

RIDGELL SUIT ENDS

Property Rights Are Settled Out of Court.

DECREE AWARDED TO WIFE

All Counter-Charges Against Husband Are Withdrawn Except That of Beating Her—Wire-Tapping Probe Held Up.

Did the publicity attendant upon the sifting of the domestic relations in open court case the Riddells to agree to an unexpected settlement of their divorce case yesterday?

This is a question being asked by interested parties as a result of the quiet and unheralded default taken in the court of Circuit Judge Davis yesterday by Mrs. Marie Riddell, upon withdrawing her original answer to Alex G. Riddell's suit and filing an amended and cross-complaint.

Property rights were settled outside of court, both parties agreeing to an equitable division of Mr. Riddell's estate, valued at \$12,000. No answer was made to the allegations in Mrs. Riddell's cross-complaint; she testified briefly that on two occasions her husband had struck her; and a default was entered by Judge Davis.

Sting Taken From Complaint. Compared to the original answer filed by Mrs. Riddell, and yesterday withdrawn from the court files, the amended answer and cross-complaint was innocuous, the sting having been removed. No reference was made to Dr. Anna M. Wheeler, Pan Murray or Elsie Walters.

Mrs. Riddell alleged in her former answer that Mr. Riddell had left her because of his infatuation for Dr. Wheeler. She named the other two women as co-respondents.

In the amended answer Mrs. Riddell did not mention the alleged occurrence of her husband coming home late one night after having seen a woman friend, and, answering his wife's query as to his whereabouts with "It's none of your business. I do not intend to report my coming and going to you." This was alleged in the original answer.

Beating Is Only Charge Kept. All alleged as grounds for divorce is that on August 26, 1915, and on September 25, 1915, Riddell struck and beat his wife. For this cruel and inhuman treatment she prayed for relief from matrimonial bonds.

The testimony of Riddell's friends as to Mrs. Riddell's frequent outbursts of temper, that went on record the opening of the trial last week, possibly was referred to in her original answer, which alleges "that during the entire married life of the plaintiff and the defendant, the defendant has conducted herself as an unfaithful wife, although she has been compelled by reason of the misconduct of the plaintiff from time to time to remonstrate with him as to his conduct and mistreatment of her."

Courtroom Doors Bolted. Circuit Judge Davis had adjourned court for the morning, and the doors of his courtroom were bolted, when Attorney Roger Sinnott with his client, Mrs. Riddell, and Attorneys W. A. Carter and George Cameron for Mr. Riddell, sought admittance. They had given the court no notice of their intention to appear. Judge Davis resumed the bench, and the courtroom was rushed through in a few moments. Attorneys for both sides orally stipulated that Mrs. Riddell withdraw her answer from the files and file an amended answer and cross-complaint, and that property rights had been agreed upon outside of court.

Mr. Riddell was not present, and Mrs. Riddell testified briefly to the cruel treatment of her spouse and won her decree by default.

Wire-Tapping Probe Halted. Further exposure of the alleged wire-tapping of the telephone in the office of Dr. Wheeler by agents of Mrs. Riddell, which Attorney Sinnott predicted when the trial was quashed—so far as the divorce action is concerned.

Mr. and Mrs. Riddell were married at Vancouver March 18, 1903. Mrs. Riddell brought suit for separate maintenance from her husband December 1, 1915. On December 23, 1915, Mr. Riddell filed a separate action against Mrs. Riddell, praying for a decree of divorce. The first suit of Mrs. Riddell is ended by the settlement of the second, and was by her husband, but defaulted by him when she made a cross-complaint.

Mr. Riddell is secretary of the Liberty Coal & Ice Company.

The case went to trial before Judge Davis last Tuesday, and testimony for the defense was heard. Not relishing the attention attracted by the case, the parties agreed to a postponement of the day following, and yesterday saw the settlement.

PERSONAL WORK TO START

Christian Endeavor Union Campaign Begins Monday, March 13.

Monday night, March 13, the Portland Christian Endeavor Union will start its personal workers' class. It will be held four Monday nights, and will end April 3.

