

LAWSUIT QUEER; COURT PUZZLED

Platonic Alimony Sought by Diva Frieda Hempel from Millionaire

By Gene Cole NEW YORK, May 13. (NEA)—"Platonic alimony!" No wedlock. No divorce. No breach of promise. And yet an avowed gratuity of \$48,000 a year for the remainder of a lifetime that has reached only its 45th milestone.

This is the unprecedented claim that has risen to befuddle New York courts and lawyers as the result of the strange agreement which Frieda Hempel, the luxuriant and brilliant diva, alleges she had with August Heckscher, 78, multi-millionaire philanthropist. The agreement came into being, one is told, about the time the operatic star was getting her Paris divorce from William H. Kahn, New York broker. They were abroad at the same time. The world had been led to believe she would wed Heckscher. But she didn't.

They returned to America—Heckscher to go quietly to his mansion at Great Neck, L. I., to study the problems of Manhattan's poor and to aid the city in its effort to clean up the East Side tenements.

Effort to settle down quietly in a Central Park apartment which her former husband had given her when he checked out to take bachelor quarters in a New York hotel.

All Very Friendly They were still friendly, the world heard. In fact it had all been very friendly.

There had been, for instance, a dinner given by Kahn before he went to Paris to win a separation, and Heckscher had been an invited guest. Kahn had made the nicest of gestures, insisting that incompatibility had been the only reason for divorce and that "no man had come between them."

Yet, say Frieda's lawyers, Heckscher agreed to pay the great gratuity of \$48,000 a year. They acknowledged receipt of one \$12,000 installment. Now they are suing for the rest.

A sort of "platonic alimony," if you will. Which is something quite new under the sun.

Now a man who, at 78, finds his name on the directorate of two dozen large corporations and who is listed either as president or vice-president of a dozen more, who has a villa gilt-top skyscraper, magnificent and doled out millions for the poor, is likely to be rather well informed about the serious obligations of a contract.

Hence the perplexity over this intriguing arrangement.

Their Fetching Careers Perhaps never have two more interesting careers come to tumble in or out of romance.

Heckscher was son of a German prime minister, born in Hamburg. When his father died he came to America, at the age of 19, and went into the Pennsylvania coal mines. A cousin was in charge of a mine and when this relative became ill the new owner offered him to his place to find him. Armed with the famous "Mollie Maguire" labor troubles.

After learning considerable about mining he organized a corporation and began running a few of his own. Meantime he had a pretty romance with an ironmaster's daughter, ending in marriage.

There were two children, Antoinette, who married the Hon. Oliver Brett, of London, and Maurice, whose wife, the former Louise Vanderhoe, has just divorced him in Europe after marital troubles in which bodyguards, police and private detectives played a part. It had been said that Heckscher Jr. was in love with Luella Gear, the model who starred, and that they intended to marry.

"The suit has nothing to do with a promise of marriage," the lawyers say.

They decline to say just what manner of contract it was that at \$48,000 a year would have netted Frieda Hempel a million in 29 more years.

Of Luella it is said that at a dinner, she and Frieda Hempel dined together, talking each other as future "mother and daughter." To return to Heckscher, he reached his mid-fifties very rich and intent upon retiring. His health menaced by gout, he went in for health food. It was reported he fell out of a bath tub and injured himself while trying some new exercise stunt.

Instead of retiring, he went voluntarily into big real estate, railroad and manufacturing deals.

How Hempel Won Fame Mme. Hempel also comes from Germany. She was one of 19 children and born near Leipzig. Her parents, noting her singing voice, determined to give her every chance. She was sent to Berlin after being acclaimed in her home town, and at 18 was making her appearance in opera.

Her career in America has been spectacular. For years she has been a favorite of the Metropolitan and the concert stage. She met Heckscher several years ago. He had been a patron of music and the arts.

Often, it is said, she has sung for him and—so the story goes—there started a romance of December and July which led almost to the altar, only to hit some unexplained curve.

And now—"platonic alimony."

HOT TOWELS SCARCE PARIS—The man who gets shaved in a French barber shop must wash the latter off his face himself.

