutters on many shops were pierced by flying fragments and iron rails were shattered. In all, about a score of persons were injured, several of them being women and children.

On their return from the Town Hall, the Archduke and the Duchess were driving to the hospital when the Servian, Gavrio Prinzip, darted at the car and poured a fusillade at the occupants.

### Many Tragedies

The final tragedy which had come to the House of Hapsburg is the culmination of the personal sorrows that overshadowed the life of the Emperor. His reign began with sinister omens, for he caused internal dissensions from the moment he came to the throne. In 1853 the list of tragic incidents began with an attempt upon his own life when a Hungarian called Letenge wounded him with a knife.

Fourteen years later his brother, Archduke Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, was captured by those who lost against him, condemned to death by court martial and executed. Then followed the burning to death of a niece in Vienna, a sister in Paris and the death by suicide in Stahrenberg Lake of a cousin.

In 1898 the Emperor's wife, who was the daughter of Maximilian Joseph, Duke of Bavaria, was stabbed to death at Geneva by

a mad Italian anarchist. They had been estranged for many years, but the Emperor had never ceased to show a deep affection for her.

Less than ten years before, the Emperor's only son, the Crown Prince Rudolph, a man of ability and promise, met death in a mystery which has never been cleared. On January 30, 1889, the dead body was found in a hunting lodge at Meyerling, not far from Vienna. Beside his body lay that of the Baroness Marie Vetsera.

Archduke Charles Frances, known popularly as Karl, who becomes heir to the Austrian throne owing to the morganatic birth of Archduke Francis Ferdinand's children debarring the succession, has been carefully educated with a view to fitting him for the position of Emperor. He differs from all other members of the Imperial family inasmuch as he is the first member of the Imperial house to have been educated in the public schools of Vienna, where he mixed with scholars of every class of society. He associated with working men and trades-people and joined them in their games, thus getting into closer touch with the aspirations and ideals of the people than of the other Hapsburgs. He is a first lieutenant in the Austrian navy.

In Vienna the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and the duchess of Hohenberg caused a profound sensation. The streets were quickly thronged and anxious inquiries were made requesting the details of this, the latest addition to the list of terrible tragedies that have befallen some of the most prominent members of the Imperial family during the present reign.

### Embitter Relations

It was feared that the Sarajevo tragedy would still further embitter the none too friendly relations existing between Austria and Servia. Both the youths who fired the fatal shot and the bomb were Servians, with close associations with Belgrade. The bombs also came from Belgrade.

Archduke Francis Ferdinand's death was certain to have considerable effect upon the