Dr. George B. Pratt has been secured as the leader. Next year the Tacoma Y. M. C. A. paid his expenses to come to that city to lead such a class. This effort comes as the result of repeated requests from Endeavor members in all parts of the city. Last year at the close of the Union's expert class, which never had an attendance of less than 60, the members asked for a personal workers' class in the Spring. It is expected that Endeavor members generally will respond, and that 200 or more will attend each of the meetings.

The Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church held a meeting on Wednesday. Miss Dorothy Larsen and Miss Stella Arnold had charge of the supper. Election of officers resulted as follows: President, Hubert Scott; vice-president, Richard Thompson; second vice-president, Miss Stella Arnold; fourth vice-president, Edith Thompson; secretary, B. T. Snodgrass; treasurer, Robert Pomeroy, and pianist, Ruth D. Nisewander. J. L. Zeigler and J. R. Mann.

The Beacon Lights class of the First United Brethren Church held its second anniversary on February 22. J. H. Mann was toastmaster. Among those who responded to toasts were J. E. Henkle, Ray Stewart, Mrs. E. B. Clark, Mrs. J. D. Nisewander, J. L. Zeigler and J. R. Mann.

Dr. Sowers Will Speak. UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, March 4.—(Special).—Dr. Don C. Sowers, of the commerce department, has accepted an invitation to repeat his lecture, "In the Heart of China"—this time before the Portland chapter of the Institute of Bank Clerks, Tuesday evening, March 14, at the regular monthly meeting of the organization.

RIDGEFIELD COUPLE ARE GOLDEN WEDDING HOSTS

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Morton Celebrate Anniversary—Trip to West in Early Days Is Recalled—Of 13 Children, Eight Are Alive.



MR. AND MRS. J. H. MORTON AT THE TIME OF THEIR WEDDING, AND TODAY.

MR. AND MRS. J. H. MORTON celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently at their home near Ridgefield, Wash. Thirty-eight guests were present, including members of the family and friends. A luncheon was served, followed by a programme of speechmaking and singing. John H. Morton and Matilda J. Brownlee were married February 16, 1866, at Colburn, Ind. Mr. Morton was 18 and Mrs. Morton 16 years of age at the time. They moved directly from there by rail to the end of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, and by ox team 100 miles farther to Dunn County, Wisconsin, later living in Pierce County.

Mr. and Mrs. Morton started together in their teens with an ox team and sled, but now, past their three-score and ten, are driving a small auto.

Mr. Morton served in the Civil War in the 14th Indiana Regiment of the Army of the Potomac.

Thirteen children were born to them, of which eight are now living, as follows: Mrs. Flora Morton, Ridgefield; Effie Eaton, Ellsworth, Wis.; Ida McGreen, Beaverton, Or.; John, Anna Wood and Fred, Ridgefield; Orpha Ayers, Portland, and Harry, who is still at home. They now have 27 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. One daughter, Birdie, was shot in Montavilla, Portland, by Burdette Wolf in 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Morton started together in their teens with an ox team and sled, but now, past their three-score and ten, are driving a small auto.

CATHOLIC OPINION UPON BIRTH CONTROL IS GIVEN

Noted Theologian's View, as Set Forth Authoritatively, Is Published by Request.

The Oregonian has received from responsible Catholic sources a request for publication of the appended article on birth control, from the pen of Rev. John A. Ryan, D. D., a noted Catholic theologian of St. Paul, Minn. It is said to be a correct and authoritative statement of the Catholic view of the birth control subject which has recently stirred up controversy in Portland. It is printed in lieu of other letters on birth control received from several priests and from other persons:

Invitation Is Declined. "To Clara Gruening Stillman, secretary Birth Control League: My Dear Madam: A careful, searching memory and an anxious examination of conscience have not enabled me to disclose any act or utterance of mine which would justify you in expecting that I should consider favorably your invitation, which I have received, to become a member of the Birth Control League. I regard the practice which your organization desires to promote as immoral, degrading and stupid. The so-called contraceptive devices are intrinsically immoral because they involve the unnatural use, the perversion of a human faculty. One of the most important human faculties is used in such a way as to frustrate its natural end, to make it quite as immoral as self-mutilation, or the practice of solitary vice. Any person who rejects this fundamental moral principle concerning a faculty, must logically hold that there is no such thing as intrinsic immorality, that moral badness is always identical with individual distastefulity, and that anything is right which any individual thinks is useful for him.

