

"TRIAL MARRIAGES" SCORED BY COURT

In Stahl Annulment Suit
Goff Says He Sees No
Wisdom in Law.

GIRLS PLAY FAST AND LOOSE WITH WEDLOCK

Justice Remarks on Frankness
of Wife's Admission That She
Lied About Her Age.

Justice Goff placed himself unequivocally on record yesterday against the law that makes it possible for a young woman who has married under her eighteenth year of age "to play fast and loose with the marriage relation" by coming into court and asking an annulment because she was not of legal age at the time of the wedding.

The justice made his observation in the course of the trial of the annulment suit brought by Mrs. Wilhelmina Stahl, who, at the age of sixteen, secretly married Jacob Stahl, twelve years ago. Stahl left his wife six months after their marriage. Mrs. Stahl frankly told Justice Goff yesterday that she wanted the annulment so that she might marry again.

"I cannot see," said Justice Goff, "the wisdom of the Legislature making it possible for a young woman to secure an annulment of marriage. And while a judge must obey the laws, not make them, I feel it to be fair to say that that bit of legislation was not the result of reflection on the part of those who instituted it."

"It is a matter of common knowledge," Justice Goff continued, "that a young woman of sixteen years is quite mature, even in our own climate, and I am not inclined to give any young lady, under such circumstances, a liberal interpretation of the law. When a young woman or girl enters into the marital relation and adopts the name of her husband, she should be relieved of the obligations of that act by playing fast and loose with the marriage relation."

Mrs. Stahl informed the court that she had been married for sixteen years, and that she had performed the ceremony when she was eighteen years old, because she knew he would not marry her if aware that she was only sixteen. Justice Goff asked Mrs. Stahl why she wanted the marriage annulled. She replied, "I want to get married again." The justice congratulated her on her frankness.

Justice Goff reserved decision in the case to give Mrs. Stahl time to submit further evidence as to her age when she was married.

There have lately been several cases of annulment, in which the wives, bringing the suits, contended they were not of the legal age of consent when they contracted the marriage. These marriages have been referred to as "trial marriages." It was recently decided in a county outside of New York, in a similar case, that an annulment may be obtained on the same ground, even where the marriage took place with the consent of the parent or parents of the minor, providing that the couple so married did not live together after the wife was eighteen years old.

ROMANCE LASTS ONLY SIX WEEKS

Real Estate and Marital Partnership of Stoddards
Fails.

A romance which began last February, when Miss Mabel Henrietta Cole was married to Mr. H. Stoddard, vice-president of the real estate company of which she was the head, was shattered yesterday, when Mrs. Stoddard issued a summons against her husband, charging him with non-support.

The action is returnable on Monday at 2 o'clock.

Mrs. Stoddard attracted wide attention three years ago by amassing a fortune through real estate operations. She was president and treasurer of the M. H. Cole Company, of 500 Fifth av. Stoddard was made vice-president after he had been employed for two years by Miss Cole.

They were married on February 4, 1914. Mr. Stoddard had been appointed director of directors of the New York Tercentenary Commission, and the future appeared to be bright for the young couple. Yesterday's proceedings brought out the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard lived together only six weeks, at the end of which time Stoddard left their apartments at the Hotel Biltmore, his wife remaining there.

It appears that about that time Mrs. Stoddard had heavy losses in Wall Street speculations, and gave up the real estate business after she suffered a nervous breakdown.

This fact, as well as the allegation that Stoddard failed to contribute to her support, was set forth by Mrs. Stoddard yesterday. Her attorney is Thomas H. Keogh, of 50 Pine st., but he was unable to say last night whether or not Stoddard would fight the action. Mr. Stoddard severed his connection with the Tercentenary Commission on August 5.

Mrs. Stoddard said last night at the Biltmore that she had caused the complaint to be issued, and intimated that the step was in the nature of a preliminary proceeding, and that a more serious action is likely to follow.

Mrs. Stoddard's father was Robert Cole, a prominent real estate man of Montreal. She is a member of the Harmony Club, the Latin-American Circle and the Public Good Society.

