BELGIUM MAY SEPARATE.

Deputy Calls for Partition Into Flemish and French.

BRUSSELS, Aug. 29.—The conditions which brought about the separation of Norway from Sweden in 1905 are being revived here by the publication of an open letter to the King by Jules Destrée, a member of the Chamber, calling for the separation of the Walloon (French) and the Flemish provinces of Belgium by means of home rule for each, so as to baffle the violent attempts of the Flemish to make their language dominant over the French, which is the mode of expression of the larger half of the population.

It is felt that such a splitting of a small country like Belgium would weaken it terribly, and make it an easy prey to foreign invasion. Yet M. Destrée's cry for "separation" seems likely to create a strong agitation toward such an end, as the champions of the Flemish "tael" are doing all they can to influence the French position of the population.

Their present action is directed toward turning the French University of Ghent into a Flemish high educational establishment, and they have just induced the State to rule that telephonic communication between any city and a Flemish one must be asked for in the Flemish tongue—an impossibility for half of the Belgians, and for the immense majority of foreign tourists requiring telephonic communication during their stay.

People connected with the Court assert that King Albert is greatly disturbed by this conflict of races and languages, in which he perceives an element of dissolution of the young and prosperous kingdom, which had so far derived its vitality and progress from its national motto, "L'union fait la force." ("Union is strength.")

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