

IOWA COUPLE MAKE ODD MARITAL CONTRACT

Des Moines, Iowa.—Isaiah F. Harding and Mrs. Isabella Englebrecht of Dallas county, Iowa, had not found smooth sailing up the sea of matrimony, although both are, comparatively speaking, rich. Twice each had been married and twice divorced.

When, therefore, seeking a consolation prize, Harding asked Mrs. Englebrecht to be his, extreme caution attended her affirmative response. "We'd better lay down some rules to go by," she said, and Harding agreed. The result was the most remarkable pre-nuptial contract ever drawn in Iowa, and, perhaps, in the world. Veteran lawyers say they have never seen anything quite like it.

It arranges for almost every possible contingency that may arise in the wedded life of two people.

The contract plainly sets forth who shall build the fires, when the husband may bring home guests to meals, when the relatives of each shall visit them, how the money is to be divid-

The Guests Are Limited.

There will be no such thing as a "hubby" coming home with a guest under each arm for supper—no, indeed, unless "wifey" first gives her consent. The rules in this respect are rigid.

Special provisions are made for the entertainment of relatives of either. The husband's relatives are permitted to visit them during the first two weeks of May. Mrs. Harding's kinfolk are permitted to invade the family circle during the last two weeks of October. However, this rule is construed to except the children of either, so Mrs. Harding says.

Such, in brief, are the principal by-laws governing this thoroughly organized household. Past experiences, it seems, demonstrated to each the necessity for a strong governing belt upon the family engine.

Mrs. Harding, it is stated, was deserted by her first husband and secured her divorce from him. Her second husband was a wealthy farmer of foreign descent, who, it was charged, insisted on making her do the chores, milk the cows and even work in the hayfields.

This was more than she would stand and she sued him for a divorce a year ago. She got the divorce and all money amounting to half his estate, netting her a fortune of possibly \$30,000.

As for Harding, the shoe, it appears, fitted the other foot and he was twice defendant in divorce courts upon charges of unreasonable temper. He also was divorced about a year ago.

In fact, one of the remarkable features of this strange romance is that Harding and Mrs. Englebrecht met for the first time in the divorce courtroom of Judge A. H. McVey. Harding and his witnesses were obliged to wait until Mrs. Englebrecht obtained her decree before their case could proceed.

As Harding sat there he was moved to pity by her tale. When he found that his efforts in resisting his wife's suit were fruitless he accepted the situation.

Terms of the Contract.

Not a month elapsed, it is said, before Harding sought out the woman who had told the sorrowful tale on the witness stand. He told her that he believed she could curb his temper and she said she thought she might take a chance. But she insisted that the contract be drawn up and it was signed before they were married two months ago. Following is the curious contract:

Know All Men by These Presents: That we, by the terms of this agreement, made this 3d day of May, A. D. 1906, between Isaiah F. Harding of the county of Dallas and state of Iowa, party of the first part, and Isabella Englebrecht of the county of Polk and state of Iowa of the second part, do hereby bind ourselves by this covenant to carry out entire and in detail the terms of this solemn obligation, so that we, as man and wife, may dwell together in peace and harmony as long as this said covenant shall be in force, to wit: From the said 3d day of May, A. D. 1906, until the 3d day of May, A. D. 1921, a period of fifteen years.

It is hereby agreed and stipulated between said Isaiah F. Harding, party of the first part, and said Isabella Englebrecht, party of the second part, that if at the end of the fifteen years aforesaid described such union is not for the best interests of either of us the same said union shall be terminated by either party without further formality, providing that if at any time during this period above set forth either should wish to relinquish the bonds of matrimony such action shall not be taken except with due process of law.

We hereby agree that we shall jointly and severally settle upon the children of each by former marriage one-half of the estate of each, the said one-half of the estate of the party of the first part to be settled upon his children and the said one-half of the estate of the party of the second part upon her children. Deeds and papers to this effect shall be duly signed, transferred and recorded upon the completion of this covenant. And this shall be regarded as applying to personal property as well as real.

And we hereby bind ourselves to the faithful performance of the following stipulations so far as within us lies: Isaiah F. Harding, party of the first part, agrees that Isabella Englebrecht, party of the second part, shall upon her wedding to him, the party of the first part, receive each week the sum of \$15 with which to defray the household expenses, but it is understood that he, the party of the first part, shall furnish fuel and water.

It is expressly understood that from this union shall come not more than three children. Upon the birth of each or any child the above amount of \$15 per week shall be increased \$3 per week.

The party of the second part shall furnish domestic help and to assist her in this she shall be allowed the financial output of the poultry and one cow from the farm herd. But if for any reason it shall be found necessary to dispense with domestic help then it shall be the duty of the husband to build the fires and prepare the morning meals for six months throughout the winter and for the wife to build the fires and prepare the morning meals for the remaining six months of the year.

Neither party shall invite guests to the house except with the express permission of the other, and then not oftener than twice per week; relatives shall not be allowed to visit the family, except that relatives of the party of the first part shall be permitted to visit the home at any time within the first two weeks of the month of May; relatives of the party of the second part within the last two weeks of October. This shall not relate

in any way to the children of either of the parties to this covenant.

If the parties to this covenant shall remove to the city to live it is agreed that in addition to the costs mentioned above party of the first part shall pay ice and gas expenses. Furthermore, it shall be the privilege of the party of the second part to attend two social functions each week, one of which, if the parties reside in the city, shall be the theater, and this expense shall be borne by the party of the first part.

