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WRECKED HOMES IN AMERICA

AMAZING DIVORCE RATES

Divorces in the United States in 1923 numbered 165,139, against 42,000 in 1890. The number of wrecked homes has been quadrupled in a third of a century. American families are dissolving at the rate of 450 a day the whole year through.

One out of every eight marriages in the United States winds up in a divorce court.

In twenty-five states of the Union the ratios of divorce to marriage are still more amazing.

In Nevada in 1923 there were more divorces than marriages, due probably to the divorce mill at Reno, and in Nebraska there were 3,200 fewer marriages than the year before. In Oregon there was more than one divorce for every three marriages, in Wyoming and Oklahoma one divorce for every four marriages, in Arizona, Ohio, Texas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Montana more than one divorce for every five marriages, and in Idaho and Washington every fifth marriage ended in a decree of the court.

But this is not the worst of it; the divorce rate in the country at large steadily increases. In 1890 it was 53 per 100,000 inhabitants; in 1916 it was 112, and in 1923 it was 149.

In 1916 the divorces granted in North Carolina numbered 668, not including eleven counties not reported on by the county court clerk. In 1923 they numbered 1,497, not counting Surry, whose county court clerk failed to report. In eight years divorces in the state have moved up from nearly two a day to not quite four a day the year through counting Sundays.

The Look Ahead

Divorce laws are important, but wretched homes are ten thousand times more important, whether they get into a divorce court or not.

Divorce rates register effects like mercury columns. Nobody would undertake to mend the weather by tinkering with the thermometer, but many people in many states are trying to mend broken homes by tinkering with the divorce laws. They are important, but good or bad, uniform or not, they do not originate the unhappiness that ends in divorce and shipwrecks the homes of the state and the nation in such appalling numbers year by year.

Attention must be centered on the causes, and the causes are a puzzling complexity of individual, social, and spiritual deficiencies in an industrial-urban civilization, but the home holds in the balance the fate of the Nation and it must be preserved or our social order is doomed.

It is a personal problem in every home, a welfare problem for every social organization, and a final test of the essential religion of every church body.

The Family as an Institution is a chapter in sociology that clubs of every sort might study with painstaking care in this and every other state for many years to come. What other subject is more important?

A WOMAN CITIZEN'S PLEDGE

Believing in government of the people, by the people, for the people, I will do my best—

First. To inform myself about public questions, the principles and policies of political parties, and the qualifications of candidates for public offices.

Second. To vote according to my conscience in every election, primary or final, at which I am entitled to vote.

Third. To obey the law even when I am not in sympathy with all its provisions.

Fourth. To support by all fair means the principles of which I approve.

Fifth. To respect the right of others to uphold convictions that may differ from my own.

Sixth. To regard my citizenship as a public trust.—Mrs. Maude Wood Park, President National League of Women Voters.

WHAT THE CENSUS TELLS

Every 10 years our Government spends millions of dollars to take a census of the people and what they are doing. It is a costly undertaking, but it

is worth more than it costs.

Important conclusions are gleaned from the figures gathered, because the facts are accurate and scientific. These facts become a basis for remedial legislation and for various movements for the uplift of the Nation and the race.

Seven-eighths of all the money left by married men in America for their dependents is derived from life insurance.

Eighty-two percent of the value of the combustible property is insured against fire, but only—

Seven percent of the economic value of human life is covered by insurance.

Ninety percent of the men engaged in active business fail to reach old age with a competence.

Nineteen out of every 20 persons fail to provide for their old age for their families.

With the result that—

Eight million women are forced to earn a living.

Thirty-five percent of the widows are in want.

Ninety percent of American widowhood lacks life's common comforts.

Eighty-two percent of the children of the country are forced to leave school before completing the eighth grade to aid in making a living for the family.—Electric Trade.

HE SHOWS US HOW

The Leonard school section of Iredell county is usually spoken of as one of the poorest sections in the county. In fact, some of the land is notoriously poor and the native farmers of the community have about convinced themselves that the land is so poor that there is not much hope of making progress.

Several years ago a group of people of a certain religious sect came to Iredell county and formed a settlement in this section, because the land could be bought at a very low price. These people came from several different states. One of the leaders in this group was Charles Ost, who came from New Jersey, and settled on a very poor farm, from which several farmers had moved because they could not make a living as they thought it. It was hard sailing for Mr. Ost for the first year or two, learning to grow southern crops and build up poor land.

