

Blasted War Romances Swell Dockets Of The Divorce Courts

An Increase of 50 Per Cent Is Shown in New York Figures for 1918 Over 1918—Wave of Martial Unhappiness World Wide.

Once it was "marry in haste and repent in leisure." Now it is "marry in haste and repent in peace."

That, at least, seems to be the consensus of opinion of authorities on divorce when commenting on the revelation of William F. Schuyler, county clerk of New York county, that the number of divorces in Manhattan had increased 50 per cent in 1918 over 1917.

Several months ago American newspapers were carrying stories about the large number of divorce suits which have been begun in England and Wales. During the new term of the English and Welsh divorce courts which opened last October the record number of 2,000 cases of divorces was filed, which is more than double the number which merry England had on its last divorce list.

Thirty-eight thousand applications for divorce were made in Petrograd alone soon after the bolshevik government announced the divorce could hereafter be had for the asking in soviet Russia.

So the movement is not local, but the county clerk's announcement shows that the city is holding its own and living up to the reputation which this country has long held as the greatest divorce market in the world.

A Church Problem.

The man who can speak with great authority on the reasons for this increase is the number of New York divorces announced which Bishop Charles Sumner Burch, head of the Episcopal diocese of New York. For nine years, both as assistant to the late Bishop Greer and as Bishop of this diocese, Bishop Burch has been interested in divorce in this city. He is interested in it because he regards the problem of divorce as a problem of the church and also because he has been continuously consulted by parishioners concerning their marital difficulties.

"I am very much surprised to hear that divorces have increased 50 per cent in the last year," said Bishop Burch. "I am inclined to doubt the accuracy of that figure very much, but if the county clerk is right there are more divorces by 50 per cent than last year I am not the one to dispute his figures."

"To my mind the most important reason for this increase in divorce cases is easy marriage. And, yet, it is not state in the union that is more careful about making marriage difficult than New York. A clergyman who marries a couple without a license in New York is liable to stringent punishment, and I believe that the punishment cannot be too severe. However, what I mean by easy marriage is not the technical ease with which two persons may be married, but the ease with which they decide upon marriage and the lack of thought behind that decision.

"In this connection, let me say that probably the greatest cause of this phenomenal increase in divorce is the hasty marriages, of which we had so many in the last two years. The uniform was a glorious attraction, and justly so, and departure for France was a strong incentive to marriage, but since the return of our fighting men there has been much time for the leisure necessary for repentance.

Restrained by Patriotism.

"Of course, another explanation for the situation is the contention that many wives who would have sued for divorce in 1918 but for the fact that their husbands were in the military service are bringing suit now. Patriotism did not allow many wives to bring action while their husbands were in the military service. However, I do not think that reason is of major importance.

"The economic independence of women may be another reason for the increase in divorce. Many more women are supporting themselves, even though they are married, than ever before. Not being dependent upon their husbands for support, they naturally would not wish to continue to live with those husbands who proved obnoxious. This argument carries more weight when one considers that in more than three-quarters of the cases of divorce the action is brought by the wife.

Alarming, Says Bishop.

"If divorces have increased 50 per cent in the last year in New York the situation is particularly alarming, because of the fact that New York and South Carolina are the two states in the United States which have the most stringent divorce laws. In South Carolina no grounds whatsoever are allowed for divorce, and in New York the only ground for divorce is the statutory ground of adultery. We have the highest standard, and if we have an increase of 50 per cent what must be the ratio of increase in good-old puritan Vermont, where there are fourteen grounds for divorce?"

"What do you believe is the remedy for the increase in divorce?"

"The remedy is a uniform divorce law throughout the country on the highest and most stringent plane. A uniform divorce law that would prevent migration from state to state in search of freedom from the responsibilities of marriage would decrease the number of divorces throughout the country, but, of course, such a law must not bring down the level of New York to the standard of Vermont with its fourteen points, but it must raise the standard of Vermont to that of New York. Such a law we Episcopal clergymen have been urging for many years. I should be in favor of such a law by constitutional amendment, but I think that, if possible, it should be obtained in an easier and faster manner. A uniform divorce law would not decrease the number of divorces in New York city, because we already have a strict law, and the remedy for the local situation must come from the parties themselves. Clergymen can be of great service in this reconciliation, and they have been of great service. In the Episcopal church we do not remarry divorced persons, except the innocent party in a divorce which was obtained on the ground of adultery."

