

LIFE WAS TOUGH; WOMEN'S WOES

LIFE can be tough. We all build castles in the air. Somehow realisation of our dreams always seems tantalisingly just around the corner. So it was recently proved with 45-years-old Mrs. Emma Adeline Vengert, of Riley-street, City, and lately of Dora Creek, near Newcastle, according to evidence last week in Mr. Justice Edwards' Divorce Court.

MR. VENGERT recently decided to approach the court hurriedly so as to be freed from her husband and to marry a man, Stephen Foley, with whom she had been living and by whom she said she has had six children, including twins.

Though the court hastened proceedings in response to Mrs. Vengert's appeal, Mr. Justice Edwards learned the regrettable fact last week that Foley had lately died.

Life has been pretty tough on Mrs. Vengert ever since on April 14, 1917, she accepted as a partner in the battle of existence a Russian member of the first A.I.E. Jack

in the battle of existence a member of the first A.I.F., Jack Vengert, the court learnt.

Vengert was 23 and his bride 21 and she the daughter of Martin Gudshus, a fisherman at Dora Creek when the knot was tied.

Vengert was a cook, Mrs. Vengert told the court. But whom he cooked for or where, she couldn't say. She never knew.

Mr. Justice Edwards: Cooks must cook for someone. They must work somewhere?—That was his occupation.

"We didn't agree at all. He used to drink a lot. He got drunk every weekend and assaulted me," quoth Mrs. Vengert to the judge.

Vengert had a job helping to guard the Dora Creek bridge, Mrs. Vengert averred. He didn't give her any money, paid all the bills himself, and was very close fisted. Quarrels arose. She stayed with him only a couple of months. She then returned to her father. At night Vengert forced his way into her room. She didn't want to have anything to do with him.

...used together against her will

They lived together against her will. Next thing she knew Vengert was entertaining an unknown woman at the family home. She saw the woman washing, working about the place, and there at nights. There was only one bed in the house.

HELPED FATHER

In the meantime, her father Martin Gudshus had been keeping her on the products of his fishing—a meagre £2 or £3 a week. He is 76 now.

Vengert tripped abroad with the A.I.F. On his return in 1918 he asked her to kick off again in the marriage stakes. Mrs. Vengert refused, fearing a repetition of his earlier conduct.

About 1920 a man named Stephen Foley came to the house helping her father with the fishing.

Mrs. Vengert lived with him. Six children were born. Then a few years ago he developed T.B. She started divorce proceedings in order to marry Foley, but he died a few weeks ago.

The Judge: Why didn't you seek

The Judge: Why didn't you seek relief earlier?—We have been very poor for 20 years. Foley didn't earn very much money. He supported me as well as he was able. Sometimes we were on the dole.

Corroborative evidence having been given by smiling 76 years-old Martin Gudshus. Mr. Justice Edwards pronounced a decree nisi on the grounds of desertion and adultery with a woman unknown.



Another case heard by Mr. Justice Edwards last week of the toughness of life as reflected in the habits of a husband concerned young-looking, neatly-dressed Mrs. Grace Sylvia Wilson (formerly Hall), of Mansfield-street, Rozelle.

STOPPED ASKING

Mrs. Wilson was 18, and Frederick Victor Wilson, of Dargham-street, Glebe, one year older when the knot was tied on January 10, 1929, at Glebe.

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Wilson just seemed to regret the fact after his marriage that he was married, quoth Mrs. Wilson, putting her marital troubles in a nutshell.

He went out nearly every night. When she asked where he went she just got smacked in the face.

"I got that way I didn't ask any more," averred Mrs. Wilson.

He drank frequently. She left him about four times. He asked her back. He said he was sorry, he was just naturally bad-tempered.

He blamed her because the baby died. He drank just as badly. Sat up all night just staring at her till she got frightened.

At times he

At times he threw the crockery at her. One Boxing Day he

came home drunk and smashed the glass. He gave her a black eye. She had him bound over at the police court.

James Hereford Hall said when he visited the Wilson home, Wilson once pointed to a piece of bread and butter and said it was enough for two or three days. At times he snatched food away from the table. He was violent occasionally, and once threw a carving knife after Hall into the street.

Mr. Justice Edwards duly pronounced a decree nisi.



SHAKING violently with nerves Mrs. Thelma Eileen Lowe (formerly *Weston*), of Crown-street, Wollongong, salesgirl, could hardly tell the judge how Randolph Lowe, of West-street, Balgowlah, had treated her following their marriage on November 17, 1934, at Lithgow.

BAD NAMES

Lowe at that time was a clerk in the Department of Labor and Industry at

Lowe at that time was a clerk in the Department of Labor and Industry at Lithgow, averred Mrs. Lowe. They were staying at a hotel. He caught her one day by the shoulders and threw her on the bed. The proprietor called out that if Lowe didn't open the door, police would be called. Lowe calmed down and opened the door. Next day Mrs. Lowe returned to her parents.

Lowe obtained a transfer to Sydney. She came down with him. They lived at Manly. He called her bad names and hit her. The baby fell off the table, so he assaulted her.

She was talking with the woman next door one day. He didn't wait for her to eat their sweets.

"Why didn't you wait for me?" she asked. He threw the banana custard over her.

Mr. Justice Edwards granted a decree nisi on the ground of constructive desertion.





Mrs. Wilson.





**MRS. EMMA VENGERT and her father, MARTIN
GUDSHUS.**