He made the small things count, such as poultry, eggs, fruit, etc., to furnish his living while he gave crimson clover and other legumes a chance to build up his soil. On a recent visit to his farm, I find that he has cotton which will make practically a bale per acre on land which was built up by the use of crimson clover. He has been on his farm only about three years and has lots of improvements yet to make, but he is beating the native farmer two to one. At this time, he is maintaining a flock of white leghorns with eight to nine hundred layers. He has secured a market in New Jersey for his eggs and makes shipments regularly of guaranteed fresh eggs. Due to his success other farmers in the community are becoming interested in poultry, and we expect to see considerable poultry development in this community within the next few years.—R. W. Graeber, News and Observer.

MORE RELIGION OR LESS

While asserting that the country is on the eve of a true religious revival, Dr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, President of the Michigan Agricultural college and head of the American country life association, in an address today before the seventh annual conference of the latter organization said:

"Religion is either the most fundamental, the most vital, the most practical human interest or it is a delusion, a superstition and of no consequence except historically.

"The time has come to take religion much more or much less seriously. For the use of the western world, the teachings of Jesus are either applicable to every type of personal and social problems of the present age or they are the theoretical abstractions of a mere dreamer."—Durham Herald.

A COUNTRY CHURCH CREED

We believe that Religion is the search of man for God and the coopera-

PROGRESS OR PERISH

The greatest battles for democracy are those fought in the homes and workshops, in the humdrum of everyday struggle, Professor Connor declared.

If we are to reap the fruits of the World War, said he, we must gird up our loins for the battle that is now on. In North Carolina we have started out to build a great, modern democratic State. There are a thousand indications that we have sought the proper conception of a State, serving the people in a thousand different ways—in education and the prevention of disease, in the care of the weak and unfortunate, in road building, in home and farm demonstrations, in innumerable forms of social service not before regarded as functions of the State.

These are fine and splendid things. There is great glory in such achievements. But they are very costly. They mean high taxes and more expenditure of money than the old State ever dared spend. Last year there was more money spent on schools, roads, and hospitals than the total amount of revenue for the thirty years 1870 to 1900. But such are the demands of a democracy. An autocracy dares not tax itself. No autocracy would have dared tax the people of North Carolina \$25,000,000 for schools, yet we taxed ourselves that amount last year and boasted of it.

During the World War certain people became appalled at the cost and sacrifices and demanded that the war cease before the great objects were half achieved. Had they succeeded democracy would have perished from the earth. But democracy was saved by the boys in the trenches. They refused to turn back, refused to heed the cries of cowardice and weakness.

So today in North Carolina people grow restless under ever increasing demands of the democratic State. Many—tired of its burdens, wearied of its responsibilities, appalled at its costs; we hear voices of cowardice and weakness—fail to see that once the hand is to the plow there can be no turning backward. To halt is to stagnate, to falter is to perish, to turn back is to sacrifice all that has been gained. Progress or die!

R. D. W. Connor, Armistice Address at the University of N. C.

tive quest for the Society of God on Earth.

We believe that the pattern ideal for a Christian Social Order is that of a body in which each member lives for the welfare of the whole and the whole for the welfare of each member.

We believe that the Church should be the organized fellowship of those who are seeking the Society of God on Earth.

We believe that the central experience of the Christian Church is the spiritual fellowship of men of pure heart gathered without regard to caste or class.

We believe that the Church can not teach what it can not exemplify. That it must win the moral right to teach by first realizing in that realm in which it has responsibility those basic Christian principles in which it professes to believe. To teach brotherhood the Church must be a Brotherhood. To teach service it must apply the service principle to its own organization; to give moral leadership to an over-competitive society, it must in the realms in which it has control replace competitive strife with cooperative effort.

We believe it is the duty of the church to see in its own community the first responsibility for the society of God on Earth. It should provide for

the religious education of every child no matter how isolated.

We believe that it is the duty of the church either through its own services or in cooperation with others to provide for the culture of the fourfold life, physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual.

We believe that the Rural Church should lead its community in so raising the standards of all phases of its life that its business, its education, and its politics shall be inspired and regulated by the Christian ideal.

For the farmer this will mean in the future as in the past—

Exercising a careful stewardship of the soil.

Practicing intelligent and efficient farming.

Efficiently marketing useful goods.

Preparing himself for intelligent citizenship.

Conscientiously exercising the duties of parenthood.

Contributing his share to the national conscience and culture through his support of those institutions by which he participates in the same.

In a Christian Commonwealth he who exercises duties must be granted rights, therefore a Christian social order should guarantee to the farmer—

The right of self-determination in the organization of his community.

A recognized place in the good will and public opinion of the nation.

An opportunity through cooperative activity to win a measure of economic power commensurate with his service.

A system of education which takes account of the cultural needs of the American farmer.

A political order in which the farmer's vote should count for projects vital to his own welfare.

A system of religious organization which is adapted to the necessities of rural community life.—The American Country Life Association, 1924.

