

DIVORCES DECLARED SHAME OF SEATTLE

Lax State Laws Open Way for Fraud and Perjury.

COLLUSION ALSO INDUCED

Puget Sound City Outstrips Reno in Number of Decrees Granted and Moral Collapse.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—Fraud, perjury and collusion are amazing factors in obtaining divorces in Seattle, declared Judge Frater of the King county superior court today.

This combination of fraud, perjury and collusion, coupled with what is known as the easiest divorce law in the union, is responsible, in the opinion of the veteran jurist, for the fact that Seattle has attained the leading position among cities of the land in the matter of marriage annulments.

This assertion of pre-eminence is based upon the fact that Seattle beat Reno, for years holding the reputation of being the divorce center of the country, by more than two to one for divorces granted in 1920, with 2430 divorces from January 1 to December 1 in King county, as compared with 991 in the Nevada city in the same period.

Law Permits Flagrant Fraud.
Fraud and perjury are practiced, declared Judge Frater, by maintaining a local residence only to establish a 12 months' residence as the divorce law provides. Many of them merely rent a room and go about their business elsewhere, returning to their Seattle "home" occasionally to keep up the fraud.

Collusion appeared, the jurist said, in the perfunctory defense offered to actions in divorce, in the failure of contradictory affidavits to appear, and in various other ways which, Judge Frater said, leave the court with only its plain duty to sign the decrees of divorce.

The statement of Judge Frater was echoed by the local statistics given in a local newspaper yesterday, in which it was shown that 2430 divorces were granted in King county the first 11 months of this year.

Children Deprived of Parents.
These same statistics, incidentally, had shown that 1600 children had been deprived of one or both parents; that four of the eight defendants in murder cases now pending here were either divorced or principals in pending divorce actions; that the city and county records were filled with cases of kidnappings growing out of divorce; that scores of divorces had turned "police characters," and that 26 per cent of the delinquents and dependents arraigned in juvenile court were children of divorced parents.

"Once in a thousand or so cases the courts will revoke a decree in divorce where fraud, perjury or collusion afterward is established, said a county official today, "but, while the courts may be morally certain that they are being imposed upon by liars, frauds and conspirators, yet they cannot prove it, or it is not established for them."

"Blanket" Statute Is Victim.
The case with which fraud and perjury are perpetrated in respect to establishing the prescribed year's residence in the state, and the "blanket" provision of the state's divorce law as the tail-end of the statute, are referred to by county officials as telling the enormity of Seattle's divorce shame.

The provision indicated, was written into the state law when it was enacted in 1889. It is the appendix to eight specific grounds of divorce and it reads as follows:

"... or for any other cause which in the opinion of the court may be just."

Residence Easily Established.
In Reno—where 991 divorces have been granted this year, as against 2430 in Seattle—a six months' resi-

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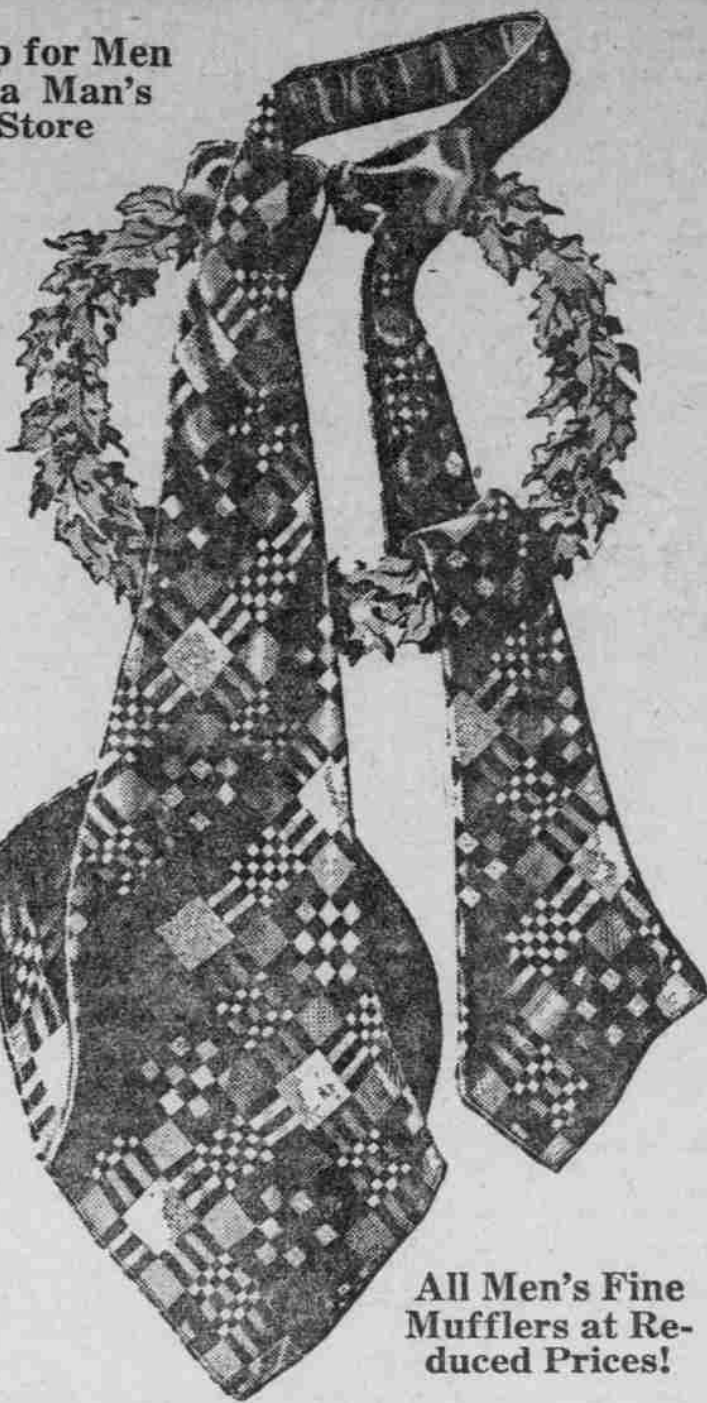
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divorce must be sworn to in court by the plaintiff.

