

# THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY  
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP

Entered at the postoffice at Scio, Oregon as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION, IN ADVANCE \$1.75  
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*I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

SCIO, OREGON, DEC. 16, 1920

## THE DIVORCE EVIL.

The American home is the basis upon which our American civilization and government is constructed. Destroy our domesticity and our governmental structure will soon crumble. It follows then that whatever destroys the American home is a blow at American government and there is no one feature of American society which is destroying our American homes so rapidly as the divorce departments of our courts. Take any of our metropolitan newspapers and you will be astounded, if not alarmed at the long lists in the divorce column.

The divorce, especially where there are children, is especially sad. It proclaims that those children probably have not had the home training they are justly entitled to. The home where the father spends the major part of his idle time at resorts of various kinds, is a drunkard, or is untrue to his marital companion, or where the wife and mother is what is commonly understood as a gadabout, or likes to associate with other men too well, are the people whose names appear in divorce records. Then think of their children who are on the street when they should be at home. No wonder they form habits which place them in reformatories and later on, perhaps, in penitentiaries.

Then after the divorce. If the children are awarded to the mother who usually can give them but a meager support their lot is not a happy one by any manner of means. They may not have been taught habits of industry and form other habits on the streets most generally vicious which often lead to criminality.

If the children are awarded to the father their condition is often worse. Happily, however, there are exceptions to this rule. The responsible parent does his or her duty nobly and the children grow up to be good citizens.

But if the home environment is what the American home should be, even if it is humble, there is an atmosphere which the growing children breathe which is almost a guaranty of good citizenship.

But parents who provide this kind of a home do not as a rule appear in the divorce courts. Go back to pre-marriage days and you will find this was not a hasty marriage. The young man and young woman probably spent months in their courting. They knew each other and when they married it was for life. They purposed to build a true American home.

Fifty or sixty years ago the divorced man or woman was in the eyes of the world a disgraced person. Many true American homes would not receive them as social

equals. Now the divorcee is not off color in society circles at all. The divorcee is no longer a stigma. They marry our sons and daughters without a blush and occasionally a happy home results.

Yet there are married people who should be divorced. Rather they should never have married. But having been legally separated they should not rush into another marriage. They should know their proposed husband or wife before taking a step which may lead them again to the divorce court.

The time to prevent the divorce is before marriage. People should know each other intimately for at least six months before they assume the marital relation. It is safe to say that not more than one out of a dozen divorced couples spent six months in courtship. Then why not enact a law requiring couples who contemplate marriage to have spent six months in the pleasure of courtship. It is wisdom to not marry in haste to repent at leisure.

Of course to attempt to enact any law to regulate marriage would be to create a hardship on occasional couples. But where one hardship should exist fifty couples would be benefited and be saved the disgrace of the divorce court, for it is even yet a disgrace but is rapidly growing respectable.

Then divorces are granted upon too frivolous causes. A couple seeking divorce if given a severe lecture by the judge might often patch up their differences and live peaceably if not happily.

Then if re-marriage should be prohibited for five years instead of one year, as the law is now, people would think seriously before rushing into the divorce court.

A divorce law enacted by congress instead of by the states if strict enough would result in good.

But the right time to prevent the divorce is before marriage. A ripe acquaintance and a determination to become true helpmeets as our fathers and mothers did will not only result in happy marriages but a careless divorce court.

## HUNTING FOR DISHONESTY.

Our republican friends in congress have had smelling friends out seeking dishonesty and wastefulness in the supply war activities of the Wilson administration. Of course they found it for there are dishonest democrats (assuming that all of the contractors during the war were democrats) as well as dishonest republicans. Strange to say, if a man is dishonest or a grafter his political complexion does not add to or detract from his character. It will crop out if the opportunity is presented.

It was the same with contractors during the Civil and Spanish-American wars. The embalmed beef scandal emanating from the Chicago packing houses, from whom canned beef for our soldiers in Cuba was purchased, is almost a stench until today. Even President McKinley's secretary of war was almost convicted as being guilty with the scandal.

In the Civil war contractors were more honest than they are now, or they had not learned the tricks of the grafter as men of today know them.

Of course dishonesty and wastefulness have been and will be found. When a man is found guilty punish him to the full extent of the law. But the Wilson administration should not be held responsible for the dishonesty and wastefulness of the American people. Guilty contractors could not be called dishonest until dishonesty had been proven. When found out it was too late. The public money had been spent or stolen. All we can now do is to

punish and Mr. Wilson will be as glad to punish the dishonest grafter as he is to reward merit.

It would have been the same had the president been a republican.

In some way too many of us are dishonest or are grafters when we work for the public. Even the laborer employed on public works does as little work as he can and yet hold his job.

We had a sample of this sort of grafting up on the power line last summer as well as wastefulness and carelessness on the part of the management. Men simply will not do as honest work or manage as carefully when working for the public as they will when employed in private endeavor.

And this trait seems to prevail in the characters of the vast majority of the people whether laborer or contractor.

The contracts during the late war were so large that the grafter, or more properly named thief, had innumerable opportunities to get in his work. And criminal wastefulness could be observed wherever public work was going on. The aircraft scandal was deplorable. But what could be done about it? Men were inexperienced. It was new business. Yet we know this experience cost the American taxpayers a half billion dollars.

No, the present administration is no more to blame than were President McKinley or President Lincoln. It is simply the downright dishonesty and grafting of the American people—some of them. As said before, we can punish but what benefit will it be to us; we who pay the bill to send a few of these dishonest devils to the penitentiary where we will have them to support? It is a game where the taxpayer loses no matter what the result.

## RULE OR RUIN.

There is too much of the "rule or ruin" spirit among the nations of the world to form a real workable league or association of nations. There is not enough of the willingness to compromise and recognition of the other fellows' rights.

This seems to prevail more extensively among small than the large nations; unless large nations on whom necessarily must rest the responsibility of enforcing the mandates of the league or association, has power to enforce its mandates, it is simply a structure whose foundation is builded on sand.

That the small nations which have all to gain and nothing to lose should bring this feature to the fore in this first session of the league is surprising. Of course each signatory has the right of withdrawal, but for Argentina to refuse to play ball just because she could not have adopted such rules and regulations as she desires, and for two or three small nations to declare they will withdraw if Bulgaria is admitted to membership, does not argue well for the future of the league.

Of course the failure of the United States to sign up on the league has placed that body at sea and without nothing but a makeshift rudder for guidance. The nations of the world depended upon the United States to furnish the leader. When the United States failed to come to time, national pride alone forced them to go on with the organization. But from the first day it could be seen that a leader was lacking. The constructive power was not there.

When the present league fails, as fail it probably will, it will be difficult to construct an association of nations upon its ruins. Mr. Harding may form an international alliance with the large nations of the world, sufficient to control the world but that would be doing just what Washington warned us against.

(Continued on page 4.)

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