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Young Bridegroom Goes to Jail For Giving Wrong Age of Bride

Proven That Luther Crowder Committed Perjury When He Said Mabel Davis Was Eighteen—Judge Lavell Gave Light Sentence.

Married in Kingston on July 27th. Arrested on July 28th, on a charge of perjury.

Sentenced on August 7th to two months in jail at hard labor.

The above memoranda tells in brief, of the movements of one, Luther Crowder, aged 20, Mountain, Ont., and it is indeed a sad chapter for him and his fifteen-year-old bride.

Evidence produced at the hearing before Judge Lavell in chambers on Tuesday afternoon, convinced the court that Crowder committed perjury when, on July 24th, he secured a marriage license to wed pretty Mabel Elizabeth Davis, employed at the cotton mill.

"I find you guilty," remarked Judge Lavell, after all had been said and done at the trial, "and sentence you to two months in jail at hard labor. And I do so regretfully, but I am convinced that it is the lightest sentence I can give you."

The girl-bride, of three weeks, who was present when sentence was passed, having been called as a witness, burst into tears as the young husband was led out of the room to commence his jail term. A few minutes later the mother of the girl, who laid the charge, was taken to the court.

And what of the future for these two young lives? Time alone will tell. While the young husband goes back to the jail to serve his time, the girl-wife returns to her employment. And what to the once happy young couple had every trace of being a happy journey through life, was spoiled at the very outset.

T. J. Rigney appeared for the accused, and J. L. Whiting conducted the prosecution. Some of the evidence was taken in the case on Monday afternoon, when an adjournment was made till Tuesday afternoon. A local man, who issued the marriage license, stated that Crowder had declared the girl he was about to wed, was eighteen years old. Witness told Crowder that he and the girl would have to be eighteen years old, or he could not issue the license. Crowder informed him that he was twenty years of age, and that the girl was eighteen. All the important parts regarding the license had been read to Crowder, and he had sworn to all the information he had given.

The Bridegroom's Story.

Luther Crowder went into the box and gave evidence on his own behalf. He said that he first went to board with Mrs. Davis, mother of the girl he had married, in July, 1919. Later on he left, when he signed up as a soldier. He did not go overseas, but was engaged at Mowat hospital. On Feb. 24th, last, he returned to the home of Mrs. Davis, as a boarder. He had been keeping company with Mabel Davis, and in March last became engaged to her. He did not know if the parents of the girl knew of their engagement. About the first week in July, they decided to get married, and July 27th was the date set for the ceremony. Witness recalled that one evening Mr. Davis, father of the girl, had told him that a person must be eighteen years of age to get married. Mabel had told him that she was eighteen years of age, but he did not understand that he had to take an oath regarding the age. As to the document hanging on the wall, with the ages of members of the Davis family, about which Mrs. Davis had given evidence, the witness said that he had never examined it, nor had the document ever been pointed out to him.

Under the cross-examination of Mr. Whiting, witness said that he had never made an affidavit, but questioned further, he admitted that after joining up as a soldier, he had made one. Mr. Whiting wanted to know why Crowder did not ask the girl's mother about her age, but witness said he did not know why he had not asked about this matter. Mr. Whiting remarked that this was remarkable, in that he had been living in the house all the time, and did not ascertain this important part.

Pressed further by Mr. Whiting, Crowder stated that he knew that the girl's birthday was on May 10th. He recalled the date of her last birthday, but could not say if anything particular happened to mark it.

"Do you remember some person sprinkling her with water?" asked Mr. Whiting. "No. I do not remember anything about that. They were always throwing water around the house in fun."

Witness admitted that he had never heard anyone outside of Mabel say that she was eighteen years of age. Witness had no doubt about the girl's age. He had taken her to

be eighteen, on his own judgment.

Bride Testifies For Husband.