In Seattle a 12 months' residence must be testified to.

"A mere formality that," said Judge Frater, "when one is willing to perjure one's self, for they come here from other countries and other states where less 'reasonable' divorce laws exist and establish a nominal residence only."

"Today divorces are being granted here to persons who, under oath, will declare they have been residing within the state or city 12 months continuously; whereas, I am morally certain they merely have rented a room, or a house, for the period described, and may not occupy it but a few hours or days of the 12 months."

Delphian Literary Society Elects.

OREGON NORMAL SCHOOL Monmouth, Dec. 7.—(Special)—The election of Delphian Literary society officers resulted as follows: President, Helen Brande; vice-president, Eun-

ice Tichenor; secretary, Sarah Williamson; treasurer, Mary Donaldson; sergeant-at-arms, Gladys Lurson; and reporter, Florence Davis. The officers will be installed by special exercises.

NOTE LEFT, WRITER GONE

"Homeless, Friendless, Sick," Says Missing Man's Message.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 7.—(Special.)—"I have committed no crime, but I am homeless, friendless and sick," was the brief note found in Charles Donnell's room at the Hotel Snyder Wednesday and given to the police. A neatly folded overcoat and a gray slouch hat, identified as Donnell's, were found Sunday morning in a secluded nook on the dock at the foot of H street. Police believe Donnell drowned himself in the Chehalis river.

A \$450 check made payable to a brother, W. M. Donnell of Madeira,

Cal., also was found in Donnell's room. To the check was attached a message presumably addressed to his brother, saying: "This will probably take care of me and leave a little for

you." The coat and hat were identified as belonging to the missing man by fellow lodgers. His age was estimated at about 65 years. No trace has been found of the body.



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By James Oliver Curwood

With LON CHANEY BETTY BLYTHE LEWIS STONE

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VICTROLA

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Because a million music lovers consider the Victrola the greatest talking machine ever built!

How can one be sure that he is getting a genuine VICTROLA?

By looking for the famous trademark of the Victor Talking Machine Company!

What dealer, in merchandise and in experience, is best equipped to serve the purchaser of the Victrola and its matchless Victor records?

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Would it be well to search him out now, before the Christmas rush?

Absolutely!

Victrolas \$25 to \$1500
Any Victor dealer will gladly arrange convenient payment terms

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45 Fourth St., Portland, Oregon



THOMAS MEIGHAN

in CONRAD IN QUEST OF HIS YOUTH

Columbia Picture Players
Vincent Knowles, Director
NOW—TODAY



There's a Reason for Everything Except a Woman Getting Off a Street Car Backwards—That's Foolish

After telling you...
Last Week About...
that Heavy Meal...
And that Weak...
Stomach of mine...
And...
Just after that...
I commenced...
Thinking...
That there must...
Be a Reason...
Why I...
Cannot enjoy life...
As my friends do...
Such as...
Eating whatever...
They want...
As much as...
They want...
N'Everything...
Which...
Makes me think...
That...
For quite a spell...
The folks...
Have been telling...
Me I don't look...
Quite well...



That my system...
Is run down...
And...
I felt it, too...
Was so tired...
I didn't know...
What to do...
Over me...
Came a-stealing...
That listless...
Feeling...
Made me feel...
So old and blue...
But...
I can truthfully...
Say since taking...
Bark Root Tonic...
Each day...
It has...
Assisted nature...
Beyond...
My hopes...
And dreams...
For it is...
Restoring my...
Former good...
Health and cheer-
fulness it seems...

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