

EX-TEACHER'S SUIT AGAINST BOARD ON

Plaintiff's Counsel Argues That Marriage Clause in Contracts Is Illegal.

MARRIED WOMEN TESTIFY

Court Declares Ban on Matrimony Due to Belief That Cares of Home Detract From Efficiency in Schoolroom.

"Married women do not make the best teachers. The moment a teacher consents to get married she proposes to become the center of a home. She transfers her chief attentions from the school to the home."

R. H. Thomas, School Clerk, sat on the witness stand in Circuit Judge Morrow's court yesterday and gave this as the "theory and fact" of the School Board's rule that no married teachers shall be employed in the public schools of Portland.

"Of course," continued Mr. Thomas, "there are exceptions to all rules. Sometimes after the honeymoon has worn off, a married woman can go back to school and be a good teacher, but that's not the experience of the Board as a general rule. Married women do not devote the same attention and care to their school duties, because they have a home which requires much of their attention."

Married Teachers Witnessed. Mrs. Richards, formerly Miss Maud L. Marsh, was a teacher of high school English in the School of Trades when she was married. She appeared at the school on the morning following her marriage and was told that she could teach no more.

Yesterday Mrs. Richards appeared in court, accompanied by her sister, Miss Ethel Marsh, English teacher in the Lincoln High School. A platoon of married school teachers, subpoenaed by Mr. Richards, occupied seats in the courtroom and waited to be called to the witness stand.

Coy Burnett, acting with Mr. Richards as counsel for the discharged teacher, made a long opening statement to the court explaining the legal grounds on which the action had been brought.

Mrs. Richards had become a permanent teacher under the school laws of 1912, he explained. No permanent teacher can be discharged by the Board unless charges are formally brought against her, said Mr. Burnett. The contract which Mrs. Richards signed in 1912 was for only one year and, although it contained the anti-marriage clause, the contract itself was void before she was married, he declared.

Story of Dismissal Told. When she was called to the witness stand Mrs. Richards was at first a little nervous, but as the trial progressed she regained some of her composure. Answering questions by Mr. Burnett, she told the story of her dismissal and her subsequent efforts for reinstatement.

Jay Bowerman, counsel for the School Board, objected when Mrs. Burnett asked Mrs. Richards if any other married women were employed as teachers in the public schools.

The married teachers were called to the witness stand one by one. Each said she was married, or had been, but not one of those called said she kept house. Those who were married, or had been, were Mrs. Estelle Charles, sewing teacher; Mrs. Nellie Bailey, falling school; Mrs. Laura G. Fisher, night school teacher; Mrs. Helen Workman, Avelia School; Mrs. D. D. Warner, and Mrs. Esther Kane.

Then Mr. Thomas was called to the witness stand. He said he had been connected with the public schools in Portland for 29 years, and for seven years had been clerk of the Board.

"Prosperity Affects Matrimony." "About how many teachers marry off each year?" he was asked.

"That's pretty hard to say," replied Mr. Thomas. "About seven or eight a year, I should say. More of them are married in hard times than when things are prosperous. Heretofore all of the teachers have given up their employment when they were married, if any of them didn't then they kept their marriage secret."

"Have any of them kept their marriage secret and got by with it?" asked Mr. Bowerman.

"I think so," replied Mr. Thomas. "I recall one teacher who was married six months before we found it out. Then we learned about it and she was asked to resign."

"Have any teachers been re-employed after, as you say, their honeymoon had worn off and their minds might be back on this line of business?" asked Mr. Bowerman.

"I don't recall any. I'd have to look up the records on that."

City Superintendent Alderman followed Mr. Thomas on the stand and told the court that he had dismissed Mrs. Richards because it was a rule of the Board that no married teachers should be employed.

Immediate Decision Unlikely. Mr. Bowerman, in outlining his case to Judge Morrow, said that the contract which Mrs. Richards had signed, and the rule of the School Board, justified Mr. Alderman's action in dismissing her when she was married. Mrs. Richards has taken the stand that since the passage of the tenure-in-office law, the Board has no right to discharge a teacher without a hearing, and has no right to make a rule like the one enforced against her.

The case will be argued before Judge Morrow today. The judge intimated that he would not decide the case immediately, but would take it under advisement. Some fine legal points are involved, he said, and he will take time probably to go over the law on the subject.

OFFICER OBJECTS TO FILM

Scenes Showing Bluejackets on Spruce Cut From Picture at Star.

Declaring that portions of "The Blue Henney" a picture at the Star Theater, reflected upon the moral character of men of the Navy, Lieutenant R. R. Smith, of the Navy, during a session, protested to Mrs. E. B. Colwell, chairman of the Censor Board, yesterday. Lieutenant Smith asked to have the scenes showing the bluejackets in a drunken condition eliminated and asked also that portions showing the

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men pursuing immoral women also be taken out of the film. Lieutenant Smith pointed to the going down of the F-4 as a true test of the moral strength of the American navy who had given their lives for the country was a better representation of the naval recruit of today than the dissolute one depicted in the film. Mrs. Colwell made the eliminations suggested by the officer last night and

the poster showing objectionable scenes was confiscated by the police. Activities of Karl Steinos and Sven Palander Investigated. Karl Steinos, alias Heibren, alias Matson, alias Hansen, was arrested by

City Detectives Swennes and Maloney yesterday and is being held in the City Jail while his local career is being investigated. Steinos has a bad record, and it is thought may be responsible for some local thefts. The prisoner recently served a 90-day sentence in Astoria for carrying concealed weapons, and has been arrested in Portland and Seattle both for burglary and "strong-arm" feats. He was with Sven Palander when arrested, and Palander is being held also, because of his evil associations, while his record is looked into. Coast Loggers' Jurisdiction Grows. The jurisdiction of the Pacific Coast Loggers' Association has been extended to British Columbia, and the next meeting of the association will be held in Vancouver, B. C., May 2. J. G. Bentley, vice-president, will be the representa-

tive of that district in the executive body of the association. G. W. Johnson was elected president at the annual meeting at the Multnomah Hotel. Other officers are: Secretary, E. S. Grammer; treasurer, E. F. Blake; vice-presidents, Mount Vernon: Gray's Harbor, A. I. Callow, of Hoquiam, and Columbia River district, J. S. O'Gorman, of Portland.