

SEATTLE, WASH., FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1921.

MRS. STOKES WINS IN FIGHT FOR HER CHILDREN!

BATTLES TO CLEAR NAME OF CHARGES

Another New York Millionaire Weakens in Divorce Case Against Wife

BY E. M. THIERRY

NEW YORK, July 22.—Mrs. Helen Elwood Stokes' fight for her children is over.

She has won. And they have been pledged a rich heritage by their millionaire father.

Whether she will clear her name of the legal mud thrown by W. E. D. Stokes in one of New York's two most sensational divorce cases—paralleling the Stillman case—is something an impending court decision will determine.

She wins, she will get a separation and a large share of her husband's wealth. If Stokes wins, he will get his divorce—but by his own seventh-hour surrender he virtually conceded he was in a losing fight.

Stokes' surrender—so it is regarded by Mrs. Stokes and her attorneys—came as an unexpected anti-climax to a long series of spectacular chapters of marital struggles and legal battles extending over two years.

Stokes, known from coast to coast as clubman, hotel proprietor and millionaire involved in several dramatic, domestic and otherwise, offered voluntarily to release the two children into the custody of their grandmother—the mother of the wife he attacked in his divorce suit.

Stokes' decision to release the children into the custody of their grandmother was the mother of the wife he attacked in his divorce suit.

His legal brief, together with those of Mrs. Stokes' lawyers in his suit for divorce and her counter-suit for separation, are now in the hands of Supreme Court Justice Finch. His decision, expected soon, will write the last chapter to a bitter family battle.

Spectators of the divorce drama Stokes' own confession of defeat in his remarkable passage of his brief.

"If in the judgment of the court it seems wise, the plaintiff would gladly consent that the custody of the children should be awarded to the grandmother during their tender years, realizing that thereby the mother will have intimate and probably daily communication with them, as they will occupy the same home."

"In that event, the father begs that he may be allowed such privileges of visitation as will enable him to keep in touch with the hearts of his children and care for their physical and mental welfare."

"By feeling that they still, in a sense, belong to him, he will provide liberally for them after his death."

Stokes' attorneys suggest that such disposition may be the judgment of the court.

To which qualifications Martin W. Littleton, attorney for Mrs. Stokes, just smiles. To Mrs. Stokes it spells victory.

To little Jimmy Stokes, aged 5, and Helen Muriel Stokes, aged 4, it means a home with their mother and grandmother, and their rightful share of their rich father's fortune.

Observers see in Stokes' surrender a decision not to enter court again in legal warfare with femininity.

Myles A. Walsh, associated with Attorney Littleton, sees victory for Mrs. Stokes, saying:

"It seems to me that this whole action has been brought to deprive Mrs. Stokes of her rightful share in the Stokes millions. He has tried to benchmark the name of his wife, yet is willing to leave his children in her custody—for that is what it would mean to have them with their grandmother."

No matter what the decision is, Stokes will probably have to pay large sums, if not in alimony, certainly for the support of the children. His first wife, divorced in 1909, was granted alimony of \$1,000 a week.

Stokes and Helen Elwood of Denver were married Feb. 11, 1911, when he was 62 and she 22. Marital litigation began in 1919. The trial proper started last March. The children sometime previously having been awarded Mrs. Stokes by Judge Ben Lindsay of Denver.

NUMEROUS CO-RESPONDENTS WERE NAMED

Stokes named numerous co-respondents. Even his own son, W. E. D. Stokes, Jr., was arrayed against him. One of the co-respondents named was Edgar T. Wallace, California oil man, who came hurrying to New York to deny a woman's testimony that she saw Mrs. Stokes in Wallace's apartment.

Here are entries in Mrs. Stokes' diary, offered by Attorney Littleton in his final brief, to show that Stokes "beat and terrified his wife" almost from the beginning:

July 6, 1911 (five months after the wedding)—Will smashed dishes at table.

July 25—Another scene at Will's. I made a great mistake in marrying.

July 21—Trouble again. August 2—Will frightened me

THE STOKES FAMILY



Mrs. Helen Elwood Stokes, the children she has won, Jimmie, 5, and Helen, 4, and (inset) W. E. D. Stokes.

again. How sorry I married!

