REQUIRED IN RUSSIA

Religious Ceremony Is of Private Concern, Only.

LAW'S POINTS EXPLAINED

William C. Benbow Gives Outline of Requirements "Suitable to Life in Russia."

(This article is one of a series by Mr. Benbow on the fundamentais of government. They are appearing weekly in The Sunday (resemble).

BY WILLIAM C. BENBOW. The decrees in regard to marriage made by the council of the people's commissaries and recognized by the constituent assembly of the Russian

constituent assembly of the Russian people, is, so far as material here, as follows:

"The Russian republic henceforth recognizes civil marriage only.

"Civil marriage is performed on the basis of the following rules:

"I. Persons who wish to contract marriage declare (their intention) or ally or by a written statement to the department of registration or marriages and births at the city hall (regional, district, township, Zemstvo institutions), according to the place of their residence.

their residence.
"Note—Church marriage is a private affair of those contracting it. while civil marriage is obligatory.
"I Decinrations of intention to contract marriage are not accepted (a) from persons of the male sex younger than its years, and of the female sex, is years of age; in Transcaucasia the native inhabitants may enter into marriage upon attaining the age of its for the groom and 13 for the bride; (b) from relatives in the direct line, full and half-brothers and sisters; consanguinity is recognized also between a child born out of wedical and the relatives on the other; (c) from married persons, and (d) from insane.

Those wishing to contract mar-

from married persons, and (d) from insane.

"2. Those wishing to contract marriage appear at the department of registration of marriages and sign a statement concerning the absence of the obstacles to contracting marriage enumerated in article 2 of this decree, and also a statement that they contract marriage voluntarily.

Those guilty of deliberately making false statements about the absence of the obstacles enumerated in article 2 are criminally prosecuted for false statements and the marriage is declared invalid.

"4. Upon the signing of the abovementioned statement the director of the department of registration of marriages records the act of marriage in the book of marriage registries and then declares the marriage to have become legally effective."

These provisions are very simple and they may be suitable to Russian life. However, more solemnity would seem appropriate to the new status contemplated by the contracting parties. No provision is made for any other method of marriage. No marriage is valid unless the foregoing provisions are compiled with. riage is valid unless the foregoing provisions are complied with.

Certificates Are Issued.

A certificate of marriage is issued to each of the contracting parties. There is a curious provision that the parties may choose the name of the husband or of the wife; or, may take a compound of the two names, if they so desire, by which they will be known after the marriage.

There is a provision for the regis-

There is a provision for the regis-tration of births, and thex follows this

tration of births, and thex follows this provision:

"Children born out of wedlock are on an equality with those born in wedlock with regard to the rights and duties of parents toward children, and likewise of children toward parents.

"The persons who make a declaration and give a signed statement to that effect are registered as the father and mother of the child.

"Those guilty of deliberately making false statements regarding the above are criminally prosecuted for false testimony and the registration is declared invalid.

is declared invalid.

"In case the father of a child born cut of wedlock does not make such a declaration, the mother of the child or the guardian or the child itself has the right to prove fatherhood by legal manual."

has the right to prove fatherhood by legal means."

The trouble with this provision is that it ignores the solemnity of the marriage relation making it more or less a matter of form. Numerous evils win grow out of such a law.

In regard to divorce the decrees are equally simple. A declaration of an inlument of marriage by mutual consent, may be filled with the same registrar who issued the the marriage certificate, and the divorce is granted. No other formalities are necessary. No cause need be alleged. No provision for care of children need be made. No provision as to property be made. No provision as to property rights need be authorized. But, as the contracting parties are not supposed to own any property, in a so-cialistic state, this lack is excusable. A certificate of divorcement is then issued to the parties and the thing is accomplished, and one of the fun-damental relationships of the society is destroyed.

ts destroyed. Courts Award Children. It is, however, provided that in case the annulment is by the court, wheth-er by mutual consent, or by only one party after proof, the court may des-ignate with which parent the children

In certain cases the wife may main-tain a civil suit against her former husband for support, in case she has

husband for support, in case she has no means and cannot work. The law is applicable to all persons irrespective of their religious beliefs or the religious rules of any shurch in regard to divorce.

All these decrees as to this relation are vicious for the reason that they tend to undermine the family, which is regarded by nearly all countries as one of the basic foundations of a stable government or state. Thus, again, is seen the tendency of this system. It tends to confusion and chaos in domestic relations as well as in industrial relations, all of which show that it is degenerate in its nature. In connection with these domestic relations, the law of inheritance will be discussed in a future article, It might be added that these decrees are of the date, December 18, 1817. If there have been any recent 1917. If there have been any recent changes the writer has been unable to find them,

Vocational Schools Formed.

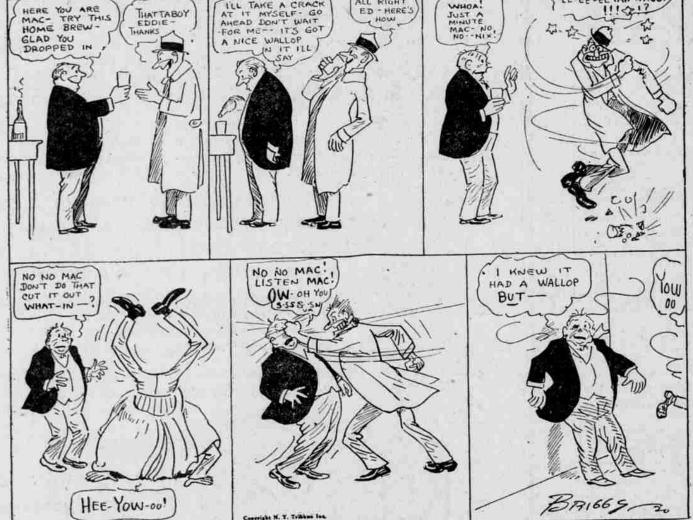
REGINA, Sask.—The provincial government proposes to spend \$100,000 a year for the next ten years to further vocational and industrial training in the high schools of the province. Saskatchewan will receive about \$50,-000 of the federal government's grant fr this purpose.

Hydrodome Boat Is Here. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, famous as the inventor of the telephone, has been devoting some of the leisure of his mature years to the development of a new sort of surface boat. Photographs recently taken show that he

LIFE'S LITTLE JOYS AND GLOOMS PORTRAYED BY BRIGGS









HERE COMES A FUNNY



THERE'S A NICE





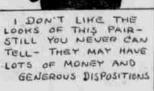
I'LET HIM CALL ME

DAVE - HE WANTS THE GIRL TO THINK

HE'S ON FIRST NAME

ACQUAINTANCE WITH

I PRETENDED







MORE THAN A BUCK

I GAVE HIM A GOOD

NUMBER SIX TO KINDA

LOOK AFTER HIM

BUT LET IT GO.

TABLE AND TOLD



has succeeded in building probably the fastest water-borne craft now in existence. It is called the hydrodome. The boat is a cigar shaped affair,

CALAND ECONOMIC TOPICS CARTOO

WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN MARCH COMES IN LIKE

A LION AND GOES OUT LIKE A LAMB BUT WHAT





