

Attorney-General Finds Ontario Marriage Law Greatly Tangled

PRIVY COUNCIL MIGHT HAVE TO BE CALLED ON

To Straighten Out Marriage Question For Ontario Government.

WOMEN IN A QUANDARY

Many May Find Themselves Living With Men Who Are Not Legally Their Husbands.

Toronto, April 17.—Following the recent annulment of marriages where the contracting parties were under 18 years of age, which the ceremonies took place and were conducted without the written consent of the parents, Hon. W. F. Nickle, attorney-general of Ontario, stated today that in the present situation of the law, women in Ontario, "believing themselves to be legally married, might find themselves living in infatuation with men not legally their husbands at all."

The attorney-general pointed out that brides and grooms whose marriages are annulled by Ontario courts may find themselves automatically married again by a future judgment of any higher court, holding the present Ontario law invalid, irrespective of whether or not they have since married again, or if there are children by their second marriage. Such second marriages would in this event be invalid and all children born under it would be illegitimate. Officers of the attorney-general's department are at present working, preparing a stated case, which will be carried as far as the Supreme Court of Canada, and very probably to the Privy Council, in an effort to straighten out the legal marriage tangle which has been created by the Ontario Marriage Law and certain recent decisions under it.

DIVORCES IN CANADA ARE ON THE INCREASE

Thirty-eight More Were Granted Last Year Than Given in 1923.

Ottawa, April 17.—Thirty-eight more divorces were granted in Canada last year than in the year before. These figures comprise divorces granted by the Dominion parliament for Ontario and Quebec, and by provincial courts in the remaining provinces. The total of 543 divorces is an increase of 7.5 per cent. over 1923, and only five less than the record number of 1921, when the extraordinary increase of that year had been ascribed to the unsettling effects of the war period, coupled with the new facilities for obtaining divorce provided by a decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. This enabled the courts of the Prairie Provinces to grant divorces.

PEPALL IS DENIED HABEAS CORPUS WRIT

Los Angeles, Calif., April 17.—Andrew H. Pepall, millionaire glass manufacturer, must return to Canada and face charges of embezzling \$381,000 from the province of Ontario.

Presbyterians Will Consider Question of Country Churches

Lexington, Ky., April 17.—The problems of the country church are to receive prominent consideration at the 65th session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, which convenes here May 21st.

Membership in the denomination was given at 428,818 in the last report, with a Sunday school enrolment of 421,176. The total amount of money contributed for all purposes, benevolent causes and current expenses, was \$12,984,416.

Queensbury Divorce Action Is Entered

London, April 17.—A divorce petition by the Marquis of Queensbury against his wife, naming Sir James H. Dunn, a Canadian financier, as co-respondent, appeared in the list of 605 undefended petitions to be heard during the coming court sessions, which was published today. Lady Dunn also filed a petition, which likewise was undefended.

DRAFT REGULATIONS REGARDING 4.4 BEER

The Drier the Area the Fewer the Permits to Sell the Beverage.

Toronto, April 17.—As a committee of the cabinet, Premier Ferguson, Treasurer Price and Attorney-General Nickle will draft the regulations which are to govern the sale and taxation of the new four-point beer. A system almost like the much discussed local option will eventually be the result of which communities that are distinctly dry—for instance an isolated and purely rural riding—will have, perhaps, only one retail license. Not that it will be the policy of the government to restrict the number of permits in any locality for any reason, but rather that the situation will evolve itself. In dry areas where there are no considerable centres of population, there will be fewer applications for permits, and, of course, the government will carefully scrutinize each application.

UNCLE AND NEPHEW DROWNED

Lethbridge, Alta., April 17.—R. B. Donaldson, Lethbridge merchant, and his nephew, Earl Donaldson, were drowned in the irrigation reservoir at Chin, when a squall hit the boat in which they were fishing.

Rumor About Valcartier

Quebec, April 17.—Rumor has it that Valcartier camp may be turned into a huge aviation centre for training forest firefighters.

Straw Hat in Winnipeg

Winnipeg, April 17.—While the thermometer hovered just a degree above the freezing point, pedestrians witnessed a man displaying the first straw hat of the season on Winnipeg streets last night.

Farmers Aid N. S. Miners

Ottawa, April 17.—Farmers along the Montreal road between Orleans and Rockland have contributed a ton and a half of foodstuffs to the local Nova Scotia Miners' Relief Committee.