Littleton described how Stokes installed his second wife and children in a house and "within a year abandoned her and when she refused to bargain with him for a collusive divorce began the campaign which this trial brings to a close."

Stokes' first set-back in the sensational suit that occupied most of the spring in Justice Finch's court and divided interest with the Stillman case, came on March 17, when Justice Finch ordered him to hand over \$19,500 in cash to his wife—and suggested that she take this money and gather evidence which would refute the amazing testimony he had brought.

Evidence was gathered and spectacular chapters of the elderly millionaire's earlier life were brought to view again.

Fine Liquor Gone and Thieves Also

VANCOUVER, B. C., July 22.—Gone are 100 cases of the finest whisky in the Dominion Trading Co.'s warehouse, and gone are the daring burglars who stole it. The liquor was taken some time before midnight last night, while Columbia st., on which the warehouse is located, was thronged with passengers from the North Vancouver ferry. The liquor was valued at \$4,000.

WASHINGTON—American steamer Western Front lost off Sicily islands, near English coast, according to report to shipping board.

Germany Goes Wet With a Vengeance

AMSTERDAM, July 22.—According to official statistics the drink traffic in Germany, which had decreased during the war, is again increasing considerably. Ten million bottles of champagne were sold in Germany last year, while \$2,500,000,000 were spent on alcoholic liquors.

Weddings in Penn City Grow in Cost

PHILADELPHIA, July 22.—The cost of weddings is going up here, beginning with the smallest item, the marriage license. They have been raised from \$1 to \$1.50. The last couple to buy a \$1 ticket to matrimony bliss were George Washington Flurer and Alice M. Grath and the first couple to pay the profiteering rate were Andrew Jackson and Villa Williams.

Were They Cowed or Just Charmed?

NEW YORK, July 22.—Nobody thought of jazz as a peace-maker until Capt. Ragudin of the liner Belvedere let loose the ship's orchestra to quell a Greek-Turk-Roumanian-Bulgarian race war that was threatening. With the first strains the quarrelling passengers calmed down and from then on were in perfect accord.

And, Anyhow, Vamp Is a Vamp, Says

WASHINGTON, July 22.—J. Gordon Leach, manager of the Chesapeake Beach, says the policemen are broad-minded persons who are not averse to the "ladies of the sand" wearing meagre bathing attire. "A vamp is a vamp for a' that," he says, "and silk stockings lure more than bare legs—the girls know it."

There are rigid bathing suit rules at the beach which will be enforced—on the men.

These practices, the queen told Mayor Rolph of San Francisco, "work splendidly in Afghanistan. Be-lieve me, Afghanistan enjoys the reputation of being the most moral country in the world."

They Make 'Em Wed Young and Keep 'Em Good

SAN FRANCISCO, July 22.—If you want to keep 'em good you gotta marry 'em young.

That's the way they keep the young maidens from temptation in Afghanistan, according to Princess Fatima Suliana, member of the royal family of that country. She stopped her arm steered in England long enough to tell the mayor how to run a city.

"The women in our country are very, very good — they marry young," was one of her comments. "The pretty maidens of Afghanistan do not flirt—their faces are covered with veils."

FALLS IN WELL; TRAPPED 4 DAYS

Improvised Ladder of Wire and Sticks Falls

KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 22.—Unable to climb out of an old well into which he had fallen, Roy L. McMillan, 29, was rescued by passersby yesterday, after he had been imprisoned four days and nine hours.

At the hospital where he was taken McMillan told of improvising a ladder from sticks and wires. It lacked five feet of reaching the top of the well.

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Prohibition violators in America would be as scarce as bonded goods if Uncle Sam used the Afghanistana method. Bootleggers and thieves are treated rough—one hand is cut off and the arm steeped in boiling oil. Thieves and those who break the confidence of the king are placed in iron cages before the public gaze and starved to death.

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MAYOR JIM COUZENS IS PLANNING TO MAKE HIS TOWN FIRST FREE CITY

DETROIT, July 22.—Mayor Jim Couzens is striving to make Detroit "the first free city in America."

