

### MARRIAGE AGE LAW LEADS GIRLS TO FIB

#### Nebraska Maids Quickly Become Three Years Older.

#### LIMIT ADVANCED TO 21

#### Would-Be Brides Turned Into Galaxy of Liars to Edge in Under Matrimonial Wire.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 31.—(Special.)—The marriageable age of Nebraska women has been postponed three years and Nebraska girls are being turned into a galaxy of liars. So say the marriage license clerks. A new law is responsible for the new condition.

Formerly a Nebraska girl became her own "boss" at the age of 18, so far as marriage is concerned. At that time, on and after her 18th birthday, she could snap her fingers at father and say, "I will."

But she can't do it now. Under the new law she has to be 21—or ask the consent of her mama when she wants to get married. And when mama says "no," the young thing becomes three years older in a single night.

"When a girl's in love she will jump three years as quickly as a grasshopper," declares Rev. Charles W. Savidge, who has married more than 5000 couples and is considered an authority on what girls will and won't do to get married.

**Detection Is Difficult.**  
Under the old regime comparatively few lies were told in order to get under the matrimonial wire. Marriage license clerks could fairly well detect a 15-year-old girl who tried to pass herself as 18, but the difference between 18 or 19 and 21 is not so easy to see.

"Time was when we could tell something of the age by the length of the skirt," says a license clerk. Stubbins, director of Omaha, "but you can't do that any more. Now, you don't know whether it's little Susie or grandma. If you try that means of telling ages."

The age of a cow may be computed by the rings on its horns; that of a horse by its teeth; the age of a tree by the number of rings disclosed by cross section; the age of the earth itself by the geological layers, but there is no way under the sun to tell the age of a woman, say the public officials who have been studying out the answer to the question, "How old is she?"

The new Nebraska law, which went into effect some months ago, provided that those girls who had passed 18 but had not reached 21 when the law became effective, were to be considered as having reached the legal age. But the new "crop" of girls would not be legally of age until they reached 21. The girl who was 18 years and one day old when the law became operative was legally 21, while the girl who was but two days younger had to wait three years before she could marry without the consent of her parents.

**Law Doesn't Stop Marriages.**  
Only she didn't do anything of the kind—if she wanted to marry. She either "advanced" her age by a single year and came under the wire, or she became three years older in a night and thus became of legal age to marry.

"Did you ever see a girl who would not tell a fib about her age to get married?" asks Judge Willis G. Sears of the Omaha district court. Equivocations, prevarications, fibs, lesser falsehoods and white lies have been more or less conceded to be the legitimate weapons of women, but they didn't have to make oath to the truth of those means of love warfare. Now, under the Nebraska law, they not only have to make use of those weapons, but they have to swear to them as being the truth.

But here's a point those girls who grow three years in a single night are overlooking. Their parents may have their marriages dissolved or annulled by the court upon a showing that they have not reached the real legal age of 21. Under the Nebraska law a marriage before the bride or bridegroom, either, becomes 21 is legal unless the consent of the parents is secured. And a parent can have the marriage annulled by making the proper showing.

Whether the new law is going to cause an increase in elopements to Iowa, bring about more annulments, or curtail the number of divorces by doing away with a large number of these very early marriages, are questions which social workers in Omaha are watching closely. They all agree, however, that the new law is adding to the number of liars very rapidly.

Furthermore, they all pretty well agree that legislation like this new law, insofar as it affects marriages, is about as effective as putting a "No-trespassing" sign in front of a Nebraska cyclone.

### 164 STUDENTS ON TRIAL

#### Agricultural College Puts Group on Scholastic Probation.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Jan. 5.—(Special.)—One hundred and sixty-four students have been placed on probation until their work proves their ability to keep up the regular college course and take part in student and social activities at the same time. Unless these students have completed the specified requirements by mid-term their registration will be canceled automatically.

One hundred and forty-seven men were on probation list with 17 coeds. Seventy-four freshmen were included. The sophomore class had 27 on the list, the juniors 17, and the seniors 2.

Those listed are notified at once of their delinquencies and are given assistance and plenty of opportunity to make up the work. A grade average below 70 per cent automatically places a student on probation.

