

SUES A LOST LOVER

Miss Devereaux Testifies Against T. J. B. Nicholson.

SHE WANTS \$10,000 DAMAGES

His Letters Are Produced to Show His "Undying Affection," but When It Comes to Her Billets-Doux She Cries "Forgeries."

Lola Eldora Devereaux, who wants \$10,000 damages from Thomas J. B. Nicholson for breach of promise, told her story yesterday before Judge Frazer and a jury.

Nicholson is secretary of the Pacific Coast Elevator Company, and Miss Devereaux for a long time was a stenographer in the office. She complains that Nicholson filled her over a year ago and married another, but she says the engagement was broken off between them, and that he was at perfect liberty to do as he pleased.

The matter of choosing a wife, Judge John H. Woodward, attorney for Miss Devereaux, in his opening address to the jury stated that Miss Devereaux waited on Nicholson for six years, and because of her disappointment and loss of prospects in life, her mind was shattered.

Plaintiff's counsel opened the case by placing a note in her hand, which she identified as Nicholson's, and said it was in the month of August that she received it. She said: "A woman's engagement means so much to her she will remember the date."

The paper was read to the jury, and referred to a chapter in a book entitled "Sights of New Life," on happy married life, which she said Nicholson advised her to read, and she said she testified that this scheme permitted him to say easily what was on his mind.

A conversation the next day in regard to the chapter in the book, which she testified that she read, and she said she testified that she read, and she said she testified that she read, and she said she testified that she read.

The plaintiff turned to the jury at this point and said: "A woman is not usually asked how old she is, but gentlemen, I was 27 years of age, and I knew he was older than I was, and understood what he was doing to do."

Nicholson referred to his good health. He wrote in this connection: "My physical being is better than it was for years. I am feeling better than I have for years, and the change is noticed by my friends. I think it is all due to you. If you feel the same delightful experience I do, you can reciprocate."

He also said he improved his habits on her account, and sent her a letter one holiday season in which he stated: "The first Christmas I have not tasted even a glass of wine or something. I refrained from smoking or drinking to please you. Since the time I showed you a paper and had a cigarette made, and I threw the paper of tobacco away, I have not smoked since. One drink of whisky over me, this Christmas would have been spent as usual with the crowd."

Miss Devereaux testifying directly said: "It was agreed between us that we should have a family. I told him that I wanted a family; that I thought it the only way for married people to live. He agreed to that, but asked me to wait until he got into a position that he could support me and the children that should come. He waited until 1901, when he parted another woman. I think such conversation was perfectly proper and showed that I had an ideal that any woman should be proud of."

At the afternoon session Attorney M. L. Pipes, who appears as attorney for the defense, in conjunction with Mark O'Neil, introduced to the notice of the plaintiff numerous letters sent by her to Nicholson. The purpose of this evidence was to try to show that she wrote that they might not be married, and that she might, although they all look alike and seem to be her writing. She made denials as follows:

"The underlining is not mine. Indeed not. I never signed or underscored that. That date is not mine. That 4 has been erased. Anybody with any eyes at all can see that it is an erasure."

"I didn't sign that. If I signed at all, I signed it Gypsey. That '12th, 1892,' I didn't write that. I didn't write that date. There are forgeries here. I will take one at a time and read them, and suppose they were all right, and that they were putting in things fair and square as I did. I did not look at these at first."

The witness was given a blue pencil to mark disputed matter. Continuing she said, handling a letter:

"I think this is a close copy of my writing. That sheet is forged. That's a forgery, signature and all. It's very close; that is in some ways. I never wrote a letter like that, not at all. In regard to another letter, she said: "The date is very material. That was written before we were engaged at all. In 1892. See those things there?" she said, pointing with her finger to a sentence. "He offered to make love to me and I would not allow it."

Parts of letters were read in which she stated undying affection, but in which she also said she was more willing to be married another than ever before. Another sentence was: "Remember this, I should have no thought of returned letters." In another she spoke of "returned letters" of the "memory of love you once bore for me."

