

THE DAILY MAIL

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MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1920.

DIVORCE COURTS

Under the caption "Divorces Should be Private" the Toronto Saturday night says:

"The decision of the Federal Government to place Ontario and Prince Edward Island on a parity with all the other English speaking provinces, by permitting the establishment of divorce courts, will be welcomed on the ground of common sense. The general unsettlement of social conditions resultant from the war has necessarily led to a great increase in well-founded applications for divorce too vast for the existing machinery. It, however, must rest with the judges of the new court to uphold the dignity of their proceedings, by seeing to it that the elements of evasion and caprice do not tend to make marriage as an institution a thing of limited tenure, and the phrase "until death do them part" a grotesque paradox. This is what has happened in some states of the American Union, and in at least one of the British dominions, New Zealand to wit. Nor will any right-thinking man wish to see divorce made more prevalent by an extension of the grounds on which it may be obtained. It is certain that the powers vested in the Senate of Canada at the present time in the matter of causes, amply cover the whole field of admissible grievance and disability. Nor should anyone desire to see the public rushing in large number to take advantage of permissible reasons for divorce as now defined. Most people of middle age have observed cases not only of women who have forgiven erring husbands (these are always numerous), but of men who have forgiven erring wives, and have had no cause for regret or unhappiness.

svatf... .scddof oxtoteneftiQu mCof, "One proviso the Minister of Justice should insist upon, and that is that the proceedings of the divorce court shall be as private as are the proceedings of the divorce committee of the Senate. The press should be prohibited from recording anything save the application and the judgment when delivered. Decent people have no desire to see divorce court proceedings made the subject of jocular descriptive writing like the average police court report in this country."

INCREASED INDEMNITY

While the action of the members of the Legislature in boosting the sessional indemnity from \$500 to \$1000 will provoke some criticism, it will be generally admitted that there was a good deal of justification for it. In old times the sessional indemnity was \$300 and about twenty years ago it has increased to \$500. In these days of soaring prices nobody can afford to work for nothing. The duties of members of the Legislature have greatly increased and it is in the public interest that they should be indemnified for the time which they are required to devote to the affairs of the public. Then there is another feature of it which should not be overlooked. The extension of the franchise to women practically doubles the number of electors. This means that the legitimate expense of running an election will be increased by at least one hundred per cent. Had the indemnity not been increased the problem of facing an election would have been a serious one for the candidate of limited means. It is certainly not in the interests of good government that such a condition of affairs should exist. The average man will readily admit that if a member of the Legislature was entitled to an indemnity of \$500 ten or twenty years ago he will not be overpaid today if he receives double that amount.

ART AND DEMOCRACY

Ivan Ikonovitch is an artist at Moscow, and has spent many months upon a painting of merit. He takes it before the seven commissioners of the bolshevik government who rule upon such productions. They accept the work and pay the artist 7,000 rubles. Michael Golinsky likewise a painter has a fit of indignation in the night, translates his sleeplessness as the call of inspiration rises and in two hours produces a picture which is the same any way you look at it—whether right sight up, wrong side or hung on the bias. He hurries it off to the commissioners, who, being unable to understand it, decide it must be a masterpiece. Michael is given an order on the public treasury for 7,000 rubles.

LOCAL NEWS

Met With Accident
Norman Edgcombe had the misfortune to fall down stairs yesterday and so strained the ligaments of one of his legs that he may be confined to his bed for the greater part of the summer months.

At the Picture Houses.
The bill at the Opera House for today is "Seeing It Through," with Zasu Pitts as the star. Miss Pitts is as funny as her name. There is also a good comedy. The Monday-Tuesday bill at the Gaiety includes Nazimova in "The Red Lantern." This celebrated Russian actress has no superior on the screen. The programme also includes Fox News, Topics of the Day, and a good comedy.