BRIAND ENTERS THE MINISTRY WITH CAILLAUX

Painleve Completes the Personnel of the New French Cabinet.

CAILLAUX IS SATISFIED

That He Can Bring the Treasury to Normal Status By Appropriate Measures.

Paris, April 17.—M. Painleve announced last evening that his Cabinet had been completed and that an accord on the ministerial programme had been reached. The new Cabinet, as officially announced, is as follows: Premier and Minister of War—Paul Painleve. Foreign Affairs—Aristide Briand. Finance—Joseph Caillaux. Justice and Vice-President of the Cabinet—Jules Steeg. Public Instruction—Anatole de Monzie. Interior—Senator A. Schrameck. Commerce—Charles Chaumet. Marine—Emile Borel. Colonies—Andre Hesse. Agriculture—Jean Durand. Public Works—Pierre Laval. Labor—Antoine Durratour. Devaluated Regions—Pierre Deyris. Pensions—Louis Antierou.

M. Loucheur, at the last moment declined to accept a post in the cabinet and the ministry was re-arranged. M. Chaumet takes the ministry of commerce, and Andre Hesse, Colonies. Caillaux conferred for an hour at the Ministry of Finance with Mr. Robinaux, governor of the Bank of France. Then he received representatives of the principal French banks, afterward announcing his acceptance of the cabinet post. M. Briand admitted early in the day that he had been asked to take office in the Painleve cabinet but had not accepted, although he asserted that he was not averse to collaborating with Painleve and was desirous that a cabinet be formed as quickly as possible.

"My definite acceptance depends upon an examination of certain points, notably, what the proposed programme will be and how other portfolios are to be distributed," said Briand. Caillaux told the Radical Socialist group that he considered the situation of the treasury serious, but was convinced he could bring it to a normal status by appropriate measures. The group unanimously voted confidence in Caillaux as a "financial restorer."

HISTORY OF CANADA

Principal Grant's High School Text-book Condemned.

Toronto, April 17.—Principal Grant's high school history of Canada was condemned by the English and history section of the Ontario Education Association yesterday. It was said to be unsuitable for immature students.

It was made clear that the attack on the book was not on account of its historical or political attitude, but simply because of the opinion that it was badly arranged and planned.

Hungman To Be There

Montreal, April 17.—Arthur Ellis, Canada's official hangman, today denied the report that he was too ill to act at the hanging of Harry D. Williams in York county jail, New Brunswick, next week. "I will leave here next Tuesday night and there will be no postponement," Ellis said.

Prince Drives Locomotive In the Interior of Nigeria

Minna, Nigeria, April 17.—The Prince of Wales arrived here at midnight, thus having penetrated the interior of Nigeria 462 miles by rail from the coast. During the afternoon's run, the prince drove the train for half an hour. By his side was the engine driver who piloted King Edward's train when as Prince of Wales, he visited West Africa en route to India.

TRICK DOG DECIDES OWNERSHIP DISPUTE

Opened Small Window to Climb into Ice Wagon of Real Owner.

New York, April 17.—If Buster, a super-educated brindle bull terrier, had kept one of his tricks up his sleeve he might still be a "dog without a master" to-day instead of back on the ice wagon where he started life seven years ago. As it was he played the role of principle witness in court yesterday to determine whether Edmund Edwards or Isaac Bernstein was his master. Edwards claimed he lost the dog three months ago from his ice wagon and saw it on Bernstein's express wagon last week. "Let the dog decide," said Magistrate McKiniry. Buster did tricks for Bernstein and then just as eagerly did tricks for Edwards. Then Edwards asked: "Judge, did you ever see a dog open a window?" Magistrate McKiniry had not and Buster was taken to Edwards' ice wagon, where it opened a small window to climb into the back of the vehicle. Edwards got the dog.

To Be Reorganized

Toronto, April 17.—The Ontario government will immediately and completely reorganize its purchasing system, the Toronto Telegram says today, as the result of revelations following the recent auditor's investigations of various government departments.

THE ONTARIO SITUATION

No one can look analytically into the recent history of Ontario finances and avoid a feeling of amazement and alarm. In 1873 the expenditure was \$3,099,634. It was not until 1906 that those figures were doubled. During those twenty-three years the country underwent a vast expansion. That long period was marked by extraordinary railway development and the opening up of the North-West. Ontario shared in that development. Her population increased during those years from 1,720,851 to 2,527,292. Yet provincial expenditure in 1906 had amounted to but \$6,720,179.