Must Remain Married.

"Then you think, Bishop Burch, that even though two persons have ceased to agree they should be compelled to remain married throughout their lives?"

"I decidedly do think so," said Bishop Burch. "The doctrine of free love, and that is what easy dissolution of the marriage ties means, is insidious to the last degree and has resulted in great moral damage."

Supreme Court Justice Vernon M. Davis was one of the four lay delegates sent from the New York divorce to the general convention of the Protestant Episcopal church held in Detroit last October. Justice Davis urged the adoption of a canon forbidding the remarriage by any Episcopal clergyman either party to a divorce action, but his motion was de-

feated. From his position on the Supreme court bench Justice Davis is well qualified to comment on the increase in divorce.

Poverty and Divorce.

"The first step in loosening the marriage ties is the failure to observe the religious obligations assumed at marriage," said Justice Davis. "The chaos created by the war also has something to do with present conditions. That situation is the usual sequence of an age of luxury. I do not think that the condition is permanent. It has been my experience that most divorces are brought by poor people and not by those who are well to do."

The experience of Justice Davis is corroborated by the records of the Philadelphia divorce courts. In many cases in the present term of the Philadelphia divorce court it was found impossible by both parties to meet the usual standards of life because of the present cost of living. By mutual agreement it was sought to dissolve marriages which were made unpleasant by the well known pursuit of love by poverty, via the window.

Justice Guy, who has handled many of the large number of divorce cases tried during the last year in the Supreme court, declined to be interviewed on the reason for the increase in divorce.

"Judges should not speak through the newspapers," said Justice Guy. "They should rather speak to the public by means of their work."

Justice Samuel Greenbaum is of the opinion that there is too much materialism in the world today and that the reason for divorce can be found in that condition of mind.

"The moral side of life is not looked upon as strongly as it was formerly," said Justice Greenbaum. "The younger generation runs around much more freely. The home lacks sanctity and there is a tendency among young folks to escape from the ties that bind them. They call that freedom."

In England, Tqs.

This country is not the only divorce offender. In spite of the fact that, according to statistics of population, there are some 2,000,000 women in England who will have to go without husbands, the divorce courts are crowded. It is remarkable, considering the war casualties and the slight chance of a second choice, that so many English women are willing to let go of so many husbands, and it also may be the reason why so many husbands are lured from so many wives.

The reason for the large number of divorces in England, as stated by Mr. D. Figur, of the most popular and busiest firm of divorce solicitors in the United Kingdom, is:

"The reason we are getting more divorces is simply because the war has taught both men and women independence, and has taught them to think. Women have learned that they have an individuality, and that they can look after themselves. The men, too, have come to take a broader view of life.

"The fact is that there would have been just as many divorces before the war if people had not been shackled by lack of initiative and by fear of challenging the conventions of society.

The desire for divorce was there, but instead of taking action people went on in the old, unhappy state. Now, after over four years of separation, many couples have come to a realization that they can be happier apart. That is the situation in a nutshell."

The federal census bureau is discouraging to ardent lovers. According to a bulletin issued last August, there is one chance in ten that fond lovers will ever celebrate their silver wedding anniversary. The census figures also show that the largest number of divorces occur in the fourth year of marriage, and that the next danger points come in the twentieth year and the twenty-fifth year. The compilers are reassuring in their insistence that there are comparatively few divorces after couples have lived together for sixty years.

According to Chief Clerk Scully, who has charge of the marriage license bureau, prohibition has had nothing to do with divorce—New York Tribune.

MANY RADICALS RELEASED ON BAIL

NEW YORK Jan. 16—Forty-two men and eight women arrested in recent raids on extremists were released from Ellis Island on bail today, making a total of fifty nine freed since Federal Judge Knox decided on Wednesday that immediately bail must be given whether or not the radicals had answered questions of immigration inspectors as to belief in the use of violence to overthrow the government.

