One of the things which makes the Foreign Service career such an interesting one is that one never knows what will turn up during the course of a day. In many respects the life of a consular officer is much more interesting and broad than that of a diplomatic officer. Consular officers have more direct touch with the business, financial, industrial and commercial world and, outside of capitals, they have closer touch with the Americans living in the country as well as those passing through. The variety of services which they may be asked upon to perform is unlimited. Whatever the problem of an American abroad may be, whether he is living abroad or merely a tourist, his problems large and small generally arrive in the lap of the Consul.

One afternoon in the Chancery in Vienna as I was thinking of going home for the day, I was called from the residence to say that Mr. Vincent Sheean was there and wished to know whether I would be returning soon or whether he should come to see me at the Chancery. When I arrived home I found Sheean and a very beautiful young woman and my wife on the back veranda of the residence. Sheean was then a fine looking young man. My wife introduced me to the really very beautiful young woman with him - Diana Forbes Robertson. Sheean said that he and Miss Forbes Robertson were in trouble. They had been together in Salsburg for some weeks and hoping to get married; they found it rather difficult to get married in a hurry. They had just had word in Salsburg the day before that Diana's father, Sir Forbes Robertson, was coming to Vienna. He was arriving the next day. He and Diana were in an awful pickle as her father was under the impression that they were already married. At this point she turned to me and wanted to know what I could do to help them to get married immediately and that day.

I explained to them that this business of getting married in a hurry in European countries was very difficult; even in non-catholic coun-
tries there were all sorts of formalities that had to be gone through with and these usually took weeks and certainly a number of days. In Catholic countries it was just impossible to get married without a fixed interval of time, during which certain details with regard to the religious and civil marriage could be carried through. I knew that in Vienna there was no such thing as their getting married that day or the following day.

I found myself one against three. My wife and Sheean and Diana were all sure that there was some way in which they could be married in the next twenty-four hours or at least by noon the following day, when Diana's father was expected in Vienna. I knew that there was only one person whom I could consult on this matter and who could possibly help. I called the residence of Cardinal Innitzer and learned from his secretary that he was in the city and at home and would receive me immediately. I went to see him at his home and I put the matter to him frankly. He knew about Forbes Robertson who was, of course, at that time one of the best known English actors. I told him that Sheean was a rising young author of great promise in my country. I simply put the facts before him and asked him if there was anything he could do. I did not know the Cardinal well; I'd met him on a number of formal occasions. He was, of course, a close friend of Dolfuss and knew of the close relations between Chancellor Dolfuss and myself. His reply to my brief presentation of the matter was the smiling observation that this was one of those times when one had to do things. Ordinarily a marriage could take place only under these circumstances and without at least certain formalities with the dispensation of the Pope. The shortness of the time prevented even this. He, however, said that under certain conditions which he considered special he could dispense with all these formalities. He said he thought he could arrange to have the marriage in his chapel early the next morning;
would I be good enough to have the young people come in to see him that same evening. I expressed appropriate appreciation and returned to the house and gave the good news and the young people immediately went to the Cardinal's residence. They called me later in the evening and said that he had been most kind and that they would be married by the Cardinal himself in the chapel at his residence I believe it was around six o'clock the next morning.

It has so happened that their paths never crossed ours after this. In one of his books, I forget for the moment the title, Sheean refers to the circumstances of their marriage in Vienna.