

LEGAL FIGHT FOR MARTIN BOY STILL ON IN COURT

**During Fit of Anger Mother Signed Away
Her Interest in Him and Now Re-
pents Her Act.**

Willie Joel Martin, aged 7 years, is having a hard time telling just where he's at. For three years now he has been the subject of almost constant litigation in the Multnomah county courts. First his father, W. E. Martin, took the boy from the home in Astoria, ostensibly for a visit with relatives, but never came back. Then the mother brought habeas corpus proceedings, charging the father with abducting the child, and secured the custody of Willie Joel. Hardly had she settled down to the enjoyment of her son's company when the father applied to the courts for the custody of the child.

Mrs. Martin retaliated by bringing a suit for a divorce and asking for the permanent custody of the son. The suit dragged on for several months and in April, 1903, Judge George granted Mrs. Martin the divorce and divided the child between them, that is, he gave the father the custody of the boy for the first year, the mother his custody for the second, and so on, the child alternating between the parents. The father took the lad and went to California, so Mrs. Martin alleges, and failed to return at the end of the year specified, necessitating further litigation.

But during the stay of the father and son in California Mrs. Martin became Mrs. John Reid. As Mrs. Reid she applied for the custody of Willie Joel at the end of the year, but did not secure him until July, when—Mr. Reid testified on Tuesday—four new suits of clothes were purchased, which Willie has worn ever since, "one at a time,

of course," Mr. Reid added, thoughtfully.

With the return of his mother and a new papa Willie Joel's life was no dream. He was hailed as a "stunning brat" by his new papa, who admitted the appellation on the stand, and was otherwise made to realize that it was a child's first duty to obey. But the acquisition of Willie Joel brought trouble to the Reid household and his new papa brought suit for a divorce from Mrs. Reid, but dropped it. The Reids live at 266 Oak street.

This was the situation Saturday, one week ago, when the dove of domestic felicity forsook its roost in the Reid household, precipitating a family row in which Mrs. Reid says Mr. Reid used his teeth on her arm. She left the premises, and to spite Mr. Reid called up Mr. Martin's attorney and offered right then and there to relinquish all right, title and interest to Willie Joel in favor of his father. The attorneys not being under the influence of passion seized the opportunity and Mrs. Reid says that before she knew what she was doing she had signed away all claim to the boy, in regular form, with the customary duplicate.

But Sunday the wandering dove of peace returned to the Reid household at 266 Oak street, and Tuesday afternoon the Reids united in an appeal to Judge George to have the bill of release as signed by Mrs. Reid set aside and the boy returned to her custody. But Judge George said he would hear the facts in the case and then decide. Some evidence was introduced on both sides and the case was continued until December 20.

TIMBER SEASONING PROCESS.

Bureau of Forestry Will Soak Poles and Then Investigate.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The bureau of forestry, at its new experiment stations in Wisconsin and Michigan, will make seasoning tests of cedar and tamarack telephone and telegraph poles which have been submerged in water for varying lengths of time. This is an entirely new line of experiment. That immersion in water seems to affect the rate of seasoning has often been noticed. Rafting is said by many lumbermen to improve timber, and logs which have lain for a long time in swamps are in some places eagerly sought for their superiority for certain uses. But just why this should be true, and what practical use can be made of the fact in seasoning generally, are matters which have never been thoroughly ascertained.

It is known that the sap of green wood contains certain soluble substances—albumen, starch, sugars, tannin, etc.—which undoubtedly are leached out of timber immersed in water to a greater or less extent. In ordinary seasoning these substances are left behind as the water evaporates and are deposited on the cell walls. As seasoning begins on the outside these deposits must act as clogs which virtually bottle up to a certain degree the water in the interior. It is possible also that chemical or physical changes

in the wood cells are produced by soaking.

Timber seasoning is at best tedious and slow work. It can be done fairly well in ten or twelve months, but thorough seasoning requires from 18 to 24 months, the time varying with the different kinds of wood. If the bureau of forestry realizes its expectations from these new experiments, the time required for seasoning poles will be reduced one third, and possible much more. This would prove an exceedingly valuable economy. If, in addition, the durability of the poles can be increased in this way, the saving both to users of poles and to the cause of forest preservation will be enormous. For every year added to the service of poles cuts off a proportionate demand upon the forests for their renewal.

In these new tests the poles will be submerged in water for different periods, from one week up, to decide what length of time will give the best results. They will then be placed on skids about two feet above the ground and left to dry. They will touch each other, but will be laid only one layer deep. At the expiration of every 30 days each pole will be weighed, and also measured to ascertain any shrinkage of its circumference. Unsoaked poles have furnished a circumference shrinkage of one-sixteenth to one-eighth inch in 30 days, and of one-fourth inch in six months.

An important matter in seasoning is the loss in weight. Past experiments with white cedar poles have shown a loss in weight of about one-third after

60 days of drying. In the case of chestnut poles the same length of time showed a 10 per cent loss. These poles are long and very heavy, and such a large weight reduction means a decided saving in freight charges, and increased ease in handling. But this advantage, though important, is small in comparison with the gain in lengthened service. Further, with great resistance to decay it will be possible to lower the present butt diameter requirement, which is now based on the certainty that rot will soon weaken the power of the pole to withstand strain at the surface of the ground. Altogether, if the soaking process fulfills what it seems to promise, it will have a notable bearing on one of the large branches of timber consumption, as a moment's thought of the number of poles in use in the entire country will show.

ROADS BUYING STEEL CARS.