Mabel Elizabeth Davis, the girl-bride, attired in a neat blue dress, gave evidence in behalf of the defence and to Mr. Rigney stated that she had been keeping company with Crowder since June 28th, 1919. She told of becoming engaged to Crowder, and receiving a ring from him. She went with Crowder and picked out the ring. July 27th had been set for the wedding. There had been talk about securing the license, and she had told Crowder that she was eighteen years old. She had also told the clergyman who performed the ceremony, that she was eighteen years old.

Witness said she did not tell her father and mother that she was going to get married. Her father had been told that she was going to run away and get married, but witness had said that she did not intend to run away. Witness told her sister she was going to be married.

To Mr. Whiting, witness said that Crowder took her word for it, when she told him she was eighteen years old. She knew she was fifteen years old, and he knew too, then.

Witness told her sister she was going to be married.

At this point the mother of the girl was asked by Mr. Whiting as to what happened on her daughter's last birthday, whereupon the mother told her she had been having some fun with her daughter, throwing water and making the remark that he had a good mind to throw fifteen cups of water on her. The younger members of the family engaged in throwing water and also chased Mabel around the house.

"Was anything said to indicate the girl was fifteen years old?" queried Mr. Whiting. "The statement was made that she was fifteen years old. Crowder was in the house when this statement was made."

The mother also recalled that she gave her daughter a cup and saucer as a birthday gift, that her brother gave her a ring, and that some of the younger members of the family presented her with some cards.

The evidence of the witness convinced the court that the offence is not proven," said Judge Lavell, "but I am afraid I must so pronounce myself. At the same time, I am rather of the opinion that the accused, in making the affidavit as he did, did so without any vicious intentions and certainly without any realization of the fact that he was committing a crime."

His honor remarked that one could not be entirely without sympathy for the young couple, but at the same time, there was an act to safeguard girls.

"In his case I am convinced that Crowder must have known the girl was not eighteen years old, I rather suspect that he knew her actual age."

"My desire is to be lenient, but I cannot disregard the law, as it would be rather encouraging others to make wild statements in order to obtain marriage licenses, and to treat lightly the restrictions of the law placed as a safeguard. The girl of fifteen may or may not know her mind. Whatever she may believe now, regarding her prospective husband, she may not take the same view in a very short time."

Judge Lavell also remarked that he could not suspend sentence in the case, and in closing, said: "I will make it as light as the circumstances allow me. I will impose a sentence of two months in jail, at hard labor. I do so regretfully."

Immediately on the passing of the sentence the girl-wife, who was sitting on a chair almost opposite the prisoner, burst into tears and buried her face in her handkerchief. The prisoner was whisked off to the jail without further ceremony, and the sad chapter was closed. Leaving the room, the girl's mother cried bitterly.

Offers to F. M. Hugo.

It is said that F. M. Hugo, who retires from the secretary of state of New York state will become associated with a large automobile insurance company. The office would pay \$20,000 a year. It is also reported that he has been offered a federal position and a patent for the position mentioned was that of collector of the port of New York.

TWICE TOLD TALES

News of Kingston

TEN YEARS AGO.

The yacht Kathleen won the second race in the competition for the Bruce Carruthers' trophy. It crossed the line 25 seconds in the lead but had a handicap of one minute to overcome.

"Charlie" Moxley, the famous local athlete, who has been with L. T. Best for a long time, is leaving for Yorktown, Sask., where he will enter the drug business.

Building permits in Kingston from January until August 1919, amounted to \$144,000.

William Mackie, formerly on the staff of the K. & P. R. R., has been appointed sporting editor of the Saskatoon Phoenix.

Joseph D. Jackson, of the New York World, is on a visit to his brother, William Jackson, 273 King street west.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Ald. D. M. McIntyre is spending a vacation at the Old Orchard Beach. J. H. Haultel has been successful in securing a patent for a new steam boiler which he has invented.

A meeting of Kingston bicyclists was held at which officers of the club were elected and arrangements completed for a meet in the near future.