The Liberty bonds deposited, at the

STREET CAR SCHEDULE

IN EFFECT JUNE 1, 1919.

ZILLOCK AND RETURN — 6:00, 6:15, 6:30 a. m.

RIVERSIDE PARK—6:15 and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

DEPOT VIA SOUTHSIDE AVENUE—5:30 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 1:15 p. m., then every 7 1/2 minutes until 3:45 p. m., then every 15 minutes until 11:00 p. m.

DEPOT VIA FRENCH BROAD AVENUE—4 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

MANOR—4 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

CHARLOTTE STREET TERMINUS—6 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m. 11:30 p. m. through; returning leaves end of car line at 12.

PATTON AVENUE—4 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

EAST STREET—4 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

GRACE VIA BILTMORE AVENUE—4 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

BILTMORE—4 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

DEPOT AND WEST ASHEVILLE VIA SOUTHSIDE AVENUE—5:30 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE DIFFERS IN THE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS.

Car leaves Square for Manor 4 and 4 15 a. m., arrives Square 6:15 and 6:30, then every 30 minutes until 9:30.

Cars leave Square for Depot via Southside Avenue 5:30, 5:45, 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 a. m. Cars leave Square for Depot via French Broad Avenue 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45 and 8:15.

Car for Depot leaves Square 8:45 a. m., both Southside and French Broad.

First car leaves the Square for Charlotte street at 8 a. m., and every 30 minutes until 9:30, next 9:45.

First car leaves the Square for Riverside 8:30, next 8:45.

First car leaves the Square for T. Co. Asheville 8:15, 7; next 8:30.

First car leaves Square for Biltmore 8:30 a. m., and every 30 minutes until 9 o'clock.

First car leaves Square for Grace 6:30 a. m., and every 30 minutes until 9 p. m.

With the above exceptions, Sunday schedules commence at 9 a. m. and continue same as weekdays.

On evening when entertainments are in progress at the Auditorium the last trip on all lines will be from entertainment leaving Square at regular time and holding over at Auditorium.

island totalled \$68,000, representing \$10,000 bail in the case of Gregory Weinstein, "chief of staff" for "soviet ambassador" Mariani and \$1,000 each in the other cases. So much of the time of officials at the island was taken up today by approval of bonds and signing of bail documents that little progress was made in the examination of nearly 500 others held in deportation proceedings.

STRIKE ENDED.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—The strike of opera house employees, called two weeks ago is considered ended, the personal having voted to accept the managers' proposal for increased wages and one extra performance a week.

POSTMASTERS REAPPOINTED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Postmasters reappointed today included: Isaac H. Adams, Jr., Lynchburg, Va.; John A. Leaner, Norfolk, Va.

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THRIFT-O-GRAMS FOR THRIFT WEEK

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SENDS HURRY CALL FOR STOMACH PUMP

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So run-down was the condition of W. H. Conners, of Gary, that he had to have his stomach pumped before using Andes. Now he is a well man and in a statement that rings true with heartfelt gratitude, he endorses Andes, the medicine that is accomplishing such wonderful results all over Kentucky. Mr. Conners said recently: "I have been a great sufferer from stomach trouble for about ten years, as near as I can remember. My digestion was bad; and I could scarcely eat anything for fear of the awful pain that would be sure to follow. My condition became one of a general run-down nature, and my blood was in bad shape. I had to have my stomach pumped out not less than once each month for more than a year. It always gave me relief, that was all. I became very

skeptical as to the merits of anything. I had tried so many medicines without the least benefit that I had no idea Andes would help me. However, it has; in fact, it has done me more good than everything else combined. I hope that others who are suffering with stomach trouble as I was will at least give Andes a trial. There is nothing to equal it. My own change is really wonderful." It is truly remarkable the results that was given in this case, as the party only used four bottles of Andes. It put him on his feet again and he can do as much work as any man in the city. Men and women who have stomach trouble, nervous indigestion, sleeplessness, liver, kidney and bladder disorders, and are badly constipated will find Andes the medicine that they have needed for years. It goes to the root of the disease and removes the cause and in this way gives permanent results. Sold in Asheville by Grant's Pharmacy.

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