### TWO DAM MAPS FINISHED

#### Prospectus of Powder River Project Sent to Denver Office.

BAKER, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Compilation of details gathered by engineers and surveyors of the reclamation service was concluded today and two maps showing the prospectus for either of two dams to be used in the development of the Powder river irrigation project in this county have been sent to the Denver office of the government service for inspection. The two projects are known as the upper and lower dam sites, of which the lower is known to be favored by engineers working on its details.

The irrigation project calls for a dam in what is known as Thief valley, about 29 miles northeast of

Baker. Completion of the work would mean the reclamation of approximately 50,000 acres of arid land, of which nearly 40,000 acres are government owned or undeeded. It is understood that the upper dam site would have a storage capacity of 13,000 acre-feet, while the lower site would hold 140,000 feet. Track gradings in the vicinity prevent it from being a greater capacity for the upper dam proposed. This is generally considered as the reason why the lower dam location is favored.

### DESTROYERS ARE WARNED

#### WAR ORDERED ON RECKLESS CALIFORNIA DRIVERS.

#### Motorist Who Kills or Maims Victim and Then Speeds Away Is Declared Criminal.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 5.—(Special.)—The automobilist who maims or kills and then speeds away is a criminal and should be treated as such, is the stand taken by the California State Automobile association. Assurance was given yesterday that this powerful organization would be wholeheartedly behind Chief of Police O'Brien and District Attorney Brady, who have promised to launch a campaign against lawless drivers.

This ultimatum comes as a result of the killing of three persons by automobiles New Year's eve. In two cases the drivers kept on going. The records of the coroner's office tell a grim story of the cost of reckless driving. During the past six months there have been 48 deaths in the city as a result of automobile accidents, including eight children. Most of the accidents were preventable.

But the blackest page in the record is that showing that in four cases the driver of the automobile first ran down and killed the victim and then without compunction sped away at top speed.

In one of these four cases of speeding away from the crime the driver was apprehended the next day. In the remaining three cases the guilty ones are still at large. Eight per cent of the deaths during the last six months were caused by automobiles who did not stop to render aid. But the records of the coroner's office do not tell the whole story, for they treat only of fatalities and do not cover the number of pedestrians injured more or less seriously by motorists.

### WOMEN RUN LAND OFFICE

#### Men in San Francisco Division Have Only Subordinate Jobs.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—The government land office here, for the first time in its history, has Wednesday in full charge women, so far as head officials go, with Mrs. James B. Hume of Berkeley and Mrs. Harriet Jewell Anderson of Oakland holding down the first two desks.

Mrs. Hume holds the post of register and Mrs. Anderson that of registrar, having succeeded J. E. Sargent and Mrs. Grace Caulkins of the democratic regime. The office of chief clerk and other subordinate positions are still held, as in former times, by men.

### Hoquiam Buildings Cost \$261,593.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Hoquiam's 1931 building record pushed closely the banner year of 1929, according to figures compiled by Miss Wera Nelek, city clerk. Estimated total expenditures for last year on the 325 permits issued were \$261,593. This included the Masonic temple, to cost \$150,000; repairs on the Grayport hotel property, to cost \$10,000; and 35 houses ranging in cost from \$1000 to \$5000.

### Dairy Meeting Planned.

MONTESSANO, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Dairymen and others interested in obtaining pure-bred livestock for Grays Harbor county will meet Thursday night at the county agent's office in Montesano to hear about the "pettis plan," a co-operative system originated in Pettis county, Missouri. Don G. Magruder, state college dairy specialist, and Stanley V. Buchanan, secretary of the Washington Holstein Breeders' association, will be speakers.

### Cowlitz Camps to Start.

KELSO, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—The Silver Lake Railway & Lumber company and Ostrander Railway & Timber company logging camps will start logging early next week if the weather permits. The Ostrander camp operated until Christmas, but the Silver Lake camp has been shut down for a long time.

Best grade of coal. Prompt delivery. Diamond Coal Co. Bldg., 2927—Adv.