Condemnation Is Strong. "The practice in question is degrading because it perverts conjugal intercourse from co-operation (potential if not actual) with the Creator to mere means of sensual gratification. It brings them down to the level of mutual instruments of indulgence. Such a disgusting calculation and repulsive artifice which characterizes the various contraceptive devices, tend inevitably to diminish conjugal reverence, respect and mutual respect. It is doubtful whether any normal man or woman ever began such practices without suffering a severe moral shock, or continued them without serious moral degeneration. It is not surprising that men and women who thus pervert one of the highest functions of life and the most intimate relation of marriage, should grow obtuse in their perceptions of the sacredness and exclusiveness of conjugal obligation. It is not a mere coincidence that childless marriages and one or two-child marriages should form such a large proportion of the cases in which divorce is sought on 'statutory grounds.' Incidentally, it would observe that so far as I know, physicians are practically unanimous in declaring that all the contraceptive practices are in some degree injurious to health.

Practices Held Stupid. "These practices are stupid because they are so evidently subversive of the end which the Birth Control League professes to promote, namely human welfare. And the advocates thereof are shortsighted and superficial. They have not learned the obvious lessons of human history, nor grasped the fundamental facts of human psychology. They fail to realize the inevitable by-products of the practice. It is probably true that if the poorest laborers could restrict the size of their families, they could raise the standard of living, and increase to some degree their material welfare.

But this is only one of the consequences. When we take a comprehensive view of the situation we find that

any group, class or nation, that once becomes addicted to the use of contraceptives does not give it up after the immediate material ends have been attained. They are not so easily deterred by the advantages of these devices merely until they have reached a level of reasonable comfort. They continue them in the interests of class and luxury. This is what has happened and what is happening in those sections of the middle and upper classes that have adopted the abominable vice, and there is no good reason to hope that the poorer classes would fall to follow their example.

Some Effects Set Forth. "Now, the restriction of the number of children to one, two or three for the sake of ease and material satisfaction inevitably produces a disinclination to endure hardship, an inability to put forth painful effort, and a general weakening of moral fiber. This means a decline in every sort of efficiency; for the capacity to endure and the ability to do without will forever remain the essential conditions of achievement. Talk as we will about the 'joy of work,' the sober fact is that every kind of labor involves painful exertion and it is carried on continuously, effectively, and to the limit of one's capacity. There would not find it more pleasant to diminish considerably the amount of time and effort that they spend at their work. Now, if social practices like the use of contraceptives, which aim at a life of ease and a shirking of unpleasant duties reduces fatally the power of endurance, and the ability to carry on sustained and effective labor, it affects the few children that are born even more than the parents; for it deprives them of the necessary training in endurance, and keeps before them the bad example of their luxury-loving father. They are not only inferior in quantity, but poor in quality; that is, in moral quality, which is the supreme human quality. The social group that thus weakens its moral fiber inevitably declines in social power and importance. Witness the decadence of the New England strain in our own population; the condition of the French nation, as described and deplored by such authorities as the great economist, P. Leroy-Beaulieu; and the imminent degeneration that threatens certain sections of the English speaking peoples in more than one country, as set forth in detail by Mr. Boala in his 'Racial Decay.'

Laboring Class Discussed. "I have no intention of denying that large sections of the laboring class have only too much opportunity to cultivate their capacity for endurance. They would be not only more comfortable but more efficient if this opportunity were considerably diminished. But the only safe way to bring about this result is by bettering their condition economically. The remedy advocated by the Birth Control League is futile and disastrous, inasmuch as, in the long run, and sometimes in the short run, it impels its votaries to the other extreme, to the pursuit of ease and luxury, and to the adoption of idealistic practices which inevitably produce moral deterioration and as serious decline in efficiency. Whenever the small family cult is practiced, it is both the effect and cause of a conception of life which regards an indefinite increase of material satisfactions and sensations as the highest good. It involves the most far-reaching exemplification that the world has known of what Carlyle called 'pig-philosophy.' Why should we be in haste to fasten this curse upon the laboring classes? Until such time as the poorest laborers are put in possession of living wages, they have within their power an en-

tirely innocent means of keeping down the number of their offspring, namely, conjugal abstinence. These parents who have sufficient moral strength to adopt this means will be in no danger of character-degeneration through the presence of a small instead of a large family. Those who do not feel equal to this sacrifice can not afford to run the risk of the moral deterioration which follows the use of contraceptives. They need that natural and compulsory form of self-denial which a large family involves. I am well aware that it is easy to find exceptions to the dire consequences that I have attributed to the practice of the small family cult; but my statements apply to large social groups, and assume that the practice is maintained through two or three generations. My own personal experience has shown, and continues to show, that the thing is socially disastrous.