Maternity Attire
Dresses, Coats, Suits, Skirts, Corsets
Preserve good outlines during this
period. Ready to wear or made to
measure at very moderate price.
Bridal and other special outfits free
LANE BRYANT, 13 West 38th St., N. Y.

SLEUTH 'HELPS' THEM ROB

Arrests Newly Made "Pals"
and Both Go to Workhouse.

Detective Kutler, disguised as a longshoreman, while strolling about at Broad and South sts. yesterday morning, received a cordial invitation from two loiterers to assist them in robbing a sailor who was asleep in a doorway after imbibing a little too freely the night before. Kutler accepted the kind invitation gratefully.

Just as the men started through the sailor's clothes the detective struck one of them with a blackjack, at the same time blowing his whistle for assistance. After a fight the men were subdued and taken to the Old Ship station.

The men said they were Peter Rogers, of 249 East 35th st., and James Healy, of 329 Union st., Brooklyn. They were sentenced to three months in the workhouse by Magistrate Campbell in the Tombs Police Court.

SHERIFF TO USE \$4,500 FOR POOR

Jury Panels Give Dinner
Souvenir Money for
Charity in City.

The \$4,500 fund, which Sheriff Grifenhagen suggested to the three panels of his jury should be devoted to charitable purposes rather than the purchase of dinner souvenirs, is now complete. The \$1,500, which the first panel turned over a few weeks ago, was augmented yesterday by similar sums from the second and third panels.

The money will be distributed among the poor of Manhattan as soon as the cold weather comes. Some of it will be expended in coal and food, while another part will be used to keep a roof over families severely afflicted.

Sheriff Grifenhagen will have personal charge of the distribution, but will depend on charitable organizations and neighborhood associations to furnish the names of families in need. His own investigator will then report.

Sheriff Grifenhagen received a letter yesterday from Benedict J. Greenhut, the dry goods merchant, a member of the third panel, approving the idea of using the money at home, instead of sending it to the Red Cross in Europe.

Mr. Greenhut said that he wished to offer the unpopular suggestion that if the countries in Europe can afford to carry on their extensive warfare they also can take care of their destitute and wounded. He pointed out in this city men taking part in the war who will need aid.

COTTON LOAN FUND WITHIN THE LAW

Attorney General Reassures
Bankers of Legality of
Relief Plan.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, Nov. 7.—At the suggestion of President Wilson, Attorney General Gregory this afternoon asserted that the proposed cotton loan fund of \$135,000,000 was not in violation of the Sherman law. The President, in a letter to the Attorney General, suggested that the proposed fund stands in a class by itself and "can hardly be looked upon as, by possibility even, a dangerous precedent."

The formal opinion of the Attorney General was given to reassure certain New England bankers who, in view of the New Haven prosecution, had misgivings over subscribing to the proposed cotton fund. Mr. Gregory acquiesced in the President's opinion and he fortifies it by the declaration that the plan does not fall within the purview of the anti-trust laws, either the Sherman or Clayton law, or the trade commission measure.

The Attorney General's opinion is interesting because it sets forth the government's interpretation as to what constitutes a violation of the law.

"Nothing in the nature of price fixing, restriction of production, division of territory or control of markets is involved," Mr. Gregory says. "Loans will be made at freely to buyers of cotton as to producers. The members of the syndicates will be perfectly free to make other loans in any amount to any persons under any lawful terms."

Borrowers will be under no restraint whatever as to the price or the time at which they may sell their cotton. Nor will their free agency in borrowing, or in not borrowing, or in seeing fit, and from whom they see fit in any manner, be restricted."

WEDDING GUEST ROBBED

Attacked by Bandit on Way
Home—Woman Gives Alarm.

Albert Miller, a clerk, living at 159 South 2d st., Williamsburg, attended a wedding reception on Friday night, and yesterday morning, while he was returning to his home, he was attacked by a highwayman, who struck him on the head with a blackjack and robbed him of \$40.

A woman suffering from insomnia, who was seated at a window of her home, witnessed the attack and raised an alarm. Several patrolmen answered, but the thief had disappeared.

Detective Dowling later arrested Richard Leary, of 39 Marcy av. Leary said he knew nothing of the robbery. Pending a further investigation Leary was remanded on charges of assault and robbery.