Then came a significant change. In the year preceding 1906 the long Liberal regime, which had begun in 1874, was broken by the accession of the Conservatives to power. At once an era of rapidly rising expenditures began. In nine years the outgo of \$6,720,179 had been raised to \$12,704,362, and five years later it amounted to \$25,880,843. For the current year appropriations have been passed exceeding \$43,000,000. The pace has grown steadily swifter.

ASTOUNDING AS IS THIS swelling of provincial expenditures, there is another and equally distressing side to the story. When the Liberal regime ended in 1905, the debt of Ontario was below \$7,000,000. It stands to-day at \$360,000,000. Interest and sinking fund charges are now four times as large as was the entire revenue of the province in 1906. Debt has been increased during the past five years alone at 400 times the average annual rate which obtained between Confederation and 1906. Yet population during these disastrous eighteen years had increased by but 25 per cent. That must be compared with a growth of 551 per cent. in expenditure, and of over 5,000 per cent. in debt.

It is not for a moment asserted that there would not have been large increases in the provincial expenditure and the provincial debt if the Liberal regime which began in 1874 had continued down to the present day. That would be mere idle boasting. There are several good reasons why public outgo would have risen to new levels, and why borrowing on a considerable scale would have been unavoidable; but it is said in all seriousness and sincerity that there would not have been the recklessness and disregard of popular judgment in those regards which has characterized all administrations since 1905. The Conservative party has never in the same high degree regarded itself as a trustee of public interests as has the Liberal party. It has, on the contrary, pursued a policy of largesse on the cold-blooded assumption that it is politically profitable so to do. And the figures just given tell us the result.

If one were to try and identify the salient characteristic of the present administration at Toronto, one would find it in an utter and callous disregard of popular judgment. That attitude is general among the heads of departments. It is conspicuously so in the disposition of the Prime Minister and his Attorney-General. They appear to be absolutely indifferent to what the people think or desire. It would seem that they take to themselves a sort of divine right to do as they please. Very well. History records many an instance in which arrogance has met with a violent check.

SOFIA HORROR; BOMBEXPLODED IN CATHEDRAL

Six Generals and Thirty Officers Are Among the Dead.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Were Also Killed—Martial Law Has Now Been Proclaimed Throughout Bulgaria.

Sofia, April 17.—Conflicting reports exist regarding the number of the victims of yesterday's bombing outrage, but the latest estimate is that approximately 140 persons, including 20 women and 10 children, were killed and twenty more wounded by an infernal machine placed in the roof of the cathedral which was detonated during the funeral of General Georgeff who was shot down in the street. Six generals and thirty other officers are among the slain. The dead included the chief of police, a number of prominent citizens, including a former cabinet minister and Generals Davidoff and Nersoff. Martial law was proclaimed throughout Bulgaria to-day.

St. Bridget's School, Montreal, Badly Gutted by Fire

Montreal, April 17.—Fifty thousand dollars damage was done by fire which broke out early this morning in St. Bridget's school and badly gutted the four-story stone structure. One fireman was rendered unconscious. But after some effort with a pulmotor was revived.

Nova Scotia Relief

At a meeting of the Kingston Local Council of Women held on Thursday it was decided to ask the Kingston papers to acknowledge subscriptions on behalf of the needy women and children in the mining districts of Nova Scotia. All subscriptions will be sent to Hon. McCallum Grant, chairman of the relief committee at Halifax, through the local Council. Subscriptions received so far: \$10—Kingston Woman's Liberal Association. \$25—George T. Richardson Chapter, I.O.D.E.

Premier Thinks Trustees' Action Was Too Hasty

Toronto, April 17.—Premier Ferguson stated to-day that he thought the school trustees' section of the Ontario Educational Association was too hasty in condemning the government's township school board scheme, submitted as a means of reducing the cost of education. He said he thought the trustees would have discussed the proposals with their constituents before making a statement.

TO TAR 26 MILES OF SUBURBAN ROADS

In Kingston District—The Places That Will Be Given Attention.

It has been definitely decided that the Suburban Road Commission will have about twenty-six miles of roads in the Kingston district tarred and sanded in the very near future. At a meeting of the commission it was decided that the following roads will be treated: Bath Road, from the city limits for a distance of seven miles or to the boundary of Frontenac county; Battersea road from the Canadian National subway, or the city limits to Hickey's corner, a distance of about seven miles; Portland Road from Cataragui to the junction, Sydenham and Portland roads.