D. F. C. For Lt. Cronin.
News has been received in St. John from London that Capt. Edward J. Cronin, of Saint John who returned a few months ago from overseas, after long service in many lands, is among officers of the Royal Flying Force, who had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry. The reasons for this award are greatly to Capt. Cronin's credit, viz. that he "had taken part in eighty raids on enemy territory, displaying great ability and gallantry. On July 17th, 1919, at Kamshin (Volga) he carried out an important reconnaissance with great skill and daring, flying as low as 500 feet at a critical time. Lt. Cronin previously rendered gallant service during the Bulgarian retreat in the autumn of 1918." He was stationed in Fredericton with C. Company 104th Battalion for some months.

On the C. P. R. Also.
As the result of investigation by the C. P. R. Investigation Department, N. B. District the homes of several trainmen at Brownville Junction and Megantic were searched and a quantity of goods stolen from C. P. R. trains were found in possession of brakemen R. C. Stineford and W. J. Shaw were arrested at Brownville in this connection on the 15th and 16th, instant, and M. Howison, who is wanted on a Canadian warrant for goods found in his possession at Megantic, was arrested at Jackman, Me., on the 17th and locked up in Sherbrooke on the 18th. The two men arrested at Brownville were taken to Milo, Me., and remanded for a week. Houses or railway men were searched there and a quantity of goods recovered. In addition other goods which had been thrown out by others following the raids were discovered.

H. A. Powell, K. C. of St. John is registered at the Queen.

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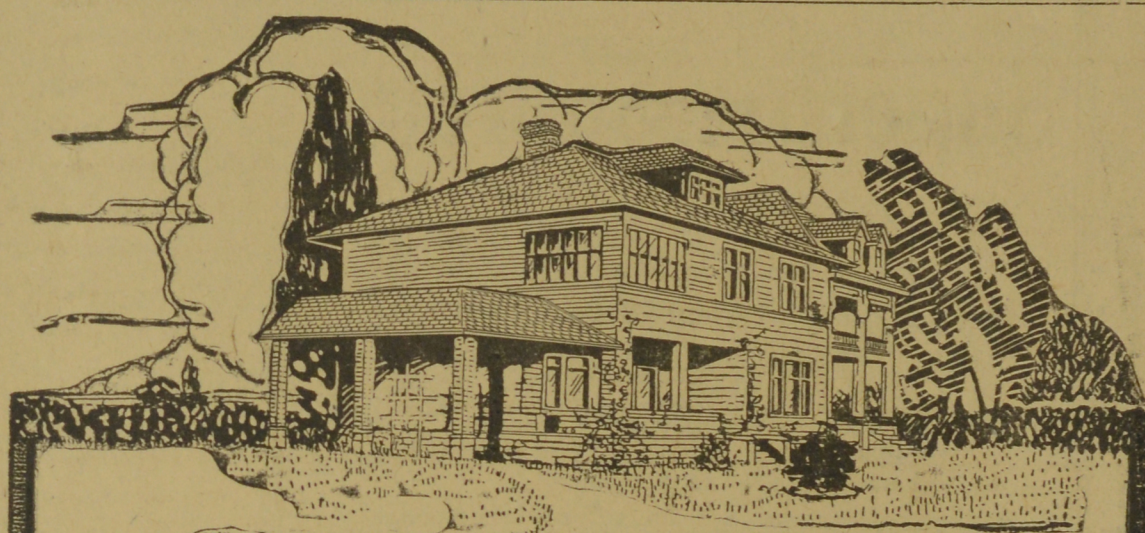
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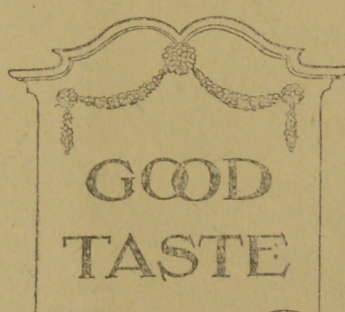
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