

Administrator's First Notice

To whom it may concern: Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has this day, by an order of the County Court for Marion County, State of Oregon, been duly appointed administrator of the estate of Mae Pierce, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same, duly itemized and verified, to Carey F. Martin, attorney for said estate, 413 Masonic Temple Building, Salem, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated this 28th day of June, 1923.
PAUL PIERCE,
Administrator of the Estate of Mae Pierce, deceased.
Carey F. Martin,
Attorney for Estate.

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Final Notice of Executrix

To whom it may concern: Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Nora B. Ritchie, executrix of the last Will and Testament and Estate of Catherine Ritchie, deceased, has this day filed in the County Court of Marion County, Oregon, her final account in said Estate. You are further notified that said Court has fixed and appointed Monday, July 30th, 1923, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock A. M., of said day, at the County Court Room in the County Court House in said county and state as the time and place for the hearing of objections to such final account and for the settlement thereof.

Dated June 25th, 1923.

NORA B. RITCHIE,
Executrix of the last Will and Testament of Catherine Ritchie, Deceased.
Carey F. Martin, Attorney for Estate.
June 28. July 5, 12, 19, 26.

Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Honorable County Court of the County of Marion, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as administratrix of the estate of Marianna Vandeleur, deceased.

All persons having valid claims against the said estate are requested to present same to me at my residence at Aurora, Oregon, within six months after date of publication of this notice.

DIANA SNYDER,
Administratrix Said Estate.
Napoleon Davis, Attorney for Administratrix.
Date of first publication, June 28, 1923.
Date of last publication, July 26, 1923.

DR. B. F. GIESY

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Office at Residence Aurora, Ore.

Christian Science Committee Takes Exceptions to Article Recently Published

Christian Science Committee on Publication for Oregon, 734 Northwest Bank Building, Portland, Oregon.
Portland, Oregon, June 27, 1923.

To the Editor:

The article that appeared in the Aurora Observer of June 21, headed "Dodge Report in Christian Science Litigation Filed" is very misleading: it is a one-sided account which is by no means a fair presentation of the findings in the case. It is largely devoted to a justification of Mr. Dittmore at the expense of casting reflections upon the personal standards of propriety of language and conduct of his fellow Directors who deposed him; and this, almost to the complete exclusion of dealing with the principal issues. You will no doubt be interested in knowing that the so-called "Christian Science Committee on Information" (in whose name this article has been broadcast) is but the instrument of Mr. Dittmore and his few supporters; its name is misleading, inasmuch as it is without authority from the Church, nor is it at all representative of the great body of Church members.

It may be well at the outset to bear in mind that the report to which the article refers is not a court decision, but a report of findings of fact by a referee before whom evidence was taken. The referee, or "Master," as he is known in Massachusetts, is not supposed to pass upon the law involved, and his conclusions and such legal opinions as he takes occasion to express are all subject to review by the court that appointed him. The same Master heard the evidence in the former case,—the one involving the trustees of the Christian Science Publishing Society,—in which he reported adversely to the Directors but was reversed and overruled by the Supreme Court in its final decision upholding the supremacy of the Mother Church By-Laws in accordance with the evident intent of their author, Mrs. Eddy. The report lately filed by the Master deals with the same subject matter as his former report, but from the standpoint of how the facts affect the legality of Mr. Dittmore's removal from the Board of Directors by his fellow members in 1919.

The article in question purports to state or quote the Master's findings as to why the majority Directors voted to dismiss Mr. Dittmore, yet it omits altogether any mention of the Master's main finding on the subject, and likewise neglects to say anything about certain other important factors mentioned by the Master in his report:—for instance, Mr. Dittmore's obstinate conduct in connection with the Publishing Society controversy, and his attitude in the matter of certain of the Church By-Laws,—a position tantamount to his repudiating the authority and purpose of the Founder of the Church.

The report includes a number of findings on the issue of good or bad faith in the vote for dismissal, which apparently amount to a finding of good faith. On this issue, the principal finding is worded as follows:

"I do not find, however, that their preparation and adoption of the resolution to dismiss him was wholly induced by feelings against him of the above character (hostility or dislike.) I find that the controlling motive which induced its adoption by the defendants who voted for it was the desire on their part to remove the obstacle presented by the plaintiff's presence on the Board to their attempts to

arrange a compromise with the Trustees; though they acted more readily under said controlling motive by reason of their willingness to disassociate themselves from a colleague with whom they could not agree and whom they did not like. Except to the above extent I am unable to find that their action was not in good faith. These were the findings of the former report."

In this connection the defendant Directors positively and utterly denied before the Master, and still firmly deny, that any criticism of them by the plaintiff had anything to do with their vote for his dismissal.

Mr. Dittmore speaks of himself and those who agree with him as "the progressive element in the church," but his statement that the so-called progressive element is "gaining much strength" is not borne out by the evidence. The Annual Meeting of The Mother Church was held in Boston early this month, and the Boston Post of June 5 says the large Mother Church edifice "was crowded to the doors, many of the members being obliged to stand.....It was one of the largest meetings of members the church has ever held. Owing to the fact that the case of John V. Dittmore, a former member of the Christian Science Board of Directors, is still in the courts, no action was taken on that matter, but the present Board of Directors was unanimously sustained and reference to their plans for the church and for the use of the Christian Science Manual as the guiding authority of the church was met with repeated outbursts of applause."

Reports from church officers at the time showed substantial growth along all lines, in number of members and new churches, the additions to church membership the past year greatly exceeding any previous year in the church's history.

The closing paragraph of the Dittmore article is evidently calculated to produce sentiment against the form of church government established by Mrs. Eddy, and in favor of interpretation of by-laws altogether different from and inconsistent with her evident intention,—perversions, which, to the normal Christian Scientist, would be unthinkable disobedience. This serves to call attention to a vital point of difference between the parties to this litigation:—the firm stand of the Directors for the preservation of the integrity of the church Manual and Mrs. Eddy's teachings on the one hand, and the advocacy on the other of policies and interpretations, the inevitable effect of which would practically amount to changes in by-laws, the annulment or amendment of which the Manual expressly forbids.

The great mass of Christian Scientists, the world over, are loyally supporting the church of Mrs. Eddy's founding, its Manual and its Board of Directors. They are learning that whatever tends to disobedience stunts and deposes, while obedience exalts and stimulates spiritual growth. In "The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany" p.230, Mrs. Eddy says: "Of this I am sure, that each Rule and By-law in this Manual will increase the spirituality of him who obeys it, invigorate his capacity to heal the sick, to comfort such as mourn, and to awaken the sinner."

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