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WRECKED HOMES IN AMERICA

AMAZING DIVORCE RATES

When compared with the number of marriages there are fewer divorces in North Carolina than in any other state in the Union, South Carolina alone excepted.

For every thirty-nine marriages we have one divorce. Which is a showing bad enough to keep our interest alive in this important matter.

But in Denver, says Judge Ben Lindsey, it is nearly one divorce for every marriage. In Nevada there is more than one divorce for every two marriages, the ratio being raised by the divorces of non-residents in the divorce mill at Reno. In Washington state one of every four marriages winds up in the divorce court. There are seventeen states that range from one divorce for every 1.64 marriages to one for every 6.93 marriages, and three of these are southern states—Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. See the table elsewhere in this issue; also the University News Letter, Vol. V, Nos. 26, 28, 29.

As compared with other states, divorces are infrequent in North Carolina, but when we look back thirty years and realize that our divorce rate increase was more than five times the rate of our population increase, 253 percent against 50 percent, we find a just cause for alarm.

It is fairly easy to rank the states according to the number of divorces granted, but it is difficult or impossible to compare the social status of the states and to rank them according to the prevalence or absence of the social ills that give rise to divorce; so because of the lack of uniformity in the legal grounds for divorce, and also because of the varying attitudes and humors of judges and juries. Thus, South Carolina grants no divorces for any cause whatsoever, neither does it require a marriage license or marriage records of any sort. Nevertheless it is possible that South Carolina has wrecked and wretched homes due to the same social ills that break up family groups in her sister states. Divorces do not exist in that state, but separations are probably just as common as elsewhere.

Judge Lindsey's pronounced belief that marriage is a failure has resulted in an open forum on this subject in The New York Times, The New York Tribune, The Philadelphia Ledger, The Literary Digest, and other public journals the country over.

And the discussion ought never to end until Congress can be brought to enact a sane divorce law uniform in all the states. With forty-eight different divorce laws, embodying forty-eight varying codes of moral conduct in forty-eight states, there is confusion worse confounded. A man may be married, single, divorced, or a bigamist, says the Tribune, according to the commonwealth in which he happens to be. A man may have four separate families, all of them legitimate in separate states and illegitimate in others.

The United States is supposed to be the exact center of Christendom, but our national ratio of divorces is higher than that of any other country on earth, not even excepting Japan.

No matter whether wrecked homes produce divorces or easy divorces produce wrecked homes, the subject is fundamentally important.

When American homes decay, American civilization will be dead, no matter how many billions of wealth we may have accumulated.

MANY HOUSES, FEW HOMES

America is merely the sum of many homes. If the average home goes wrong, America goes wrong. This is the time of imported manners, industrious idleness, tinted ladies, India rubber parents, whose children are brought up to regard life as an island of ice cream in an ocean of candies and chocolate.

There was a time that the homes of America were the wonders of the world. Great men were made at cheap expense and they made their mark in life without patronage of wealth and influence. The old home life was founded upon teaching and discipline, with modesty, thrift, industry, and love of God as the keynote to that teaching.

Girls were kept spotless. They were the priceless treasure of the house, for they, in turn, were to be the possessors of the young, the golden key to the future. In those days boys regarded the girls with awe. The boys are not so timid in these days.

These days there are many houses, but few homes, and I am almost persuaded that business has ousted the old-time pride in rearing the young. The master of the home has been exchanged for a parent with a thirst for gold, with the young speaking in contempt of old moralities.—Irving Bacheller, in The Dearborn Independent.

A DISUNITED CHURCH

If the church in America were really united as a body, we could have almost anything we wished in the way of reform. But the fact, which is disagreeable but undeniable, remains, that we are disunited as Christian disciples and the power we might have with Congress and with legislatures and other public bodies is lacking because we do not speak with one voice. In the average town or city, while the church locally may be respected, it is not regarded with any righteous fear. We may as well look ourselves in the face—those of us who call ourselves Christian and church men—and confess that we are more sectarian than we are Christian, more ritualistic than religious. A disunited Church can not have much power with a United States.

The church in America today is divided by sectarianism, theology, definitions of Jesus, inspiration, evolution, and church methods.

There is only one common denominator—Prayer. It seems to be about the only thing in which all Christians agree, and over which they do not dispute. If that is so, how will the church get together on the common meeting ground?—Charles M. Sheldon, Christian Herald.

GIFTS TO N. C. LIBRARIES

The Library Journal for March 1 contains the following summary prepared by the North Carolina Commission of gifts of more than \$100 value made to North Carolina libraries in 1922. Sixteen libraries are included in the list which totals \$53,824. Two of the gifts were for new library buildings, \$30,000 going to Buie's Creek and \$15,000 to Rocky Mount.

Andrews. Carnegie Library. Books, value, \$125.

Buie's Creek. Buie's Creek Academy. \$30,000 for library building, given by D. Rich.

Burlington. 64 vols. given by Mrs. R. W. Curtis, value, \$110.

Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina. Dr. James Sprunt of Wilmington gave a file of Wilmington newspapers, covering the period from 1846 to 1890 (22 volumes of The Daily Journal, 13 volumes of The Daily Review, 7 volumes of The Wilmington Journal) valued at \$420. Mrs. H. A. London of Pittsboro gave a file of the Chatham Record, complete from its beginning in 1878 to 1917 (39 volumes) valued at \$195; Lawrence S. Holt, Jr., of Burlington gave \$100 for the purchase of books and periodicals for the Department of Geology Library; John Sprunt Hill of Durham gave \$1,000 for additional accessions to library of North Caroliniana; and Captain A. O. Clement of Goldsboro a set of colored photographs of first settlements in North Carolina, valued at \$300.

Cullowhee. Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School. 96 volumes, value, \$115.

Durham. Trinity College. Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, 41 volumes, value, \$400; Commercial and Financial Chronicle, 35 volumes, value, \$100.

Durham. Colored Library. The Durham Hosiery Mill, American Tobacco Company, Liggett and Meyers Company, and Twentieth Century Club, each gave \$100.

Hickory. Lenoir College. 500 volumes given by faculty and students, valued at \$500.

Highlands. Hudson Library. Gift of books valued at \$190.

Raleigh. Peace Institute. Gift of

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

The Country Church

There is nothing that stunts and blights the growth and life of an agricultural community as a neglected country church. There are few men with families who would buy a farm in a community where they expect to live and be deprived of the blessings that go out from a living church. The people who live in a community without these advantages are depriving themselves of these important blessings which they can never afford to lose. Even outside of the personal religious need of a good active country church, the material help the church gives to every community is tremendous. It is obvious that the value of every home is greatly increased in the moral tone of the community. So help the country church. Keep the doors open the full year. If necessary, call on your city friends to help you. The country church helps the cities. Statistics show that three-fourths of our ministers and leading church members, the large majority of our doctors, lawyers, professors and leading business men are country-bred. The country is a great reservoir from which the cities are constantly drawing their brightest minds with religious training of the old-fashioned kind—Presbyterian of the South.

\$100 from Lucia Becker.

Raleigh. Shaw University. Gift of books valued at \$250.

Rockingham. Books valued at \$169.

Rocky Mount. \$15,000 given by Dr. M. R. Braswell for library building; \$1,000 each from three citizens, to be used for books.

Southport. Books valued at \$200.

Tryon. Lanier Library. Books valued at \$150.

Wilmington. Gift of \$500 for books, through the committee of Pageant of the Lower Cape Fear.—L. R. Wilson.

OUR EDITOR GOES ABROAD

When this issue of the University News Letter gets to its seventeen thousand weekly readers, the editor-in-charge, Mr. E. C. Branson, Kenan professor of rural social-economics, will be on his way to spend a year studying at first-hand the country end of civilization in western Europe—mainly in Denmark, Belgium, South Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, and Great Britain. He is abroad on The Kenan Travelling Scholarship Fund of the University, and carries with him letters of introduction from Governor Morrison, President H. W. Chase, and Hon. Maurice F. Egan, former Ambassador to Denmark. Also he goes as a member of the State Commission on Farm Tenancy recently created by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

He wants to know, in direct studies, how against heavy odds the Danes have come to be the richest farm people in Europe and perhaps in the world; why the Belgian farmers who produce enormous per-acre grain crops are cursed with farm tenancy and farm poverty; how the farmers are faring in South Germany, and what part the dorf or farm hamlets play in German farm life; how the Swiss farmers win prosperity on little pocket-handkerchief farms; whether latifundia, or large estates, are destroying Italy today as in the days of Pliny; how the French farmers manage to have so many millions of government bonds stowed away under the corner brick of the hearth; why England is a paradise for pigs and a purgatory for peasants; and how the farmers in all these countries organize to secure for themselves a maximum share of the consumer's dollar.

In a word, our editor is going abroad to spell at the problem of city and country relationships, their mutual dependencies, and their common fate.

It is impossible to be around Mr. Branson without sensing his fundamental beliefs (1) in the supreme im-

portance of a well-balanced civilization, as between town and country wealth and well-being, (2) in country prosperity as absolutely essential to city prosperity, and (3) in the right and righteous relating of private wealth to the common weal and the Commonwealth.

Two utterances of his, oft repeated, have left an indelible impression on his students: (1) Civilization is rooted and grounded in the home-owning, home-loving, home-defending instincts, and (2) Fat cities cannot safely be built on a lean countryside.

When he gets his itinerary finally determined, the University News Letter will be carrying brief letters from him weekly.

During his absence the News Letter will be in charge of Prof. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., and Miss H. R. Smedes, assistants in the department of Rural Social-Economics.

THE DUTIES OF A CITIZEN

1. To acquaint myself with those fundamental principles embodied in our constitutions and laws which experience has shown are essential to the preservation of our liberties and the promotion of good government, and to defend those principles against all attacks.

2. To inform myself on all public issues, and on the character, record and platform of all candidates for office, and to exert actively my influence in favor of men and measures in which I believe.