Last year the road at the new causeway at Collins's Bay was given the first treatment of tar and sand. It is the intention to make the Bath and Battersea road first class highways for the travelling public. It is to be hoped that council for the counties of Lennox and Addington will have its section of Bath Road oiled and then there will be one of the best lake shore drives in the province.

Leaders Again Confering Regarding a Settlement

Halifax, April 17.—Representatives of the British Empire Steel Corporation, headed by President Roy M. Wolvin and the United Mine Workers of America, headed by International President John L. Lewis, again went into conference today under the chairmanship of Premier E. H. Armstrong of Nova Scotia, in an endeavor to effect a settlement of the wage dispute which has tied up the coal mining industry throughout the province for the past six weeks.

Brewers and Retailers To Collect Beer Tax

Toronto, April 17.—Asked this morning how it was intended to collect the beer tax, Hon. W. H. Price, provincial treasurer, stated that "brewers and retailers will have to be made agents for the government as far as I can tell at the present time, and they will be the collectors."

Attorney-General Silent

Toronto, April 17.—Hon. W. F. Nickle, attorney-general, when interviewed declined to make any comment upon the intimation from Los Angeles of further evidence of a sensational character in the Pepall case, or upon the statement that there are still further names to be made public in connection with the handling of Ontario securities.

Runaway Dirigible Returns to Hangar

Pulham, Eng., April 17.—To the cheers of British army officers, soldiers, workers and crowds of spectators, the army dirigible R-33 returned home safely shortly after two o'clock this afternoon after her twenty-eight hour battle with the elements over the east coast of England and the storm swept the North sea.

After Battle of Twenty-eight Hours in Gale—Young Commander Praised.

The runaway craft, which tore away from her moorings at Pulham air hangar yesterday morning, during one of the fiercest gales in recent years, landed safely a quarter of an hour later. Much praise is being meted out to Lieut. R. S. Booth, aged twenty-six, who has crammed into a short space of time an experience of years, for he was responsible for navigating the ship to safety. His wife, who waited at the Pulham air station since yesterday evening, was one of the first to greet him.

TORIES SCORED BY G. W. KYTE ON THE TARIFF

The Fable of "Belling the Cat" Applies to Them.

CAPE BRETON RELIEF

Would Come Quickest By Finding a Market For 500,000 Tons of Coal.

Ottawa, April 17.—A modern political version of the household fable, "belling the cat"; a telling attack on the so-called consistency of the Conservative party, in regard to the tariff; and a vigorous reply to Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion (Conservative, Fort William) for the latter's attack on the expenditure of \$4,200 on the parliamentary party of three which went to the Empire Exhibition at Wembley, England, last summer—these marked a notable speech in the house last night by George W. Kyte, chief government whip and a veteran member of the House from Nova Scotia.

"I had no confidence in a tariff board to be established by a high protection party in power in 1912," said Mr. Kyte, answering a criticism that he opposed the tariff board idea then but supported it now. "There was no chance of appointment to that board of any but high-tariff men. Today the Opposition chides the Liberals for the diversity of tariff views in this party, but let me tell the Conservatives that a tariff board to be applied by the present administration has a wonderfully better chance of meeting the views of the whole Dominion than that Conservative board.

"The Conservatives," he said, "should be slow to boast of party unanimity on fiscal matters. As a matter of fact, we find the maximum of unanimity in the minimum of numbers. As the Tory party decreases in numbers it will, to the same proportion, increase in unanimity. If the Conservatives were in power there would be no possible chance of low-tariff men being appointed to that board."

Quick Relief For Cape Breton

Mr. Kyte, answering a suggestion of A. R. McMaster (Brome) that some reciprocal arrangement between Nova Scotia and the United States in the matter of coal would obviate the declared need of an upward tariff adjustment, as proposed in the budget this session, declared that there was no possibility of such an arrangement being made, and that, if possible, it would be of no advantage to Nova Scotia. The equalization of the tariff as between slack and run-of-mine coal, as proposed this year, would mean that the Nova Scotia operators would be able to find a market for 500,000 tons more of their output. This would be the best and quickest way to relieve the distress in the Cape Breton region, about which, he said, the member for Brome had been truly solicitous.