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ALASKA FISHERMEN'S UNION

fishermen be appointed to meet representatives of the canneries and discuss the price of fish for the coming season.

ENGINEER TO LECTURE.

Authority on Hydraulics Will Address Board of Trade.

Elmer L. Corbitt, well known over the Western Hemisphere as a hydraulic engineer and an authority on river channels and improvements, will lecture in Portland, February 25, under the auspices of the Board of Trade, having for the title of his address, "Two Years in Argentina as Consulting Engineer on National Public Works."

Mr. Corbitt is now making a tour of the United States delivering his lecture, and will come to Portland from San Francisco and Stanford, and will go from here to Denver. The address will be illustrated by numerous lantern slides, and will have special significance to those interested in the Columbia River and its improvement.

The lecture is introduced by a brief statement in reference to the selection of Mr. Corbitt by the United States Government, and recommended by it to the Argentine government, to act as its consulting engineer for a definite period. Mr. Corbitt was a delegate to the International Navigation Congress, at Dusseldorf, last Summer, and when called upon to respond for that government, he opened his remarks by a brief comparison of some of the interesting features common to both countries. This comparison is given in the lecture, and, in order to appreciate fully the location of Argentina, some of the most important geographical features.

The lecturer then makes an interesting comparison between the Mississippi River and the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries. In reference to the geologic and hydraulic causes which in ancient times changed the course and the volumes of both rivers, and made the under-lying areas suitable for the habitation of man. Areas of drainage and volumes of discharge, under ancient conditions and under present conditions, are briefly given.

The above features—geographic, topographic and hydrographic—are illustrated by colored charts. The more important ports on the great rivers, the Parana and the Uruguay, are mentioned, and some interesting features in reference to the velocity of currents, volumes of discharge, etc., are stated. The present and proposed depths in the two rivers and the commercial features are briefly given. After giving the hydraulic conditions of Argentina, there is a brief description and also illustrations of the Andes, and the effect of the mountainous condition of that country upon its general features.

Having reviewed the physical conditions, a resume of the history of Argentina is given, including a brief account of the interests which occur in parts of South America, with a very brief history of American ethnology. Following the history of Argentina, the present Argentina is described. Its area, its climate, its natural resources, its general geographical, industrial and commercial features; its telephones, telegraphs, railways, the cable lines which reach it, and in fact, all conditions of interest. Following this general description of Argentina is a description of the City of Buenos Ayres—its streets, buildings, water and sewerage works, its extensive port works and many details of interest, all of which are illustrated by lantern slides. Following these general characteristics of the country and City of Buenos Ayres, there is given a brief resume of the physical conditions of interest, all of which are illustrated by lantern slides.

During the descriptions above stated, there are given comparisons with other cities of the world, including those of the United States, as to population, mortality, growth and other features. The National Government has recently completed a very important duty, that of one of the most southerly parts of the country, and this is described and illustrated. The lecture closes by some lantern slides of interesting features of the City of Buenos Ayres, and a brief statement of the reasons which have prompted the lecturer to give this lecture in the United States. The lecture is illustrated by 31 lantern views, of which 25 are colored.

SCHOOL BOARD IN NEED. So the Directors Decide to Borrow \$3000 to Pay Salaries.

It was a stag party, and a very slim one, too, when the Board of Education met last evening. Mrs. C. W. Sitton and R. K. Warren were both absent, and as soon as the business further business began, the members felt free to place their feet upon the desks and to discuss the Senatorial situation. After the political opinions of each of the five men present had been given, School Clerk H. S. Allen thought that a little more business should be transacted.

"Mr. Chairman," said he, "the pay day for the janitors will fall due on February 1st, and that of the teachers two days later, and there is not—"

"In other words you are broke," interrupted Herman Wittenberg. "Sufficient funds in the treasury," continued Mr. Allen, "to pay these salaries, so we must borrow money or do something to meet the obligations."