### POLICE IN CHICAGO MAKE SOCIAL DEBUT

#### Dress-Suit Detectives Look for Petting Parties.

#### EVIDENCE IS COLLECTED

#### Big Scandal Expected When Doings of Idle Rich Are Dragged Into Municipal Court.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—And now for the society "cop," the swarthy, low-slung "bull" who sleuths in the soup-and-fish. Watch for him. Also watch out.

He has made his debut in Chicago, and as everybody knows when anything new happens in Chicago—whether it be fresh-killed beef or free verse or society-brand cops—it is bound, sooner or later, to crash into other cities.

The society-brand "cop" is the invention of Chief of Police Fitzmorris. The chief has been much disturbed of late by reports of goings-on in Chicago's haute monde. Drinking and smoking and various forms of honor-giving are reported to be rampant in the best circles. It is even said that demi-tasses are a common occurrence.

The only question, according to the police, was how to verify these reports—how to get the goods.

**Patrolmen Are Rebuffed.**  
The conventional police methods were tried and failed. When Chief Fitzmorris sent a regular patrolman around to see whether the best people were behaving themselves the butler or footman at the door was likely to become uppish and tell the "cop" to go to—well, he might call around at the kitchen door if he wanted a hand-out.

The chief at length got tired of this sort of thing. He didn't like the way so many of his best men were being snubbed, cold-shouldered, socially boycotted and otherwise deleted by the elite. So he resorted to finesse. He established a dress-suit squad, the members of which, after a rigorous training in the social arts and graces, are said to be able to get by the most fastidious footmen in Chicago.

The society-brand cop is more than a mere bluecoat masquerading in a hired clasp-hammer. That sort of stuff wouldn't get by, according to the police. The society-brand cop not only owns his own dress suit but knows how to wear it as if he owned it and the boiled shirt and the patent-leather pumps and the all-silk hose that go with it. Except for the fact that he is obliged under the regulations to carry his nightstick concealed in one coat-tail and his six-shooter in the other, his evening wear must differ in no respect from that approved by Beau Nash and accepted as proper in the best Chicago circles.

**Debut Is Success.**  
The recent coming-out of the first batch of graduates of the dress-suit squad was what the quid-nuncs call quite an event. At least five Chicago society reporters are said to have referred to it as "an unqualified success." While there were no arrests, a vast amount of evidence was collected—not counting spots on the shirt front said to have been due to the awkward-

ness of a waiter while passing the after-dinner coffee. As to the nature of the rest of the evidence gathered, no information has as yet been made public. When it comes out, however, something like a sensation is expected. According to the police, everything that Dame Rumor, Mrs. Grundy and the quid-nuncs have been buzzing about is true—and then some. Revelations involving some of the haughtiest of the haute monde in pate de foie gras, dulce far niente, grand and petite fours, first-degree petting and similar scandals are promised.

Meanwhile the work of the "soup-and-fish sleuths" is going on. No musical morning; no linen-shower luncheon; no the dansante; no debutante ball; no Monday night at the opera is complete without them. They are everywhere and anywhere, hobnobbing in drawing rooms, munching cinnamon toast in tea-rooms, lolling at the club, leaning wearily against the potted palms, in the conservatory—everywhere. Some have even been seen shaking a well-tailored and perfectly creased leg in the ballroom. Chicago society must be on its good behavior. The "Toddle Cop" get you if you don't watch out.

**Road Right-of-Way Acquired.**  
MONTESSANO, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—An order for a writ of necessity has been awarded the county in its right-of-way condemnation proceedings against the A. O. Damon investment company. Following the court's ruling, the county commissioners reached an agreement with officers of the company whereby a waiver for the right of way will be furnished for \$100. The land involved is on the survey of the new Grass Creek-Chenoi Creek road.

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# IT'S A BIGGER DRAMA THAN EVER BEFORE PRODUCED!

When you're just longin' to be a man and folk say you're "jes' tol'able"—

When you've seen your Dad and big brother killed in a feud—

When you grab your gun to go-gettem—

And your mountain mother, who still thinks you're her baby and wants to keep you for herself, throws herself at your feet—

—then don't a feller need a friend?

THAT'S RICHARD BARTHELMLESS. HE SWEEPS TO STARDOM IN A DRAMA OF BOY-LOVE AND MOTHER-LOVE

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# RICHARD BARTHELMLESS

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