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Americans Do Not Stay Married

OUT of every ten marriages that occur in the United States one ends in divorce. Such are the startling figures that are to be gleaned from a recently-issued bulletin by the United States Census Bureau, a reading of which may throw some light upon the old question, "Is Marriage a Failure?" Of course, statistics will not show the number of unhappy marriages, the number of mismatched people who continue to drag their chains through life for fear of scandal, for the sake of children, or because, though home is broken in every real sense, there is not evidence upon which a judge would dissolve the tie. But when all these reservations are made, and still one out of every ten marriages is so much a failure that one of the contracting parties insists upon its annulment, one must come to the conclusion either that there is something very much the matter with the institution of matrimony or very much wrong with the people who practice it.

Quite as ominous as the fact that in 1916 not less than 10.66 per cent. of the marriages dissolved in the fact that the ratio of divorces is increasing steadily. For more than forty years it has been advancing out of proportion to the population or the number of marriages. In 1899 divorces were slightly less than six per cent. of the marriages; in 1909 they were slightly less than eight per cent.; in 1906 they were about eight and a quarter per cent. The same thing has been noted in Canada, and the war has no doubt resulted in a tremendous increase of violated homes. But in Canada the Government keeps a tight hold on divorce. Nobody can be divorced in Canada except by a special act of Parliament unless he happens to live in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or British Columbia. In these provinces there were divorce courts before the Dominion of Canada was federated, and they were retained. Moreover, divorce in Canada is expensive as compared with American divorce. Because of these different conditions there can be no fair comparison between marriage and divorce here and in the United States.

In the United States each state is a law unto itself with regard to divorce. We find police magistrates issuing separation decrees as freely as though they were dog licenses. In one state there is no

divorce, and that is South Carolina, but whether the fact has anything to do with the rice industry there is doubtful. Elsewhere the divorce statistics are very unequal, but whether this is entirely to the varying strictness of the law is not explained, though one naturally draws this inference. In the District of Columbia, there were only 13 divorces in 1916, for every 100,000 of the population; in New York, there were 32 to every 100,000; while in Nevada there are 607 to the same unit of population. The states that have easy divorce laws naturally attract citizens of other states, who desire to have their marriages dissolved, and in this connection, of course, Nevada is famous. In the case of Nevada it was not the divorce laws were especially lax, but that as a new state in haste to make citizens it established a very short time in which citizenship could legally be secured. At one time it was six months, so unhappy New Yorkers, could establish residence in Reno for six months, and then were entitled to the benefit of all the state laws, including divorce. Of late this citizenship period has been increased.

With the exception of Colorado, Maine, South Dakota, West Virginia, and of course South Carolina, there were more divorces in the United States in 1916 than in 1906. Only in these states and in Mississippi, Alabama, North Dakota, and the District of Columbia was the ratio not increased. The 1916 statistics, of course, do not cover the war period in the United States, which was less affected by the war than any of the other great belligerent powers, will not find its divorce a greatly influenced by the war as they have done, but undoubtedly there will be some effect, and undoubtedly it will be in the direction of more divorce petitions. It is to be noted that alimony is being more frequently sought than in the past. Thirty years ago, it was asked in only about 10 per cent. of the cases. Now it is demanded in 20 per cent. of the cases, and granted in perhaps 15 per cent. of them.

The wife applies for the divorce in two-thirds of the cases, but here against statistics may mislead. When a couple agree to separate it is customary for the man to permit his wife to bring the suit to end a condition of which they are equally tired. Moreover the wife has more legal grounds for divorce than the husband. A husband can be divorced for cruelty, for instance, and the statistics show that she advances this cause four times as often as the husband. Then she can divorce her husband if he fails to provide for her, but a husband can only in rare instances bring such a charge against his wife. Of the 108,702 divorces granted in 1916, only 12,486 were based on infidelity. But here again it ought to be observed that if a divorce can be had on less serious grounds it is not usual to advance the most disgraceful. It is also to be noted that more suits brought by the husband are contested than those brought by wives, because it is supposed that ordinarily a woman who has been divorced is in a worse position than a man in similar plight.

Where Wood Is Money

Who ever heard of wooden money? The only known currency of this kind is issued by the Hudson Bay Company, and circulates all over the vast territory controlled by that powerful trading concern.

It is a coinage consisting of pieces of wood known as "castors," which are stamped with a die. These are accepted everywhere in that territory as cash, and are exchangeable for all sorts of supplies and commodities at the widely scattered stations of the corporation.

The area governed by the company is vast. In one straight line it extends as far as from London to Mecca; from King's Posts to the Pelly Banks is further than from Paris to Saragossa. Over all of this region the corporation exercises complete dominion, employing the native Indians, chiefly Ojibway and Crees, to collect the furs which furnish its revenue.

They are about two-thirds the size of the Gulf of Mexico. It is an almost landlocked sea, with 3,000 miles of coast line. More than 300 years ago Hendrik Hudson, trying to find the northwest passage, wintered there. His crew mutinied and set him adrift in an open boat, and his son and seven others. He and his companions were never seen again.