CRINKS TO HOLD LINKS

FIRECRACKERS WILL GREET THE CELESTIALS' NEW YEAR.

Chinatown Is Gaily Decorated for the Holiday Celebration, Which Begins Tomorrow.

Chinatown will rest today. For weeks the happy almond-eyed Celestials have been busy painting and papering, buying and selling and provisioning, all in preparation for the opening of the great Chinese New Year, which will occur tomorrow.

Everything is ready, all the firecrackers and confectionery have been bought, and the sons of Confucius will look on their last day of confinement tomorrow the bustle and confusion will commence again.

The Chinaman, unlike his white brothers, is not content with a single 24 hours in which to hold his confinement. He wants a week or 10 days, and as he generally has no business more pressing than his celebration, he spends all the time he wants for his confinement. The Chinese New Year this year will commence on Wednesday and will last until February 6 or 7, or as long as the money and firecrackers hold out.

Wednesday will see the coming of the 4025th year of the Chinese Empire. That day will also usher in the 28th year of the Quong Suey reign, under which dynasty so much disruption and trouble has fallen upon the empire.

There is one celebration fresh in the memory of the present residents of Portland's Chinatown that was turned from sorrow and grief to joy, and that is the work of one of the leading citizens there. It was a number of years ago, when the change of dates between Western America and Asia was not thoroughly understood, and the Chinese never changed their calendars when they crossed the international date line when they came to this country.

On the approach of one year's celebration it was noted, about among the Chinese people that they were off in their reckoning and had their dates mixed a trifle. The idea that they would be one day early or one day late was rather nerve-racking, especially when the numerous details were very exacting as to the arrival and departure of the New Year's celebration. The Chinamen set around their stores at night, wondering what would be done if they made a mistake, and if their ancestors would ever forgive them if they flew off on a tangent and commenced wrong at the start.

The most apparent piece of amusement about the Chinese New Year celebration is the explosion of firecrackers. Every family and company in the city has its supply of long strings of sticks ready for use. These strings are sometimes 10 feet in length, and contain thousands of the bright red explosives. They are lowered out of the windows of the upper floors of the buildings along Second street and touched off at the lower end. Then, as the fire in the fuse gradually climbs upward, setting off the crackers as it goes, there is a grand display of light and sound that human ears ever listened to. There is apparently no end to the supply of strings of the crackers inside the house, for the moment one is finished another is ready, lighted and lowered to take its place in making the seemingly perpetual din.

Then there are the annual banquets of the big "men" of Chinatown. These are filled with all sorts of delicacies imported from the Orient. Conserved fruits of every description, sugared cocoanuts, preserved ginger, sugar-cane sprouts, sweet tilled and other spice-like bulbs, that are better than all the candy in the world, preserved eggs that have served their time in jugs buried under ground, and other delicacies, pickles and sauces are in great quantities. The food is served in the great Chinese Empire that is good for eating purposes is brought here and heaped on the tables of the New Year's banquets. One substance on the table does not come from China. It is secured to satisfy a taste acquired in America, or at least not in the empire. It comes in bottles, and generally bears an ornate label. The Chinamen are very particular about this, and will insist on having it on the tables, particularly for the white guests whom they may have invited to be present.

The numerous strings of sticks, which blast during the 10 coming days and all the old dusty idols will be brought out for the public eye, painted up and varnished and made presentable generally, for the houses are always filled with particular duty, are also sold by the priests in front of their idol, which on being set on fire will keep a house sweet-scented for a week.

All this and much more will be seen during New Year's time, and most of the people of Portland will have a look in on the fun.

SCANDAL IN A HOSPITAL. Nurses at Bellevue Accused of Using Drugs on Patients.

ANXIOUS TO HELP.

Merchants Agree With Policeman Regarding Clean Sidewalks.

The work of cleaning up the streets has met with little opposition thus far, according to the report of Special Officer A. Caswell, who has been detailed to act in conjunction with the Civic Improvement Association in its crusade against the unsanitary conditions of fruit and vegetable displays.