Church Will Ever Oppose. "Were I a believer in the doctrine that 'the end justifies the means,' I should, as a Catholic, rejoice in every extension of the nefarious practices advocated by the Birth Control League. For I should feel assured that every such extension was hastening the day when Catholicism would become the predominant element in our population. Already the tendency in this direction has been considerably accelerated through the prevalence of the small-family cult among non-Catholics. Unfortunately many Catholics have been, to some extent, contaminated by the bad example set in this matter by their neighbors. Nevertheless, the extent to which the Catholics will always remain relatively insignificant. For the church will forever oppose it as something intrinsically and eternally immoral, and will deprive those who persist in it of access to the sacraments in the struggle for existence which the use of contraceptives has created. The Catholic element in our population will survive because it is the fittest to survive; that is, because the Catholic element will retain and sustain those moral qualities that are the chief factor in fitness for survival among human beings. The mass of Catholics will continue to cultivate those qualities which are the only safeguards against the development of rotten hearts and flabby intellects. Catholics will have not only the quantity, but the quality as well, for in the nurture of human beings quality cannot be maintained without quantity. The clearest proof of this statement is the fact that, as between, say one hundred large families of the

poor and an equal number of the middle class families who represent the second generation of the votaries of the small-family cult, a larger number of the efficient and achieving persons will arise out of the former group, than out of the latter group.

"I am invited to send two dollars for membership in the Birth Control League. I must respectfully decline, with the observation that I had much rather give the money to an organization for the training of prize-fighters. It would aid in the development of at least some manly and human qualities. Yours, more in sorrow, than in anger, JOHN A. RYAN, D. D."

OREGON DRIVE ADVERTISED Eastern Magazines Giving Space to Columbia River Highway.

World's Work and the National Geographic Society's magazines are giving the Columbia Highway extended notice in their publications according to a telegram received at the Chamber of Commerce yesterday from S. C. Lancaster, who is in Boston. Mr. Lancaster's telegram, which outlines graphically the interest that Boston has shown in the great Western highway, says:

"The World's Work is preparing an extensive illustrated article of the Columbia River Highway. The National Geographic also gives an extended notice. Houston, president of the Ad Club of the world, favors repeating Washington stunt at the National convention, Philadelphia, in June. Committee meets ten days hence. Boston Chamber of Commerce gave a luncheon in my honor today. Pilgrim Publicity Association hears me Saturday noon. Boston Press Club entertains at luncheon at 1 o'clock, kindness of Eugene returning courtesy of Portland Chamber, kindness of Julius Meier in drive over Columbia River Highway, Berger-Jones pictures made splendid impression here as elsewhere."

Interest in Primaries Keen. ABERDEEN, Wash., March 4.—(Special).—Keen interest is being manifested in the city primary election to be held here Tuesday, at which Republicans will nominate a Treasurer, Clerk, Police Judge and six Councilmen. The hardest fight is between T. H. Hill, incumbent, and E. B. Gregory for City Treasurer.

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Deliveries now,

J. W. LEAVITT & CO., Distributors Broadway at Davis St. Portland, Or. Phone Broadway 3535

The Willys-Overland Company, Toledo, Ohio

"Made in U. S. A."

Advertisement for the Oregon Drive to San Francisco in 30 hours. It features a large illustration of a steamship and text detailing the route, fares, and the involvement of the National Geographic Society and the Chamber of Commerce. The text describes the 'Oregon Drive' as a 4,000-mile journey from Portland to San Francisco, with a stopover in San Diego for the exposition. It mentions that the World's Work and National Geographic magazines are giving the drive extended notice. The advertisement also lists the names of the organizers and the dates of the journey.

Phone Your Want Ads to The Oregonian Main 7070—A 6095