Football experts all agree in picking Queen's as the intercollegiate champions this fall.

Prices were rather high on the market Saturday. Potatoes sold at from 40c to 50c a bag. Butter was from 17c to 20c per pound, and eggs from 11c to 13c per dozen. Beef and pork sold from 4 1/2c to 12 1/2c per pound, according to the cuts.

Mayor Wright and President Fense welcomed the delegates of St. George's Society, who are holding their national conference here.

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G. W. V. A.

(Incorporated)
During months July, August and September, meetings will be held on the 1st Friday of each month.
Next general meeting will be held on Friday, September 3rd.

ODESSA PERSONALS.

Visitors in the Village — Sunday School Picnic.

Odessa, Aug. 16.— Mrs. John Denyes, Williamsport, Pa., at the Dominion. Mrs. Nelson Booth, New York, has joined her husband, and is a guest of Mr. Booth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Booth. Miss Stella Woodcock, Napanea, is with her aunt, Mrs. Charles Kilgannon. Percy Baker, Toronto, with his mother, Mrs. A. Baker; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones and daughter, Niagara Falls, and Mrs. Corstine and daughter, Saskatoon, with Mr. and Mrs. William Jones; Mrs. Rowlands, Hamilton, at Judson Babcock's; Miss Wilson, Toronto, with Mr. and Mrs. George Hamm; Irvine Burley, of Tweed, spent Sunday at his home; Mrs. Jameson and little son, Charles, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. James McQueen. Le See Babcock, Watertown, with his brother, Orange Babcock. Mrs. Isaac Fraser has been spending the past week with her daughter, Mrs. Allen, Newburgh.

E. Toplift has opened a shoe repairing shop in the rooms recently vacated by Miss Lanna Sneider. It is about thirty-five years since Mr. Toplift left the village and his many friends have given him a hearty welcome.

Mrs. D. Wright, who has been spending the past two weeks with her aunt, Mrs. George Detlor, left for her home in Watertown, last Thursday. Miss Lida Hymers, who has been visiting friends and relatives, returned to Kingston last Thursday. Mrs. Burley, who has been spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. Bolton, Belleville, returned home last Sunday. Glen Remion, who has been spending his holidays with his aunt, Mrs. Atkins, Niagara Falls, returned last Monday. Max Kenyon returned Saturday from visiting relatives in Millbrook and Norwood, and Marie Kenyon from visiting relatives in Marysville. Mrs. Mancur returned Monday from spending a short time with her brother, Arch Babcock, Manotick. Mrs. (Dr.) H. C. Mabee and Mrs. E. N. Adams returned last Monday from visiting relatives in Picton. Mrs. George Shepard, who has been in the Kingston General Hospital for some time, was able to return to her home last Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McConnell, after being residents of this village for the past sixteen years, left last Wednesday to make their home on Montreal street, Kingston. Their many friends regret their leaving, very much.