THEATRE MEN WIN ON SAILOR CHARGE

Court Finds That Four Utah Men
Were Not Wrongly Excluded
from Columbia.

Three employees of the Columbia Theatre, charged with refusing admission to four sailors who served on the Utah at Vera Cruz, were discharged yesterday by Magistrate Herbert.

The government fought bitterly and objected to testimony that other sailors were in the theatre the night in question. The theatre men contended that the four were not admitted because two of them were disorderly and the others would not enter without them.

In support of the discrimination charge, Police Lieutenant William O. Wettlaufer, of the West 47th st. station, was introduced as an expert on the symptoms of drunkenness.

Wettlaufer said that, after nineteen years' experience, he generally judged inebriety by guttural talking or stuttering and disordered clothing and an eye lacking its usual brilliancy. According to his observation, none of the sailors was intoxicated. Dwyer was permitted to testify that he had seen sailors admitted to the Columbia.

B. Altman & Co.

DESIRE to remind their patrons and friends of the advisability of beginning their Christmas shopping now. To those whose homes are situated in New York or its vicinity the recently enlarged Store—with its abundance of floor space and its incomparable facilities for the effective display of the large assortments of newly received merchandise appropriate for holiday gifts—offers every opportunity for discriminating selection and leisurely purchasing; while to those who reside at a distance the services of the Mail Order Department, with its staff of expert shoppers, are ever available. Whether shopping be done in person, by telephone or by mail, the merchandise offered is equally desirable, and the prices are equally reasonable. Suggestions for holiday gifts will be mailed if requested.

WORTH-WHILE MERCHANDISE AT SPECIAL PRICES FOR MONDAY:

1,500 Yards of 40-in. Black Chiffon Velvet
will be specially priced at
\$3.80 per yard.
The Velvet Department is now displaying, at reasonable prices, a very generous assortment of Chiffon Velvets, Silk Plushes, Karakul, English Velveteens and Corduroys.

An Additional Shipment of Broadcloths
in black, dark green, tete de negre and navy blue, will be placed on sale at the special price of
\$1.35 per yard.

A Sale will be commenced to-morrow (Monday), in the Department for Women's Ready-to-wear, of

Smart Tailor-made Suits
of superior materials and workmanship, fur-trimmed and modeled on the latest fashionable lines. The fabrics include chiffon velvet, English velveteen, broadcloth and karakul.

Special prices: \$65.00 & 75.00
being about one-half those usually asked.

An Important Offering of Women's Undergarments
(American-made) in crepe de Chine and the muslins in demand, will present special inducements to-morrow (Monday) and Tuesday at these prices:

Crepe de Chine Underwear
Nightrobes . . . \$3.45, 4.90, 6.25 & 7.75
Combination Garments . . . \$3.90 & 4.85
Corset Covers . . . \$2.15, 2.90 & 3.85
Envelope Chemises . . . 3.25, 3.90 & 5.25
Knicker Drawers . . . 2.90 & 3.90

Muslin Underwear
Nightrobes . . . 95c., \$1.45, 1.90 & 2.90
Combination Garments . . . 95c., \$1.10, 1.45, 1.75 & 1.90
Corset Covers . . . 55c., 85c. & \$1.10
Drawers . . . 48c., 68c., 85c. to 1.45
Envelope Chemises . . . 95c., \$1.15 & 1.45
Chemises . . . 85c. & 1.10

Misses' and Small Women's Tailor-made Suits
in three distinct, attractive styles, will be specially priced at
\$19.50, \$29.50 & \$36.00
(Department on the Second Floor)

An Interesting Sale of Men's Shoes
now in progress, offers desirable Shoes featuring the seasonable leathers and a variety of shapes, including both conservative and ultra-fashionable models (formerly priced at \$5.00 to \$11.00 per pair)

at **\$3.50, 4.75, 5.85 & 8.75**
Department on the First Floor, Thirty-fourth Street Entrance.

Special Salespeople will, if desired, be detailed to accompany patrons to the Store's various departments; or goods will be assembled for inspection in a private showroom.

Thirty-fourth Street

Fifth Avenue-Madison Avenue, New York

Thirty-fifth Street

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