Each Sunday the party of the first part shall escort and accompany the party of the second part to church in the morning and again in the evening should she desire it.

Party of the first part shall keep the house insurance, keep the premises in good condition, furnish at all times respectable conveyance to and from town, see that both himself and wife are properly clothed, take an active part in any civic or rural improvement and assist in any political movement for the general good.



good. It is expressly declared that he shall vote according to the dictates of his conscience. Isaiah F. Harding, Isabella Englebrecht.

How It Works.

Harding is a mild-mannered man in appearance. He does not appear to be the fire-eater that his former wives painted him. His present wife naively suggests that her softening influence has not been exerted in vain. In any event the couple are getting along as nicely as cooling doves, according to the neighbors, who are deeply interested in the case.

"Oh, I don't think there is anything so very wonderful about it," remarked Mrs. Harding the other day.

"I had made up my mind that I would not get into any more domestic tangles unless I knew in advance where I was going to get off. I've suffered a whole lot just because I hadn't any understanding with my husbands and I made up my mind to take precautions the next time. So it was at my suggestion that we drew up these rules.

"Mr. Harding didn't want to do it at first. He said it was too much like playing baseball—we would have to stop and look up the rules every time we wanted to do anything. But I told him that if I was worth having at all I was worth that much trouble and he finally consented.

"But we haven't had to look up the rules at any time yet. I have been able to keep a hired girl, and so I haven't had to take my turn building the fires. I guess we'll be able to keep her next winter, too.

"Then, too, my \$15 has been right in my hands every Saturday night, and I am managing to save some of it so that I can give Isalah a nice present at his birthday next October. He doesn't know that, so you mustn't say anything to him about it.

"I find that it pays to let your husband know in advance how much you need to keep things going, and a woman who will get married without doing so is foolish. It's a good thing to have down in writing, too. Some men's words don't amount to much if they get the opportunity to dodge it."

And so Mrs. Harding seemed to be happy. In fact, she said that she has found life with Mr. Harding to be a perfect Utopia contrasted with her previous experience in wedlock.

Linens Are Soft and Drapy.

This season linens come in much softer fabrics than ever before. They are never as stiff as in former years, and often thinner than we have had them for outdoor gowns in times past, although such gowns are never made of transparent linen.

Favorite colors in linen are pink, raspberry, gray, browns and tans, blues, greens and some manuevs. This is a summer of colors, but, nevertheless, the white linen gown is more popular than any other kind.

Anything but Friendly.

"You astonish me. Your engagement with Miss Welloch is broken, is it? Are the relations between you still friendly?"

"I should say not! The relations between us are her relations, and they're my bitter enemies."—Chicago Tribune.

The extraordinary popularity of fine white goods this summer makes the choice of Starch a matter of great importance. Defiance Starch, being free from all injurious chemicals, is the only one which is safe to use on fine fabrics. Its great strength as a stiffener makes half the usual quantity of Starch necessary, with the result of perfect finish, equal to that when the goods were new.

His Scheme Worked.

It is related that a certain man was recently very sad because his wife had gone out of town on a visit, which she would not shorten in spite of his appeals to her to come home. He finally hit upon a plan to induce her to return. He sent her a copy of each of the local papers with one item clipped out, and when she wrote to find out what it was he had clipped out he refused to tell her.

The scheme worked admirably! In less than a week she was home to find out what it was that had been going on that her husband didn't want her to know about.—Pittsburg Press.

When Woman Isn't Young.

The report is that a local religious institution which is for "young women" has drawn the deadline of youth at 35. Every woman over that age will be marked 23 and requested to skiddoo. This is painful. It is unkind. What is worse, it is impracticable. We are glad the task is to be performed by women. No man nor set of men would ever have dared tackle such a problem—not they. This is simply another example of woman's inhumanity to woman.

We have been told for many ages that a woman is as old as she looks and a man is as old as he feels. Just now, we say it with regret, most women look like 60 and most men feel like Methuselah. But the general rule seems a good one. It is a plain, unpalatable fact that women will deceive as to their age as long as possible and then openly lie about it. There are many women who were born during the ravages of the civil war who still claim sweetly to be in the thirties.

Hasty Nervous Chewing of Food the Cause of Dyspepsia

If your teeth are fit, chew, chew, until the food is liquid and insists on being swallowed.

If teeth are faulty, soften Grape-Nuts with hot milk or cream, or allow to stand a minute soaking in cold cream.

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Many people say (and it is true) that when they eat Grape-Nuts they seem able to digest not only that food but other kinds which formerly made trouble when eaten without Grape-Nuts.

Chew!
"There's a reason" for

Grape-Nuts

The city of New York expends 45 cents a year for each inhabitant for what is known technically as public recreation, says the New York Sun. This term includes music in parks, public baths, playgrounds, flowers and recreation piers. The contribution of New York for this purpose amounts to more than \$1,500,000 a year and is rapidly approaching \$2,000,000. It is on a scale of liberality equal to that of most of American cities, but comes very far behind Boston, which expends \$1 a head for the same purpose. Denver expends 55 cents per capita for public recreation.

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Other things are so scarce as the teeth of a hen—a rooster's, for instance.

Denver Directory

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