

POPLAR BLUFF JUSTICE RUNS NUPTIAL MART

His Offer to "Pop Question" for Shy Swains and Maids Keeps Hymen Hopping.

(By Carl L. Turner)
(L.N.S. Staff Correspondent)
KANSAS CITY, — Eight thousand nine hundred and forty-six marriages were made in this city last year. No. 1 is not a surprise, but the fact that the "merry-go-round" of Poplar Bluff, Mo., who according to the law in his office, has had 3,444 nuptial knots.

Judge D. R. Deems is responsible for making the 1916 Missouri law the Green Book for boys and girls who no longer are used as round-

The justice has volunteered to propose to any young woman if her husband is too timid to say the word. Furthermore, he will serve in the same capacity for happy girls. Judge Deems says he is not "chivalrous" in fact he will do everything except find the girl for boy, he says.

But cupid has not always hovered over Poplar Bluff. His absence was the very thing that led the "merry-go-round" to hit upon a plan to increase the business of the license "vender."

Lovers Lagard.
There was once a time when it was not uncommon for an entire month to pass without issuance of a single marriage license. That was Judge Deems to thinking and scheming, he says. It was then that someone suggested that perhaps the stamp due to husbandness in the past of the men.

"If they are afraid to propose, and then to me, I'll do it for them, and it won't cost them a cent," Judge Deems replied.

That declaration was picked up by the press and immediately scattered to the "four corners" for letters began pouring into the justice's office from all parts of the United States with but one theme: "We want to be wed."

Not only were post office workers drawn into the scheme, telegraph companies soon were enlisted in carrying the numerous requests to Judge Deems' office. The situation became so serious that officials of the telegraph company were considering installing a "loop" in the justice's office. A secretary was employed to assist in filing the epistles.

Many Misses Mate.
A number of the queries were from men who wanted me to propose for them, but who had not even a girl in mind," the justice said.

"What are you going to do about it?" he was asked.

"Not a thing," was the prompt reply. "If they go no further than ask me to propose for them I will readily and willingly comply, but when they ask me to find them wives—well, that's asking too much."

But the justice was forced to have down on that point a little later. He had not foreseen that while a majority of the requests would come from men a few women also would seek to take advantage of the kind offer. His stand was changed by a letter which read:

"These women mean business, evidently, and for that very reason probably would make good wives. Propose to any of them for me. I'd like to get a good wife soon."

Another type of letter which even the "merry-go-round" had not anticipated was received from a man who asked:

Cynical Spouse Spurred.
"I don't want you to propose for me, but I certainly would appreciate it if you would devise a scheme whereby I could get rid of the woman I have."

The justice was puzzled in the latter case. He said it was too hard to perform a marriage ceremony, he says. Even during court session, if he sees a bashful young man, with a blushing, delicate girl on his arm, peering around the courtroom doors he temporarily adjourns court and ties the knot.

Men, especially, like to have Judge Deems perform the ceremony, be-

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President?



Miss Margaret Goodrich, prominent Southwestern leader, now is being mentioned for the post of president of the British Trade Union, a post which no woman ever has held.

OREGON APPLE CROP IS LARGE

MANHATTAN, Or. (AP) — Oregon's apple crop for this year is estimated at 650,000 bushels by F. L. Scott, statistician for the department of agriculture. Estimated yields from producing sections range from 250 bushels in the Hood River and Wasco counties to 250 bushels in the Willamette valley. Rogue and Umpqua valleys are credited with a total of 125,000 bushels and Emattine country with 100,000 bushels. Elmer and Malheur counties will jointly produce 400 bushels, according to the estimate.

The pear crop is set at 2,900 bushels and apportioned as follows: Rogue and Umpqua valleys 1,100 bushels; Hood River and Wasco counties, 275 bushels; Willamette valley, 25 bushels; Elmer, Baker and Malheur counties 21 bushels. Reports received from the various districts by the Oregon Growers Co-operative association agree that growing conditions have been exceptionally favorable and that the quality of the fruit will be high and of large size generally.

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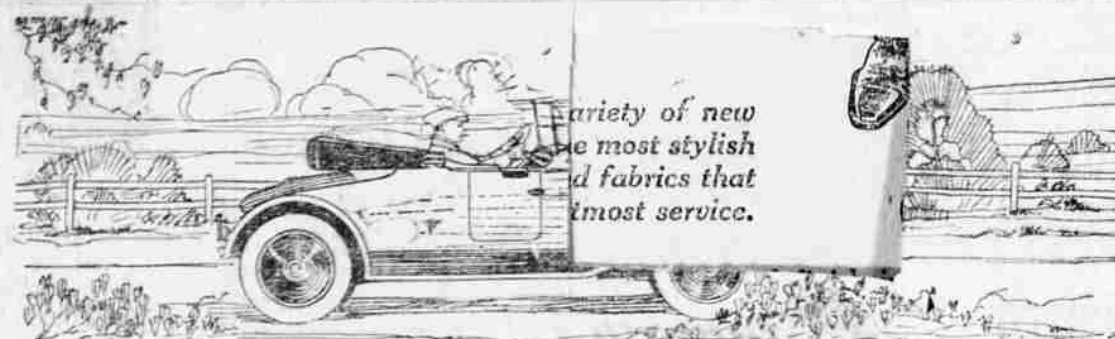
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