The unit of value in that part of the world is a beaver skin. Two martens are equal to one beaver, and twenty muskrats are equivalent to one marten. The trapping is done in winter, and in spring the Indians bring the pelts to the stations, receiving in payment for them wooden money. With the latter they buy what supplies they need at the store maintained by the company at the stations.

A Bird Refuge.
The most important, and by far the largest in extent, of national "refuges" for the preservation of wild birds on this continent is a vast area in the delta of the Yukon river, proclaimed as such by an edict from the White House just ten years ago. It is even more beneficial to the birds of Canada than to those of the United States.

It is an area approximately equal to Massachusetts, and the most valuable feathered species concerned are wild geese and wild ducks, which breed there in countless numbers.

There is found the proper home of the "emperor" goose, the "white-fronted" goose, and many species of ducks which are sought as game in other latitudes.

The region is known as "tundra country"—devoid of trees, swampy, with many lakes, and of no possible usefulness for agriculture or any other purpose. If, however, the wildfowl are there safeguarded on their breeding grounds, it will be a permanent source of game and food supply for Alaska and the entire Pacific coast.

In order that this may come to pass, it is necessary that the birds shall be protected during the mating season against the wholesale slaughter which formerly was conducted by pot-hunters and alleged sportsmen from year to year—a method commonly adopted being to drive the helpless creatures into pens built for the purpose, where they were ruthlessly murdered.

These building lots are marketable—take them to market through the classified.

Mitchell's Hobby Made Him Famous

BRIG.-GEN. C. H. MITCHELL, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Legion of Honor (French), Order of Leopold, Croix de Guerre (Belgium), Order of the Crown and Cross of War (Italian); had a hobby. And that hobby suddenly picked him up in its arms and carried him up to the stars.

In spite of the blazing streak of ribbon on his left breast, he is not a professional soldier. Before the war, he was an engineer, an enthusiastic investigator of industry, both in the engineering and sociological sense. And he had a hobby which he rode fervently, furiously, joyously.

And that hobby was the science of military intelligence.

In his younger days, when he was consulting engineer at Niagara, he was a member of an infantry militia regiment. But that line of soldiering—indeed, of driving, desultory shooting and an annual camping trip with red-coat manoeuvres, didn't strike his enquiring mind as being up-to-date. And, of course, there was the hobby.

So in due course he began to agitate for the formation of some military unit which would have army intelligence, maps and topography as its medium of service. In 1903, the Corps of Guides was formed and he became one of its senior officers.

He studied the ground. He learned to see a landscape in a map, a bird's-eye view from a chart. He studied earth, trees, streams, contours, figured out how to defend any place from anything.

He doped out the defence of Toronto against invaders from all directions.

His engineering conferees regarded his zealous devotion to the subject with deprecatory smiles. Why couldn't Charlie bend all this energy to something more profitable?

But then the war fell with a crash, and the major (as he was then in the Corps of Guides), promptly stepped into his ordained place as staff officer, intelligence, in the first contingent. His hobby developed into a gold mine for the troops.

For besides having an eye trained to see everything of importance in a piece of ground, the major's enthusiastic studies had taught him also how to see spies, and more important still, how to grasp instantly the features of such things as trench warfare, patrols, organization of intelligence branches in small units.

A Canadian patrol in No Man's Land captures a German prisoner near Hooge. This prisoner, before going to prison camp, comes before an intelligence officer. He belongs to the 127th Landwehr. And how long has he been in the Hooge section. Ten days. Where was he before that? Down at Arras? The 4th Prussian Guards Reserve.

Ho, ho! says the intelligence officer, the second rate Landwehr is pulled out of the line and the snappy, offensive guards are put in!

Something coming off at Arras! Word is sent down. Our observation balloons watch the German lines at Arras for increasing artillery, increasing traffic on the roads in rear, new work on trenches and so on. The troops at Arras make a raid and discover from prisoners that something is "coming off."

So down by Arras, the British put a lot more guns, shell in the roads in rear, put fresh troops in the line. Old Heintz discovers that he has been discovered and calls off his attack. Hell has been check-mated. Hundreds of lives saved! Why? Because an intelligence officer talked to a Hun prisoner a hundred miles away, but gathering all his facts together, had "doped out" the situation.

Gen. Mitchell was one of the most distinguished of these intelligence officers. To describe all that the Intelligence Service does in war would take an encyclopaedia. But they gather everything, from the movement of enemy armies down to the digging of a new Hun machine gun post on a quiet sector of the line. They know everything from the number of enemy guns on a certain piece of front to the number of good wells of drinking water to be found in a village we propose to capture.

Gen. Mitchell did great work as Chief of Intelligence in the Canadian Corps from its first trip to the line. He was a wizard with maps. He boosted the airplane as a photographer of enemy positions. He helped make air photographs the soldier's best guide. He could smell an enemy attack weeks ahead. And best of all, he could put in the hands of the infantry, just before an attack, the latest maps, the best photographs, and the meatiest, concise, typewritten summary of what the infantry would find as they advanced! He was the eyes, ears, nose and taste—the senses—of the body of the corps. He selected the things we were to bite off, chew and eat up.

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