He started on his rounds yesterday, and none of the 100 merchants whom he interviewed declined to do their share in the improvement work. His mission will be to speak to all the blockading the sidewalks, and his special work will be to prevent the dust and filth of the street without any covering, as is the custom at present.

The executive committee of the Civic Improvement Association held a meeting last evening and outlined the work of their newly appointed officer. Mr. Caswell made the report as given above, and the crusaders felt that the first day's work of their representative on the city police force had not been in vain. Several stores which had long been in the habit of pre-empting more than their share of the sidewalk immediately removed the offending piles and boxes when the manager was told that the association was in earnest in the matter.

Mayor Williams that Portland should be made a thoroughly clean city. He visited both sides of the river during the day, and met no refusals to accede to the new order.

The blockaded condition of the streets, as well as the unsanitary displays of edible goods on the sidewalk, has troubled the improvement association for a long time, and they hope that the appointment of a special officer to act in concert with them will have the effect of cleaning up the city as it has never been cleaned before.

Laurier on the Treaty. Canadian Premier Explains Terms for Arbitrating Alaska Boundary.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 26.—A special to the Province from Ottawa this afternoon says: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who returned this afternoon from Montreal, was asked as to whether or not there were any conditions attached to the treaty signed by Sir Michael Herbert, British Ambassador at Washington, and United States Secretary of State Hay for the settlement of the Alaskan boundary.

"There are no conditions," replied Sir Wilfrid. "The arbitrators are appointed to interpret the treaty."

"That is the treaty of 1857?" "Yes, the treaty of 1857. The arbitrators will not be hampered by any conditions. They will have the whole case before them as shown by the convention of 1857."

"The only provision is that they are to be jurists of repute. There will be three arbitrators on each side."

Meier & Frank Company. "Shopping Center of the Northwest." This week is your last chance to buy a "Willamette" Machine at sale prices. Clearance sale prices on all China, Glassware, Kitchen Goods, etc.—Basement. Brass and Iron Beds, Springs, Mattresses, Pillows, etc., greatly reduced.

Clearance Sale-Last Week. Never before, we think, did a Portland store offer such an immense array of Clearance Sale Bargains. In every department, in every nook and corner of this big store there's saving opportunities that no economical person can afford to pass by. Only five days more in which to take advantage. Don't wait until the eleventh hour.

"The Pit," Frank Norris' best story, \$1.08 copy. Semi-Annual Notion Sale.

Small-ware bargains for housewives and dressmakers—All the little things for the sewing basket at a saving of many pennies—Make out your list, then come direct to this store if you want all the very best in small wares at the very lowest prices. Thousands bought yesterday—More will come today.

Two Great Shoe Bargains. Two very important shoe bargains for women and men—Shoes of style and quality—All new desirable footwear—The prices are far below the cost of manufacturing. \$3.00 Shoes \$1.98 Pair. Men's \$3.50 Shoes \$2.63 Pair.

We Sell Watches. During the last week of the Great Clearance Sale we offer remarkable values in ladies', men's and boys' Watches. Gents' \$10.00 Sterling Silver Watch, dust-proof case \$7.50. Gents' \$11.00 16 size Sterling Watch, nickel American movement \$8.25. Gents' 18 size filled-case Watch, American movement \$3.75. Gents' 18 size, five-year filled-case Watch, regular \$7.00, now \$5.25. Gents' 5-year, gold-filled case Watch, American movement, \$11 value \$8.63. Ladies' \$5.00 Watch, American movement, sale price \$3.75. Ladies' Sterling Silver Watch, engraved case, \$6.50 value \$4.88. Ladies' Gun-metal Watch, \$5.50 value, during remainder of sale, special \$4.13. Ladies' Enameled Chatelaine \$7.50. Ladies' gold-filled Watch, American movement, \$6.75 value \$5.06.

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