

shameful."

Judge Wilbur declared from the bench that the illegal practices must cease and caused the interpreter to transmit his decision carefully to the courtroom full of Russians.

A federal inspector attended the trial and it is likely that Uncle Sam's agents will probe the unwholesome affairs of the colony.

Elsa's case was brought into the juvenile court through charges of delinquency lodged against her by her parents. The whole Russian colony in their picturesque garb, men in high-heeled boots and pleated frocks, with flowing hair and beard, the women in short-skirted, gaudy-hued dresses and flaming head-gear, appeared in court.

Many witnesses, the majority of whom had to give their statements through an interpreter, testified that they had a general knowledge of girls being sold into marriage. The price brought by a bride ranges from \$100, \$150 to \$300 and \$500 in the case of extraordinary pretty girls.

E. F. Gerecht, a native-born Russians lawyer, declared on the stand that it is a common Russian custom for parents to sell their children into marriage and to choose husbands for their daughters before the girls have seen their intended husbands.

Sometimes the girl's parents even buy a husband.

"If the girl is attractive the parents figure on receiving a round sum from the bridegroom, but if

she is ugly, they frequently pay the prospective husband to marry her and take her off their hands," declared the witness.

John VEDIENEFF told the court that his sister, Sarah, had been sold into marriage for \$150.

"She cried two days and nights before the ceremony," the brother related.

Philip Shubin, an eagle-eyed patriarch, with a great shock of tousled hair and long, flowing beard, acknowledged leader of the colony, sat bolt upright in the witness chair, with the mein of a ruler, and told, volubly in Russian, of the practice of marrying without a license.

He admitted also, when pressed, that money sometimes changed hands in consideration of marriage vows, but denied that girls were "sold."

"The greatest number marry without a license."

"Ask him," said the court to the interpreter, "if he does not know that marriage without a license is void?"

"We do here as in the old country," said the witness, "it was lawful in Russia, therefore we think it is lawful here."

Navikoff, Elsa's father, testified that he had a married daughter in Russia and that she is but 13 years of age.

Prosecutions may result in many cases of unlawful marriages as the result of the investigation.

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When we 'stick up' for our principles folks call us a grouch. When we give up we're 'quitters.'