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ROYAL WEDDING.

A royal wedding in republican France - Princess Helene of France walks to the Orleans family chapel at Dreux, Normandy, on the arm of her father, the Comte de Paris, pretender to the French throne.

The bridegroom, Comte de Evrard de Linsbourg-Stirum, arrives with his mother. Among the 220 titled guests, is Princess Alexandra of Kent representing the British royal family. The 23-year-old bride wears a 12 foot veil and a Dior gown of silver lame brocade.

The Comte de Paris escorts to her pew the most distinguished of the royal guests - Queen Frederica of Greece.

The ceremony begins - and according to custom, the bride turns to ask her father's consent to the marriage. Conducting the service is the Bishop of Dreux, Mgr. Renard.

It's a long time since an occasion such as this has been attended by so many of Europe's royal and aristocratic families. Though the throne of the House of Orleans has long been empty. It's line is unbroken, and it is one of the oldest in the world. The wedding is almost a preview of the Paris spring shows - for all the big fashion houses have worked overtime for this event, although thanks to the biting cold, most of their efforts are hidden under furs. But in spite of the cold, a bright sun shines on the newlyweds, and there's a big crowd to watch them leave the royal chapel.

It's a very happy republic which accepts a pretender's family as a normal part of the social scene!