

DIVORCE MILL GRINDS UNCEASINGLY

Folk Who Love "The One and Only,"
Then Hate 'Em

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MARRIED LIFE

LAWYER CURRAN made a spectacular flourish in the Divorce Court on Tuesday when he created a record by securing six divorces in half as many hours. In three hours he secured the dissolution of an aggregate of eighty-three years of married life, eighty-three years which six people claimed to have been eighty-three years of more or less miserable existence.

In none of the cases did the respondent answer the charges against him or her, and after the recital of every tale Mr. Justice Draper, with monotonous regularity took up his quill, and wrote and said "Decree nisi returnable in six months."

LOVED THE BOSS.

A quiet looking and stolid laborer named Denis Papchuck was the first on Mr. Curran's list. He wanted the title of wife that he had given to Edith Agnes Papchuck, taken away from her, and named William Jamieson as the reason for his love turning to hate. He accused his wife of having mis-conducted herself with Jamieson.

In England the Papchucks were married the year after the war. They came to Western Australia twelve months later and after living at Kalgoorlie and Geraldton settled down to tent life on Churchman's Brook estate.

By the time they had gone to Churchman's Brook the home-nest was

A Red Move

A Bad Move

enriched with three little Papchucks, and as yet nothing had occurred to break the domestic peace.

But according to Papchuck's story the move to Churchman's Brook was a bad one and had consequences that have proved fatal to his early dream of a long and happy marriage.

Papchuck was working on night shift, he said, and because he objected to visits paid to his wife while he was away by a shift boss named William Jamieson, frequent quarrels soon began to rattle the foundations of their domestic bliss.

His objections and the mutual quarrels and no effect other than straining their own relationship, and in January, 1926, she left her home and children, and settled in Perth to live.

Papchuck engaged a private enquiry agent named Lees and went to watch No. 50 Short-street, where she was known to be living. Their watch was not in vain, for according to Papchuck, ~~and in his home corroborated by the~~ detective, they saw Jamieson go into the house late one night. Later still the watchers went in too, and found Mrs. Papchuck reclining on a bed and Jamieson, coatless and without boots, sitting beside her on a chair.

After that his wife used to visit Churchman's Brook each week-end, call on the children and then go to Jamieson's camp. In November, 1927, she came and took possession of the tent and the children and so Papchuck determined not to live with her again, gathered up his clothes and shifted to another tent, close by.

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One morning, passing her tent at 3 o'clock, he heard the children crying and on investigating the cause of their lamentation, discovered them by themselves and his wife—he knew not where. Nevertheless he had a fair idea where she might be found, and accordingly went along to Jamieson's camp. From outside he heard his wife's voice and Jamieson's. His knock at the door was unanswered, and even when he threw a stone through the window, the door remained locked.

Some time later Mrs. Papchuck returned to her camp, and, said the husband, she returned in her night dress.

The Last Straw

Behind her came Jamieson and Jamieson and Papchuck fought. Who won and what happened at that early morning duel is not revealed, except that neither was killed.

In order to remove them from a maternal influence that Papchuck considered not good for them, he placed the children in the keeping of the State, and his story closed with the final scene of Mrs. Papchuck going to Jamieson's camp at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, December 2, and staying there all night.

Papchuck, with the judge's murmur, "Decree nisi," singing in his ears, left the box, and glancing at his Unhappy Ro', Mr Curran called the next name, Mrs. Mansfield.

"COMPANY, VILLIANOUS COMPANY."

Amy Mansfield had not herself seen

service. One of the duties of the Board is "to make careful inquiry as to whether any person should be transferred from an ordinary prison to a reformatory prison."

The whole matter of the Reform is very vague. It is difficult to learn to what steps the Board go in the matter of "careful inquiry regarding prisoners." for the Superintendent is the only member continually on the spot, and even he cannot be said to be in close touch with the prisoners.

The outstanding injustice of the selection of prisoners for the Reform is that no one is selected unless he has been sentenced to a period of at least twelve months.

In other words a man must commit a crime that is sufficiently bad to earn 12 months' imprisonment or he is not eligible



Papchuck, petitioner in the divorce suit reported on page 16.

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