Couzens plans to bring all public utilities — telephones, gas, electric power and street railways — under municipal ownership.

He hopes to demonstrate the practicability of public operation of public utilities before the entire nation. Couzens' creed is that the fullest civic development can be attained only when a community as such is economically independent. It grates on Couzens to see a large city humiliate itself before private ownership entrenched in special privilege.

"One thing at a time," is Couzens' motto.

He now is in the midst of establishing a municipal street railway. His ultimate objective, however, is made plain by his public utterances during many heated political campaigns. Couzens is reluctant to speak of all his projects. The reason for his silence is that he proposes to develop a new type of citizen.

"To operate large enterprises," he says, "we must draw our executives from the ranks of the business men. Before we can hope to obtain this class of municipal executive, we must teach business men that service comes first, money-making afterward. Naturally, inculcating a similar spirit must extend to the entire citizenship."

Couzens exemplifies in his own life his ideal of good citizenship. He is a millionaire many times over, but he has quit piling up wealth to serve his city.

"I have a hard time finding men for the few important positions it is necessary to keep filled now," he says. "I must find more men of the type I need as I enlarge the scope of our municipal enterprises."

Couzens is particularly exasperated by the personnel of the state public utility commissions, which he classifies as "irresponsible bodies."

"We must have home rule in all things which affect the people of the

community vitally," he declares. The millionaire mayor has the nation's most unique field in which to work out his program.

From 1906 to 1919, the year he took office, Detroit doubled its area and its population, leaping from 49 to 89 square miles, and from 500,000 to 1,000,000 residents.

Civic institutions and utilities did not keep pace.

Couzens found Detroit an overgrown village.

Immediately he set about to rebuild the city. Bond issues totaling \$95,000,000 have been issued for work on schools, hospitals, water supply, sewers, parks and the street railway.

In addition to this amount, the city spends \$65,000,000 annually in ordinary maintenance.

He made 75 speeches in three weeks in the campaign to start the municipal railway. Virtually alone, he sold the idea to the citizens.

"In less than five years," he asserts now, "we will own and operate every inch of street railway in the city. We are building 100 miles of extensions at present, 300 miles of the privately owned Detroit United lines are being taken over, and 65 more miles of extensions are projected."

"It will be a demonstration to the cities of the country that the real remedy of indifferent street car service is municipal ownership."

Couzens is preparing to experiment with trackless trolley cars, which will travel over ordinary pavement on rubber-tired wheels. The Detroit municipal railway commission has advertised for bids for 50 such cars.

Lecturer Against Worry Is Suicide

KOKOMO, Ind., July 22.—Dr. W. E. Armstrong, who attained national prominence with his address, "Why Worry?" committed suicide yesterday by drinking poison.

Minneapolis Ad Club Woman in Talk Here

Miss Agnes Rooney, director at large of the Advertising Club of Minneapolis, and secretary-treasurer of the McMartin Advertising Agency of that city, spoke Thursday noon to the Women's Advertising club of Seattle in the Bon Marche tea room. She explained the advertising organization of her own city.

EVERETT—American legion post at Port Gibbon, Alaska, named in memory of Russell H. Lovelace, Everett boy, whose mother, Mrs. Rose Lovelace, now lives at 516 Nob Hill, Seattle.

HOUSTON, Tex.—Convicted of bigamy, following marriage to Viola Miller, said to be nine years old. James Smith sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Community Fund's Secretary Picked

According to an announcement made Thursday afternoon by Dr. Park Weed Willis, president of the Seattle Community fund, Frank E. Burleson, executive secretary of the Better Akron Federation, of Akron, Ohio, has been chosen executive secretary of the Seattle order. Burleson will open offices in Seattle Aug. 6.

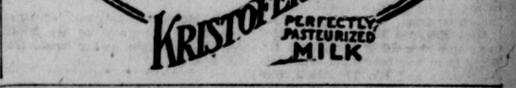


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Advertisement for Eastern Outfitting Co. Inc. featuring 'Hand-Tailored BRADBURY MEN'S SUITS Reduced for Clearance' with prices \$19.50 and \$39.50. Includes an illustration of a man in a suit and the company logo.