3. To vote in every election, primary and general, never using my vote for personal or private ends, but only for the public good, placing the welfare of my country above that of my party, if the interests of the two should ever conflict.

4. To connect myself with the political party which most nearly represents my views on public questions, and to exert my influence within the party to bring about the nomination of good men for office and the endorsement of measures for the public weal.

5. To have the courage to perform my duties as a citizen regardless of the effect upon me financially or socially, remembering that a cowardly citizen is as useless to his country in time of peace as a cowardly soldier is in time of war.

6. To stand for honest election laws impartially administered.

7. To obey all laws whether I deem them wise or not, and to uphold the officers in the enforcement of the law.

8. To make full and honest returns of all my property and income for taxation.

9. To be ever ready to serve my country in war, and in peace, especially in such inconspicuous capacities as juror and election official.

10. To acquaint myself with the functions of the various departments of my government and to spread the knowledge of the same among my fellow citizens in order that they may enjoy to the fullest extent the advantages

offered by the government, and may more fully recognize the government as a means of service to the people.

11. To encourage good men to enter public service and remain therein by commending the faithful performance of their duties and by refraining from criticism except such as is founded on a knowledge of facts.

12. To seek to promote good feeling between all groups of my fellow citizens and to resist as inimical to public welfare all partisan efforts to excite race, religious, class, and sectional prejudice.

13. Not to think alone of what my government can do for me but more about what I can do for it.

14. To inform myself with respect to the problems which confront my country in its foreign relations, and to support policies which safeguard its legitimate interests abroad and which recognize the responsibilities of the United States as a member of international society.—School of Government and Citizenship, College of William and Mary.

MORE UNIVERSITY HOMES

The University is getting ready to provide more room for the new flood of high-school students.

Two dormitories, perhaps three, will be built out of the money provided by the legislature. The dormitories put up a year ago have just barely taken care of the increase in attendance since then.

The number of graduates in North Carolina high schools next June is estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000. A greater and greater percent of them are going to college, and the University of course has to take care of the largest share. It is a difficult task to find enough rooms.

Besides the dormitories, the needed buildings talked of most are those for geology and chemistry and the women's building. All cannot be built, because there is not enough money to put up all of them. The trustees' committee will meet here March 16 and 17 to decide on the building program.—University Press Item.

ARE YOU FIT?

I believe that no man is really fit to hold a public office, or any other job which depends on public favor or has to do with teaching in any form, if he isn't capable of earning his living in some other way if necessary. That may sound a little strange at first, but I believe that there can be no real freedom of sincerity in any public service unless the men in it are perfectly ready to resign or be fired at any time for their opinions. I can assure them as a writer that I have felt ever so much happier and freer since I realized that if the worst came to the worst I could possibly qualify as a taxicab driver in New York City.—Mr. Lippmann, in his address to the State Literary and Historical Association.

RATIO OF DIVORCES TO MARRIAGES

Based on Table in The Literary Digest, March 10, 1923.

North Carolina makes a better showing than any other state in the Union, South Carolina alone excepted. There are no divorces in South Carolina and never have been any for a cause.

The best showing in the United States is made in the District of Columbia. Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina.

Rank	States	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages	Rank	States	Ratio of Divorces to Marriages
1	Dist. Columbia	1 to 91.34	25	New Mexico	1 to 8.66
2	North Carolina	1 to 39.14	26	Colorado	1 to 8.63
3	New York	1 to 29.81	27	Kentucky	1 to 7.77
4	New Jersey	1 to 26.66	28	Nebraska	1 to 7.63
5	Georgia	1 to 23.05	29	Utah	1 to 7.61
6	Maryland	1 to 20.35	30	Michigan	1 to 7.52
7	West Virginia	1 to 20.32	31	Illinois	1 to 7.26
8	Connecticut	1 to 15.67	32	Kansas	1 to 6.93
9	Massachusetts	1 to 14.71	33	Ohio	1 to 6.91
10	Pennsylvania	1 to 14.46	34	Iowa	1 to 6.90
11	Louisiana	1 to 13.43	35	Arkansas	1 to 6.56
12	Mississippi	1 to 12.63	36	New Hampshire	1 to 6.40
13	Minnesota	1 to 11.65	37	Missouri	1 to 6.36
14	Vermont	1 to 11.59	37	Texas	1 to 6.36
15	Virginia	1 to 11.30	39	Indiana	1 to 5.94
16	Alabama	1 to 11.13	40	Arizona	1 to 5.92
17	Wisconsin	1 to 10.65	41	California	1 to 5.54
18	North Dakota	1 to 10.24	42	Montana	1 to 5.46
19	Delaware	1 to 9.70	43	Oklahoma	1 to 5.40
20	Tennessee	1 to 9.62	44	Wyoming	1 to 5.34
21	South Dakota	1 to 9.54	45	Idaho	1 to 4.81
22	Maine	1 to 9.36	46	Washington	1 to 4.01
23	Rhode Island	1 to 9.14	47	Oregon	1 to 2.52
24	Florida	1 to 8.73	48	Nevada	1 to 1.54