

# FAME, BUT NO FUNDS

## Light of Foot, and Light of Purse

**WHEN**, in 1924, an obscure car-driver, Matthew George Lominga, won the Trocadero Dancing Championship, he gave up the car-hire business and blossomed out as a dancing master.

**BUT** having danced his way to fame, Lominga found that the business of teaching dancing is not all that it is cracked up to be. First he fell out with his wife, and now he says that he earned more money as a car-driver than he does as a dancing teacher.

Tall and swarthy, and affecting the brush-back to his ample locks, Lominga (or Lominoga, for that is his correct name) appeared in Court on Friday with the idea of securing a variation of a maintenance order.

It was his matrimonial trouble that first made Lominga doubt the brilliance of the new era which opened up for him when he threw off the overalls and donned dress-suit and boiled shirt.

He had dreamt of a future in which curt patrons would be replaced by well-dressed flappers, who would throng his studio and listen to the words of wisdom which fell from his lips, before they were guided through the mazes of the modern dance—at so much per lesson, of course.

But it was not to be. Mat's business prospered for a while, but later became slack. Also there were other causes which led to frequent quarrels between the Lomingas, man and wife.

In a very short time Mat was living with his people at Jane-street, West End, and his wife had removed to Prospect-street, Kangaroo Point.

But Mat Lominga's dancing partner still went through the mazes of the

dance with him.

Then Phyllis Lominga sued her hubby for maintenance, and an order for 30/ a week was made against him. But Lominga says that, with decreasing business, he found the burden of the payments too heavy, and so on Friday he applied for a variation of the order, as it was impossible for him to continue.

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The case was heard before Mr. Hislop, P.M., Lominga being represented by Mr. A. Mansfield (instructed by Mr. C. Harries) and his wife by Mr. James Crawford.

Lominga went into the witness box and related that it was in September, 1926, that his wife obtained a maintenance order against him for 30/- a week.

Since then his business as a dancing master had not prospered and his income from that source had been only £350 for the year 1926. His expenditure was £317 for the same period, and he had no other income.

His rent was £3/5/ a week and he paid his dancing assistant £1/10/ a week. Besides this he had to pay £11 a month to the motor car people as he still owed money on his Hupmobile car, which he used for hire before he took to dancing.

Three years ago the car had been worth £575, but now, at most, its value was £200. He was five months in arrears with his payments and a sum of £60 was still owing.

## LOMINGA'S DANCING PARTNER.

Board and lodging ate up another £2 a week, and he owed his mother and brother £60 on the furniture in his dancing studio.

Continuing, Lominga said that his dancing business had not been paying and his income was insufficient to continue paying his wife 30/ a week. About seven months ago he went to the Registrar of Births—

Mr. Crawford (to the P.M.): "I object, your Worship, on the grounds that no parent can go into that witness box and help to make illegitimate a child, while wedlock exists between the parties."

The P.M. over-ruled the objection.

Continuing, Lominga said that he got a copy of a birth certificate and searched the register. He saw the signature of his wife on a copy of a document. Her name before he married her was Phyllis Ignatius. He noticed that the date of the birth of a child was October 17, 1925.

Mr. Crawford: You have a dancing partner, haven't you?—Yes; she is 24 years of age and I am 29.

Are there any beds in your dancing studio—No; only some chairs and mirrors.

Have you ever stayed all night in your studio with your dancing partner?—No; never.

Continuing, Lominga said that his

wife had never accused him of misconduct with anyone during the past six years, and it was not true that he and a dancing partner had come out of his studio at midnight.

Mr. Crawford: Did you and a dancing partner go to Sydney together in October, 1925?—Yes; and we won £50 trip money. We stayed at a hotel in King's Cross, where I understand the champions were staying.

And it was after that that you won a prize at the Trecadero?—Yes; a £40 prize.

Was it not a

prize.

Was it not a £100 prize?—No; only £40, and I gave my partner £20 out of it.

Continuing, Lominga said that he kept a wages book, but that his dancing partner did not keep it. He could

not say how many pupils he had.

Lominga said that he and his partner were often in and out of the studio, but he would swear that they had not come out at midnight. The place was closed up about 11 p.m. He got a Mr. Jack, from Kangaroo Point, to keep his accounts.

Mr. Crawford: You give your dancing partner 30/ a week?—From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

And all for 30/. Do you provide her with dresses or shoes?—No; I do not.

Lominga added that he considered he was making a better income as a car driver than he did as a dancing master.

As a car driver he had earned £240 a year besides paying off his car, and this was better than the £? he collected yearly as a dancing master. His car was in bad order now.

**Mr. Crawford:** Everything is in bad order with you now? **-Yes, very bad order.**

Lominga said that he often had his car in front of the studio and often drove his dancing partner to her home in West End.





Crawford as to the evidence he would reserve his decision, and would consult the authorities quoted.

#### **MATTHEW GEORGE LOMINGA.**

He strenuously denied that he ever had a flat in Gladstone - road, which he occupied with his dancing partner or anyone else, nor had he ever slept at his dancing partner's place, or spent a night at her home.

Mr. Crawford intimated that he would not call any evidence on behalf of the wife.

After lengthy argument by Mr. Crawford as to the evidence of the birth of a child being admissible, the P.M. said that he was satisfied that Lominga could pay 30/ a week in support of his wife, but on the point raised by Mr. Crawford as to the