SPRING POLITICAL CHAPEAUX



WOOL CROP IN MID STATE TO BE CUT SOON

MEND, Ore., May 13.—One of Central Oregon's greatest crops, wool from the thousands of sheep which graze in Wasco, Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes counties, will be harvested in the next few weeks, according to information reaching here from the mid-state ranchlands. Shearing has already started in some sections of Central Oregon. The one wish of sheepmen who are now making preparation for

shearing their flocks is for warm weather, to "vitalize" the wool and bring the grease into the fleece. It is explained that price which covers a grease content. Without warm weather, the weight of clips will be below average, it is explained.

Reports from some of the sheep centers of Central Oregon indicate that the fleece weight so far this spring is considerably below normal. With one week of good weather, the fleeces will be in good shape and stockmen say owners of flocks will not suffer

financially from weather conditions, although the price of wool is slightly below that of last year.

DIAMOND CLAIMS WORTHLESS JOHANNESBURG, South Africa.—Reports from the new diamond fields of Graafwater are that, although they contain rich patches, the claims of many prospectors are worthless.

LESS TALK IN COLORADO DENVER—Five counties in Colorado, Baca, Hinsdale, Jackson, Montezuma and Rio Blanco, have no telegraphic facilities.

10 Per Cent Of Wyoming Lambs Lost in Blizzard

CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 13 (AP)—Between five and ten per cent of the lamb crop was lost during the blizzard of Saturday and Sunday, it is indicated. D. F. Christy, of the Wyoming crop and livestock reporting service, said today.

"The central, eastern and southeastern portions suffered the heaviest losses because lambing and shearing were further along," he said. "Most of the losses were in new born lambs and calves."

"Losses in the western part of the state were not so severe, both because the storm was lighter and the lambing was not well started. Fifteen to 25 per cent of the lambs born during the storm were lost."

Soft Coal Wage War Continuing

PITTSBURGH, May 13. (AP)—In the bituminous coal fields of western Pennsylvania is being waged a struggle which may shape the course of future operations in the entire central competitive soft coal fields now in idleness.

Union miners and operators alike are watching the street at the Pittsburgh Coal company in that the

section to operate on a non-union basis. Ellis Searles, editor of the United Mine Workers Journal, says that the "break" in the present suspension of work, however remote it may be, will come in this district.

Officials of the company declare that the non-union policy is successful, but union miners deny this.

A bridegroom sometimes meets the bride with a brass band.



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Features For Saturday and Monday

- Peaches: Sliced Yellow Clings, Solid packed in No. 10 tins. Fine for pies or sauce. 2 Cans \$1.00
Lard: Armour's Star Pure Lard, packed in 4 pound pails. A good size for warm weather. 4 Pound Pail 69c
Eggs: Eggs produced at this time of year are the best for preserving. The shell is more completely filled and the yolks have a better color and flavor than during the summer months. We have only local ranch eggs and the quality is guaranteed. 2 Dozen 35c, HALF CASE 15 dozen \$2.60 (Cases and cartons extra)
Oleomargarine: Tropic-Nut Oleomargarine, a healthful, economical and nutritious spread for bread. POUND 19c, 4 Lbs. 75c
Crisco: The ideal shortening for homes that want the best in cooking. 3 Pound Can 69c. Bring your coupons to our stores.

Safeway Savings For All Week

- Bacon: Morrell's Eastern Sugar Cured. Heavy average—lean. POUND 27c, Light average. Extra lean. POUND 30c
Coffee: Skaggs Coffee is winning new friends for us every day. Folks like its full flavor and rich aroma. Once they start using it they refuse anything else. We suggest that you give this fine coffee a trial. You are sure to like it. POUND 48c
Corn: Excellent quality, extra standard Idaho. 6 No. 2 Cans \$1.00, Standard quality Idaho corn. 8 No. 2 Cans \$1.00

Buy in Bulk

- Soap Deal: Swift & Co.'s products including Cleanser, Chips for washing machines and for fine laundry, Toilet Soap, Laundry Soap and a beautiful strong woven shopping basket. Regular Retail Value \$1.50, Complete Assortment This Week \$1.29
Cocoa: Pure Breakfast, Unsweetened. 2 Lbs. 25c
Chocolate: Pure ground chocolate and sugar. 2 Lbs. 45c
Cocoanut: From Ceylon. Snow white. 2 Lbs. 55c

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