

CIVIL MARRIAGE IS 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 fundamentals of government. They are appearing weekly in The Sunday Gregorian.)

BY WILLIAM C. BEMBOW.
The decision in regard to marriage made by the council of the people's commissaries and recognized by the 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: (1) Persons who wish to contract marriage declare (their intention) orally or by a written statement to the department of registration or marriage and births at the city hall (regional, district, township, Zemstvo institutions), according to the place of their residence.

"Note—Church marriage is a private affair of those contracting it, while civil marriage is obligatory.

Declarations of intention to contract marriage are not accepted (a) from persons of the male sex younger than 18 years, and of the female sex, 16 years of age; in Transcaucasia the native inhabitants may enter into marriage upon attaining the age of 16 for the groom and 15 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 wedlock and his descendants on one side and the relatives on the other; (c) from married persons, and (d) from insane.

"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.

"Upon the signing of the above-mentioned 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 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 registration of births, and then 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 and the registration is null and void.

"In case the father of a child born out of wedlock does not make such a declaration, the mother or the child itself 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 will grow out of such a law. It is equally simple. A declaration of annulment of marriage by mutual consent may be filed with the same registrar who issued 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 rights need be authorized. But, as the contracting parties are not supposed to own any property, in a socialistic state, this lack is excusable. A certificate of divorce is a thing issued to the parties and the thing is accomplished, and one of the fundamental relationships of the society is destroyed.

Courts Award Children.
It is, however, provided that in case the annulment is by the court, whether by mutual consent, or by only one party after proof, the court may designate with which parent the children shall live.

In certain cases the wife may maintain a civil suit against her former 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 church 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, it is seen the tendency of this system. It tends to confusion and chaos in domestic relations as well as in industrial relations, the latter 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, 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 for 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

MOVIE OF A MAN ARRIVING AT AN IMPORTANT DECISION

RECEIVES LETTER FROM LANDLORD SAYING ON ACCOUNT OF HOUSE BEING SOLD - WILL HAVE TO VACATE MAY 1ST.

WHAT TO DO! WHAT TO DO!!

I'VE BEEN A GOOD TENANT FIVE YEARS - PAID RENT IN ADVANCE - IT'S AN OUTRAGE TO HAVE TO MOVE NOW.

"OH WHAT TO DO! WHAT TO DO!!??"

WHY NOT OWN A HOUSE AND - AND - AND LOT??

WELL - GEE WHIZ! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT TEN YEARS AGO!!!

THE HURRY HOME TO CONSULT FRIEND WIFE

OH-H-H AGNES! HURRY UP - WANTA TELL YOU SOMETHIN'!!

SOMEbody IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE.

LOOK DEAR - SUCH A WONDERFUL BARGAIN IN AN ATLAS - THERE HAS BEEN SUCH BIG CHANGES IN THE OLD WORLD YOU KNOW.

GOOD IDEAR!

THE CLERK SAID THE MAPS WERE NEW - UP TO DATE.

WHERE'S POLAND? IT ISN'T EVEN IN THE INDEX!

WELL - THE CLERK SAID - WHERE IS CZECHO-SLOVAKIA? ISN'T HERE?

YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO FIND FAULT.

THEY'VE GOT AUSTRALIA HUNGARY HERE - THERE ISN'T ANY SUCH THING ANY MORE HOW ABOUT THE NEW NATION ARMENIA - HOW BOUT -

YOU CAN'T EXPECT EVERYTHING - YOU'RE SO UNREASONABLE - GIVE IT BACK AND STOP FAULT FINDING.

- AND SAY - WHERE'S FINLAND? HOW ABOUT SCHLESWIG - IT SHOWS IT HERE AS A GERMAN STATE - IT BELONGS TO DENMARK NOW AND -

OH YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART - GO ABOUT YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

NO WONDER! LOOK AT THE COPYRIGHT YEAR 1917!! HA HA HA HA

OH MAN

HERE YOU ARE MAC - TRY THIS HOME BREW - GLAD YOU DROPPED IN.

THAT TABBY THINGS.

I'LL TAKE A CRACK AT IT MYSELF - GO AHEAD DON'T WAIT FOR ME - IT'S GOT A NICE WALLOP IN IT I'LL TELL YOU.

ALL RIGHT ED - HERE'S HOW.

WHOA! JUST A MINUTE MAC - NO - NO - NO.

EE-EE-EE YAH-HOO!!

NO NO MAC! DON'T DO THAT - CUT IT OUT - WHAT-IN?

NO NO MAC! LISTEN MAC! OH YOU SASS!

I KNEW IT HAD A WALLOP BUT -

HEE-YOW-OO!

WOnder WHAT THE HEAD WAITER THINKS ABOUT

HERE COMES A FUNNY LOOKING PAIR - I'LL GIVE THEM A TABLE WAY BACK WHERE NOBODY CAN SEE 'EM THEY GOT NO BUSINESS TO COME HERE -

THERE'S A NICE LOOKING COUPLE - HE'S STUCK ON THE GIRL AND PROBABLY HE'LL SHOW OFF BY SLIPPING ME A PIECE OF CHANGE

I'LET HIM CALL ME DAVE - HE WANTS THE GIRL TO THINK HE'S ON FIRST NAME ACQUAINTANCE WITH ME. I PRETENDED I KNEW HIM

IT WAS WORTH MORE THAN A BUCK BUT LET IT GO - I GAVE HIM A GOOD SEAT - HE SENT ME A BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS AND I'LL TREAT HIM RIGHT - YESSIR MR ADAMS - NICE TABLE FOR YOU.

I'VE GOT A KIND HEART AT THAT - I SMILED AT A GUY LAST WEEK AND EVEN IF HE DIDN'T TIP ME I MADE HIM HAPPY

I'LL GO OVER TO TABLE NUMBER TEN AND ASK THAT FELLOW IF EVERYTHING'S SATISFACTORY IT MAKES 'EM THINK THEY'RE GETTING EXTRA ATTENTION

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS PAIR - STILL YOU NEVER CAN TELL - THEY MAY HAVE LOTS OF MONEY AND GENEROUS DISPOSITIONS

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, equipped with water planes on each side, called pontoons. Hydrofoils, looking somewhat like an open shutter reach from the keel several feet into the water. Propellers of the ordinary airplane variety operate in the water just as the planes of the hydrofoils tend to lift it out of the water. The pontoons touch lightly and the hydrofoils support the structure. As the speed increases, these comparatively small water planes have a tremendous lifting power and carry the craft almost entirely in the air. The speed and ease of maneuver of the new craft will make it a formidable foe to the submarine in future wars.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TOPICS CARTOONED BY DARLING

WHO EVER THOUGHT THE 'BLAMED THING WOULD ACT LIKE THAT

EXCESS PROFIT TAX

PRICES

WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION AND GOES OUT LIKE A LAMB BUT WHAT THE REST OF THE MONTH IS LIKE WE WERE NEVER QUITE SURE OF BEFORE

LION

LAMB

BOY, PAGE 51R OLIVER LODGE

HOOPER ROOM