

FOR UNIFORM DIVORCE.

Action Toward Uniform Legislation for Correction of Shocking Abuse.

The Governors of the various States of the Union are to be the leaders of a great national movement for the correction of the present loose laws of divorce. The present unfortunate lack of uniformity which makes it possible for dissatisfied couples to go from one State to another, and gain a divorce for trivial causes, is to



GOV. PENNYPACKER be corrected by having a law that shall be uniform in all parts of the United States. Then there will be no more trips to Dakota, a six months' residence, and divorces granted that are really crimes against laws of morality.

The leader in this important fight is Gov. Samuel W. Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania. At a recent session of the Pennsylvania State Legislature an appropriation of \$10,000 was made for the purpose of having the Governor call for a national congress, consisting of three men from each State, to be appointed by the Governors. These are to draw up a uniform law which is afterward to be adopted by the Legislatures of each State. In this way a uniform law can be secured, and at the same time each State retains its right to regulate its own laws on the subject of matrimony.

The bill was introduced into the Legislature by Senator William C. Sprout, of Delaware County. Gov. Pennypacker knew all its provisions in advance, and was the more in favor of them because President Roosevelt in a message to Congress has thought the matter of sufficient moment to devote to it a considerable amount of discussion, and to recommend action to secure uniform laws.

In his speeches and arguments Gov. Pennypacker contends with great force that the laws should be so arranged that no person could obtain a divorce without very grave cause, and that above all it should not be possible to get in a legal way in a foreign State that which is not legally possible in one's commonwealth. He points out the farce of letting persons take up a six months' domicile in another commonwealth, and says that the first provision of the new law should be a strict order that the divorce must be granted in the State in which the applicants lived. He shows convincingly that the evil of divorce has been permitted to grow until it has become a national menace.

"A few years ago," he says, "there were unhappy marriages, as there will always be, but the divorce was comparatively rare, for people considered marriage a serious thing, a tie that could only be dissolved for the most flagrant causes. That a change has come over the general public is due in the first place to the publicity given to the decency-defying divorces of the rich. Others have felt that if the rich dare quickly and openly cast off ties that begin to bore, they could do likewise. As a result, divorce is extending all over the country, and the good effect of preventive legislation in some States is nullified in others, where divorce is granted to all who apply."

Numerous messages from more than a score of States have been received by Gov. Pennypacker in reply to his call to the different Governors to unite in concerted action for the preservation of the purity of the American home. Gov. Dawson, of West Virginia, writes: "I am thoroughly in sympathy with this movement and shall be glad to appoint delegates to such a congress." In practically similar strain other Governors write, all pledging support of the movement, which its advocates believe will put an end to the present shockingly indecent system of divorce.

There was once a woman who could actually starch a man's shirt in the right place—but she has been dead several hundred years.

He Owed the Butcher.

"What's the matter now?" asked the village editor as the "devil" rushed excitedly into his sanctum.

"Your wife has just eloped with the butcher," replied the inky imp.

"Oh, is that all!" exclaimed the scissor wielder, with a sigh of relief. "Well, that makes one less bill I'll have to settle, anyway."

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