

with France, and excommunicated him. At the same time a reaction against Puritanism swept over the city. A proposed ordeal by fire between a hostile monk and one of Savonarola's disciples, to test the truth of Savonarola's teaching, came to nothing, after all arrangements were made and the people assembled.

The fickle Florentines now turned against him. His enemies gained control in the elections, the monastery of St. Mark's was stormed, and Savonarola arrested. Through the use of torture they obtained from him whatever confessions they wished, and he was burned to death.

SAWFISH. Fishermen in warm waters occasionally find the carcass of some sea creature floating on the surface with its body ripped open. This is the work of the sawfish.

These fish are common in tropical seas, and occasionally ascend rivers. Large ones have been said to cut bathers in two. The best known species (*Pristis antiquorum*) is found in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, and sometimes measures 20 feet or more in length.

Many Pairs of Long, Sharp Teeth

The "saw" is a flat prolongation of the snout, covered with tough skin called *shagreen*, into the two edges of which are set many pairs of long, sharp teeth, with which the fish tears the flesh from the bodies of its victims. The weapon is sometimes as much as 6 feet long and a foot wide at the base. Their small, weak mouths are set on the under side of the head, behind the eyes, as with their relatives the sharks. Their front fins are horizontal, serving only to balance the fish in the water. In other respects also they are shaped like sharks. (*See Fish ; Swordfish.*)

SAXIFRAGE. This family (*Saxifraga*) contains about 200 species of plants, many of which are favourites in our gardens. Some are very beautiful, and most are quite easy to cultivate. They are chiefly used as rock or border plants.

Some of the saxifrages look like lichens ; others like cushions of moss, with their flowers

borne aloft on erect branching stalks ; and some have silvery foliage. The flowers of some are white, while others have clusters of bloom of various shades of red, pink, and purple.

One of the best known of the saxifrages is London Pride, which grows wild in the Irish mountains and in Spain. Another familiar kind is the Mother of Thousands.

SAXONY, GERMANY. Much of the best of Germany is to be found in the former kingdom—now republic—of Saxony, which lies in the south, on both sides of the navigable Elbe River, separated only by the picturesque Erzgebirge ("Ore Mountains") from the former Austrian province of Bohemia.

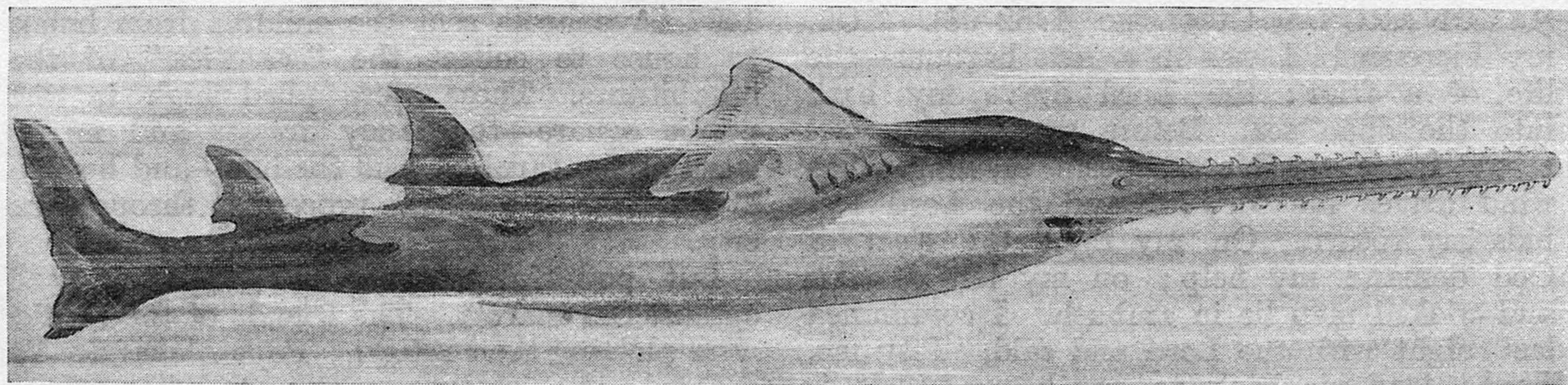
Its people are easy-going and kindly ; the capital, Dresden, is one of the chief centres of German art ; the second city, Leipzig, is world-famous for its university, its book fairs, its conservatory of music, and its chemical and printing industries ; in and about Chemnitz are some of the greatest textile and other manufactures of Germany ; while Meissen manufactures the beautiful "Dresden" porcelain and china wares. The fertile soil of Saxony supports a flourishing agriculture ; its Merino sheep supply the famous "Saxony" wool ; its rich mines produce coal, iron, tin, lead, silver, copper, zinc, nickel, and cobalt ; its water power is abundant ; and the people are highly intelligent and well educated.

More than 4,000,000 Inhabitants

The population of Saxony is about 4,663,000, making it the third German state in population, though ranking only fifth in area. As befits a land which was closely associated with Luther and the Reformation, over 90 per cent. of the people are Protestants.

When the old Saxons first appear in history, they were redoubtable sea-pirates, ravaging the coasts of Britain and France from their homes at the base of the peninsula of Denmark. Their raids became frequent and daring, and they began to plant colonies. Beginning about A.D. 450, they helped to found the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of England. (*See England.*)

THE "SEA CARPENTER" AND HIS TWO-EDGED SAW



Notice how the teeth in the saw curve backwards so as to enable the Sawfish to tear the flesh of its victims. The teeth fit into sockets in the sides of the bony snout, much as the teeth of land animals fit into their jaws.

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