



## R. F. PAUL LEGRAND

*Missionary of Bauco, Mt. Province, drowned in the Bauco river.*

A few days ago we received the sad news that Father Paul Legrand, missionary of Bauco, Mountain Province, was accidentally drowned in the river near his mission, on Sunday, October 12.

The dear Father was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1895.

He received the H. Priesthood in the same town in 1922.

He arrived in the P.I. in November 1923. Was appointed to the mission of Bauco, in June 1924, and died there on Sunday, October 12, 1924.

Although accidentally drowned, nevertheless it may be said of Father Legrand: "he has given his life for his flock" and we, his confreres, although sad indeed at heart, we say with the Holy man Job: "God gave him, God hath taken him, may His Holy Will be blessed".

Father Legrand started from Bauco on Saturday Oct. 11th in the afternoon on his way to Guinsadan, a hamlet of the Bauco mission, where he was to say mass on the next day. He would have gone on horseback, but on his way he had to visit a sick dying person, which he could reach only on foot: so on foot he went to save a soul; for a soul he was ready to give his life. Had he not come last year from Belgium, abandoned his old mother and family in tears, to save souls in the Mountain Province? He could have lived an easy life in his country, but no, he wanted as Christ and with Christ to save souls. So, instead of his comfortable home at Brussels, he had since four months taken up his abode in the poor mission-house of Bauco. Young and strong, kind and gentle, already beloved by all the Igorrotes from Bauco and the surrounding hamlets, he

was the hope of the mission. Yes, he would save souls and many, but God was satisfied with his good will, with the sacrifice of all that he loved most on earth: God took him on Sunday, Oct. 12th at 11 a. m. May God's Holy Will be blessed.

On that Sunday, after Mass and an instruction at Guinsadan, Father Legrand came back on foot to Bauco. From 10 to 11 he walked hard. It was hot, "very hot" he said to his boy who was with him. Nevertheless under the burning sun he climbed the mountain and arrived, exhausted from the march and the heat, at the Bauco mission.

A little later he left his house and went riverwards. The boys thought he had gone to Vila to visit a sick christian, as he often did.

It was four in the afternoon. The Christians of the mission waited on Father Legrand for the benediction. The Father had not come back. Where was he? The people were anxious and went in search of him. Near the river they found his cassock. Was it possible? Too terrible! Down the river they went, searching about in the little water the stream contained. Half an hour later they found the Father, in his bathingsuit, a meter and half under water. Blood flowed from his ears, mouth, eyes etc. Taken by a congestion the poor Father, unconscious, had been carried away by the river. Instead of the expected refreshing bath after his tiring march, he had found death and he, who had begun to work to bring the souls of Bauco to heaven, had gone first. God had received his sacrifice and crowned his efforts and good will. May God's Holy will be blessed.