6000 Purchased—15,000 Now Under Negotiation.

New York, Nov. 24.—Ample employment for the furnace and mills is now, says the Iron Age, practically assured for the winter, which is usually faced by the industry with doubts. The buying movement has spread in all directions and has assumed somewhat surprising proportions. Consumers and manufacturers in the general trade are providing for replacing their depleted stocks, this being reflected particularly in the raw materials like pig iron and in the finished goods, like wire, bars, tubes, sheets and cast iron pipe. The purchasing of steel cars by the railroads is conspicuous. During the past few days orders for 6000 steel cars have been placed and 15,000 cars are now under negotiation. A large number of railroads have purchased bridge material during the past week.

The market for foundry irons has been quite active.

PRISON FARE GOOD ENOUGH.

Nan Patterson Rejects Warden's Offer of Cafe Dinner.

New York, Nov. 24.—Miss Nan Patterson received several presents from friends today. Among them was a five-pound box of candy, which she shared with the 57 women prisoners in the Tombs.

Warden Flynn offered to have Miss Patterson's dinner sent to the Tombs from a restaurant, but the prisoner refused, saying she would like prison fare.

HELPED ORGANIZE S. OF R.

Asa Coolidge Warren Dead at the Age of Eighty-Six.

New York, Nov. 24.—Asa Coolidge Warren, for many years a well-known magazine illustrator and one of the organizers of the Sons of the Revolution, is dead at his home here. He was born 56 years ago in Boston.

SWITZERLAND IS IN LINE.

Has Accepted President's Invitation to Second Conference.

Berne, Nov. 24.—The president of the Swiss confederation has informed the American minister that Switzerland accepts in principle President Roosevelt's invitation to be represented at The Hague conference.

So far as they go, Schilling's Best take doubt and difficulty out of getting your table supplies.

At your grocer's messagebook

Save the La Imperial band and get the diamond stud.

Seattle Wins Championship. Spokane, Nov. 24.—The Seattle high school eleven rolled up 78 points this afternoon, prevented the Spokane high school from scoring and won the championship of the Pacific northwest for high school elevens.

Boilers Exploded. Vicksburg, Nov. 24.—In an explosion of the boilers of a cotton gin at the town of Walters, a suburb of this city, two lives were lost and several persons injured, two seriously, today.

Langford Beats Watson. Worcester, Mass., Nov. 24.—Sam Langford had the best of a 12-round bout with Andy Watson, both of Boston, this afternoon.

Removal Notice. Dr. J. A. Regan has moved his dental office to rooms over A. V. Allen's grocery store.



Hand Tailored



Hand Tailored

HERMAN WISE

The Reliable Clothier and Hatter

P. S.—The reduction on OVERCOATS is still on.



ALL CLOTHES BOUGHT AT WISE'S
KEPT PRESSED FREE OF CHARGE

Oh, Yes, Certainly,

PRICE IS NOT EVERYTHING. QUALITY COUNTS.
WELL, HOW ABOUT OVERCOATS, BEARING

THIS LABEL

Suits
\$17.50 to \$30

Alfred Benjamin & Co.
MAKERS * NEW YORK

Overcoats
\$17.50 to \$30

Have you anything in Astoria to beat it, or to equal it?

There are a good many people from old Missouri in Astoria and you've got to show them. What was considered best in Astoria two or three years ago ain't in it now with such garments as are made by Alfred Benjamin & Co., of New York, and which are sold in Astoria exclusively by,

Smilingly yours,

Hand Tailored

Smoke
the New Size
LA IMPERIAL CIGAR

ALL HAVANA. (No imitation goes with us.)

Save the Bands

And get the diamond in Seymour's window, or the \$20 gold piece or a fine suit of clothes.

J. V. BURNS,

Weinhard's Lager Beer.

Information Wanted

of the customer who did not get his money's worth and entire satisfaction from Brown Shoe Co.'s Shoes. They have all that is required to make a good shoe—Price, Style and Durability

Men's Shoes from \$1.50 to \$3.50

Ladies' Shoes from \$1 to \$3.25.

Children's Shoes from 50c to \$1.35.

Misses' \$1 to \$2.

"Good for Bad Boys" and "District 76" Shoes, the kind that wear, \$1.10, \$1.35, \$1.75, \$1.90, \$2 and \$2.25.

We are showing a full line of Slippers in Felt, Vici Kid Plush, etc., elegantly trimmed in Fur, Beads, etc.



STAMPED LINENS

We are offering a beautiful line of Stamped Linens—Center Pieces, Doylies, Tea Cloths, Dresser Scarfs, etc. Also a large assortment of Battenberg, Tenerif, Cluny and Embroidered pieces.

In the line of Cushion Tops we can show you the latest novelties in Lace, Battenberg and Denim.

Now is the time to prepare things for the Holidays, and we certainly can please in the Fancy Work line.

FURS

We are showing all the latest Furs of the season—Bear, Sable, Fox, Mink, Martin, etc., from \$1.50 to \$20. We also have a splendid line of Children's Fur Sets—Bon and Muff.

LADIES' WRAPPERS

Our line of Wrappers is full of the newest styles in Flannelottes, Satene and Percale. Prices, 75c, 90c, \$1, \$1.15, \$1.35, \$1.45, \$1.75.

NIGHT GOWNS

Outing Flannel Gowns, nicely trimmed and of good quality, made by the Peerless People. Prices, 60c, 75c, 95c, \$1, \$1.15, \$1.25, \$1.35 to \$2.

You can always buy cheaper at

THE BEE HIVE