A COUNTRY CHURCH PRAYER

With that ardor with which we pray
Our Father Who art in Heaven
Hallowed be Thy name,
We would dedicate ourselves
To so work and teach and preach
That the world in which we seek our
daily bread

May be so ordered by the principles
of justice and fair dealing,
That every dweller in countryside
and city,

In mining camp and factory town,
May see in the community in which
he dwells

An object worthy of his whole-hearted
devotion,

Because it offers to him a fair share
In those abiding satisfactions of life
Which are the just reward of the
fraternity of those who serve.—

The American Country-Life Association, 1924.

FOLLOWING CAROLINA

The Omaha Chamber of Commerce staged a good roads luncheon one day last week for the purpose of getting a good roads program started for the state of Nebraska. A fund of \$30,000 was raised for the purpose of educating the people, which means of telling them of the North Carolina plan, for Nebraska is committed to this plan.

The proposition is to spend \$7,000,000 a year for six years in highway construction and to pay for it out of gasoline tax and automobile licenses, Federal aid to do the rest. The expectation is that at the end of six years Nebraska will have 700 miles of hard-surfaced highways in addition to 3,000 miles of top-soil and gravel highways.

The Legislature will be asked to do for Nebraska what the Legislature did for North Carolina. In the course of time the North Carolina plan of building and paying for highways will have become of universal adoption, for states everywhere are recognizing it as the best and most practical.—Charlotte Observer.

THREE COUNTIES ORGANIZE

The success of curb markets in North Carolina in disposing of the rural women's surplus garden, dairy, and poultry products has increased the number of such markets from 9 to 24 in the past year. These markets, which were established with the help of home demonstration agents, have made it possible for farm women to add to their income and obtain comforts not otherwise within their financial reach.

A report received by the United States Department of Agriculture describes one of these markets at Wilmington, N. C., which was organized by rural women of three counties—Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender. This market has a bulletin board with prices posted, in view of all buyers. These prices are fixed by a committee composed of a producer, a consumer, and a home and farm extension agent from one of the counties.

The city officials did their part in preparing the auditorium where the market is held, and the city women cooperate by patronizing the stalls. Sales from the 20 Saturdays on which the market has been open have amounted to \$3,874.22.

A decided effort has been made to standardize all products and display them or put them up attractively. The improvement in the quality of the products offered for sale has been one of the encouraging results of the opening of the market. Graded, clean, infertile eggs were found to bring a ready sale at prices almost double what could be obtained in the country districts. Milk-fed chickens attracted the customers who were willing to pay extra to get them. The women soon saw, also, that it pays to grade vegetables. The market has helped in the selection of food for the home, has been a medium of exchange of flower cuttings, and has enabled the farm women to buy and sell purebred poultry among themselves. The women enjoy the social contact with women of other counties afforded by the market.—Gastonia Gazette.

RATIO OF MARRIAGES TO DIVORCES IN 1923

The following tables, based on the Census Bureau figures, ranks the states according to the number of marriages per divorce for the year 1923.

United States averaged one divorce for every 7.4 marriages.

North Carolina averaged one divorce for every 16 marriages, against one divorce for every 32 marriages in 1916. There were 668 divorces granted in 1916 against 1,497 in 1923, the Surry County clerk not reporting. Our divorces doubled during these eight years. Except for South Carolina, which grants no divorces, North Carolina ranked best in 1916. We now rank fourth.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina.

Rank	States	No. Marriages Per Divorce	Rank	States	No. Marriages Per Divorce
1	South Carolina	0.0	25	Illinois	6.8
2	New York	25.0	26	Kentucky	6.6
3	Georgia	20.7	27	New Hampshire	6.5
4	Maryland	16.0	27	Tennessee	6.5
4	North Carolina	16.0	27	Utah	6.5
6	New Jersey	15.5	30	California	5.9
7	Mississippi	11.6	31	Michigan	5.7
8	Connecticut	11.3	32	Kansas	5.6
9	South Dakota	10.7	32	Maine	5.6
10	Louisiana	10.6	34	Indiana	5.5
11	Pennsylvania	10.3	35	Iowa	5.4
12	Massachusetts	9.8	36	Colorado	5.3
12	West Virginia	9.8	37	Idaho	5.0
14	North Dakota	9.3	37	Washington	5.0
15	Minnesota	9.1	39	Arizona	4.8
16	New Mexico	8.7	40	Ohio	4.7
17	Delaware	8.5	40	Texas	4.7
17	Virginia	8.5	42	Missouri	4.6
17	Wisconsin	8.5	43	Nebraska	4.4
20	Alabama	8.1	44	Montana	4.2
21	Arkansas	7.8	45	Oklahoma	4.0
22	Vermont	7.6	46	Wyoming	3.9
23	Rhode Island	7.5	47	Oregon	2.5
24	Florida	7.0	48	Nevada	1.0