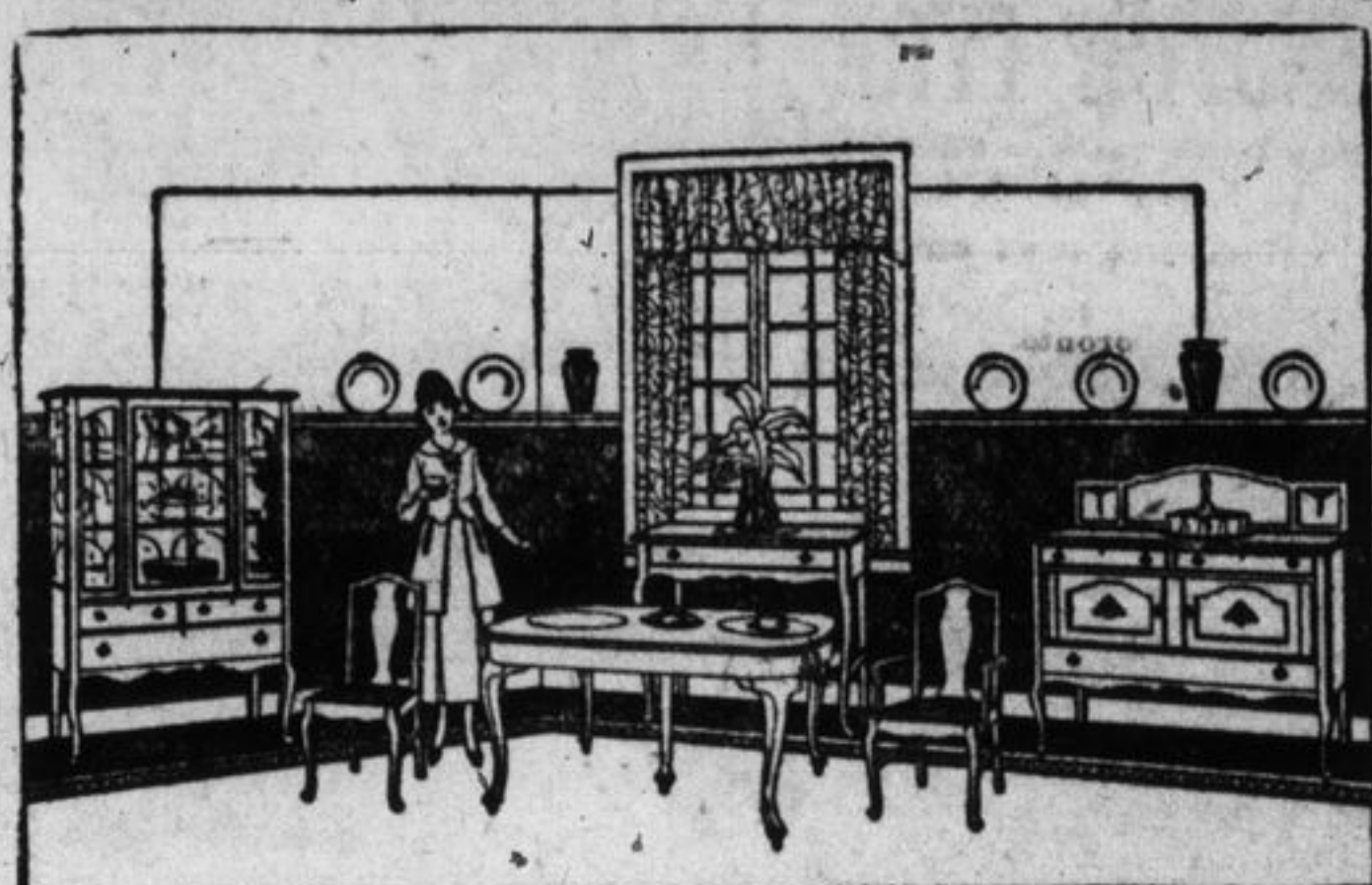
The annual Sunday school picnic was held last Wednesday at Lake Ontario Park, and a very pleasant day was spent. The little ones, especially enjoyed the car ride to Kingston and the many amusements.

THOROUGHLY CONVINCED.

Says Canada Was Prize Germany Bergained For.
Brooklyn, Aug. 18.—According to Prof. William Caldwell, McGill, who spoke at the Chautauqua here, on "Canada's Place in the World," this country was undoubtedly to be the prize demanded by Germany in the event of a German victory in the late war. Of this, Mr. Caldwell stated he was, as a result of mingling with Berlin officialdom and Germans holding consular positions in this country prior to the war, thoroughly convinced.

Dollar Day—Buy men's women's and children's shoes—Thursday, at Reid's Shoe Store, \$1.00 a pair.

There is always a room at the top, but the middle distances are crowded. Dollar Day, Thursday, Aug. 19th. Reid's Shoe Store. See windows for bargains.



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