

ELOPMENTS RARE IN ITALY, IT TAKES TOO LONG TO MARRY

Mussolini Frowns on Bachelors, But Complicated Procedure is Bar to Run-Away Wedding and Hasty Romances

ROME, Italy, May 16—There are no elopements in Italy. No frantic calls to the police from irate fathers demanding that they head off impetuous daughters from committing matrimony. And no prospective bridegroom is left waiting at the altar while his intended bride runs away with the best man.

It just isn't done because it just isn't possible. It takes too long to get married. Despite Premier Mussolini's urgent calls upon the youth of the country exhorting them to marry young and do their full part in the development of Italy's greatness by adding strong, healthy children to her population, it's a long complicated road between the betrothal kiss and the marriage of the bridal couple.

Yet every inducement is offered a young man to take himself a wife and none at all for him to remain a bachelor. Bachelors are distinctly frowned upon by Il Duce, who himself has five children.

Marriage Is Encouraged

Bachelor mayors of cities and towns were warned only a few days ago that they would be replaced by official decree. And long ago word was passed down the line that no unmarried man need expect advancement in the government service.

On the other hand, many benefits are open to the men of family. Thousands of unemployed men, if they're married, have been given the opportunity of becoming landowners, installed in a comfortable brick and cement house erected at government expense on reclaimed marshland given a few acres to till, a cement barn, a cow, a few pigs and a stone baking oven. All they have to do is develop and care for the land. They pay no cash, and in twenty-five years the home is their own. A man with seven children, pays no taxes. A man with six can ride in the trams, with his family, free. Men with large families are given free insurance up to as high as 100,000 lire. And each year motherhood is glorified in a week-long celebration, with Mussolini himself awarding medals and generous gifts of cash to Italy's most prolific mothers.

Too Long to Get Married

With all this it might be supposed that Italy's marriage rate would bounce upward at a high rate of speed. But it doesn't. It takes a long time to get married—and it takes even longer to get ready to get married.

Jobs are all but impossible to find in Italy. Also a young fellow who has a job may find no little resentment on the part of his family if he even suggests getting married. Because under the Italian "family system" no matter how old the son is a great share of his salary goes into the family till to be carefully hoarded by the mother—and if he got married that income would be cut off, or at least greatly reduced.

It is also the quaint and practical custom in Italy that every bride must bring to her husband a dowry of at least 2,000 lire. In poor families—and most families in Italy are poor—this is no small problem, for no matter how much in love the young people are, the marriage rarely takes place until the 2,000 lire fund is complete.

Work for Their Dowries

A large proportion of the servant girls in Rome are made up of young women who have come in from some small town or country village to earn their marriage fund. As the system of contributing to the family cashbox applies to girls who are working as well as to the men, and as the average wage of a housemaid is 100 lire, (less than \$9 a month) in Italian families, it often takes two or three years to earn this fund. So when the girl goes back to the old home town ready to drop the money into the pockets of her intended bridegroom, quite often he's decided not to get married after all—or perhaps married some one else who was quicker about getting her funds together.

Yet even after the "preliminaries" are all completed, before the intended bride and groom appear at the city hall with their witnesses they must have a certificate from the police stating that they have no criminal re-

cord. A certificate from the church where they took their first communion. They must both also certify to their family state—whether they have been married before and if so whether they are divorced. They must go to the State Department and obtain an affidavit that they are Italian citizens and the prospective bridegroom procures a statement from the war department certifying that he has served his required term of military service.

Must Register Intention

All these documents must then be taken to the church and the banns are published for the customary three weeks. Then a trip to the city hall with two witnesses—whose certificates also have to be in perfect order—and register their intention of getting married. Everything is all set then for the wedding.

"There is no divorce in Italy," an Italian official explained. "Therefore there must be no hasty marriage. By the time they have fulfilled all the regulations they have become impressed with the fact that marriage is a serious business. And they have had ample time to change their minds if they wanted to."

There is no divorce but often annulments are granted, and many of the so-called families have been known to provide for this in advance. A day or two before the marriage ceremony a select group of the bride's friends are invited to a prewedding luncheon. Here, in front of all the guests the bride bursts into tears and the mother slaps her smartly, accompanying the gesture with appropriate admonitions. These "witnesses" later may be called upon by the bride to certify she was forced into the marriage by her family. Coercion is one of the few grounds of annulment.

UNITED CHURCH PRESBYTERY MEETING

The May meeting of the Fredericton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada met in Fraser Memorial Hall in this City yesterday with morning and afternoon sessions. The chairman, Rev. Harry Burns of Gagetown presided and conducted appropriate opening devotions after which Presbytery was constituted by calling the roll. Seventeen ministers and fifteen lay delegates answered to their names as follows: Revs. D. R. Chowen, H. H. Blanchard, H. M. Upham, George Telford, Harry Burns, W. A. Burge, W. J. Domville, J. S. Gregg, H. J. Rowley, M. H. Manuel, A. S. Murray, J. E. Shanklin, J. H. Sulston, R. H. Barker, E. E. Fytche, R. W. Barker, and Dr. Wightman. The laymen were Messrs. W. M. Burns, H. B. Fowler, W. E. McMullen, Tilley Bird, Frank Timmins, John Arnold, William Munroe, David McElwain, James Miller, John Jewett, George Boulter, Geo. W. Dingee, H. Hallet F. Trail, and Mr. McNamara. There were also a number of visitors. Rev. J. W. Bartlett was excused on account of sickness.

Resignations from the active ministry with requests to be placed on the retired list on account of age and service were presented by Revs. D. R. Chowen and J. S. Gregg. These requests were regretfully agreed to and their interests referred to the Committee on ministerial relations for further action. The following resolution was presented by Rev. J. W. Domville as a mark of the Presbytery's esteem:

"Resolve that this Presbytery place on record to appreciation of devoted and interesting labours of Revs. J. S. Gregg, B. A., and D. R. Chowen, for over forty years, first in the Methodist Church and later in the United Church. We wish them continued health and happiness and trust that their services and wise counsels may still be at the disposal of the church. Thankful for the blessing their devoted labours have been to others in the past, we pray that their usefulness may continue for many years to come." It is understood that both of

"JUST KIDS," SAYS TRAINER, FATALLY HURT BY LIONS

Ziegler Trusted "Babies" and Even After Being Mauled Near Death in Los Angeles Declares They Didn't Know What They Were Doing.

LOS ANGELES, May 16—Herman Ziegler, world famous animal trainer, paused before entering the lions' den and admired the mighty, golden beasts.

"My babies," he said to an assistant. Ringled by 18 lords of the jungle, Ziegler cracked his whip. The lions, perched on their stools, snarled viciously and made swooping passes at him with their paws.

Ziegler ignored their gestures. He trusted them. He particularly admired the great beast Mars.

"Over here," he commanded Mars, indicating the position he wanted Mars to take. The beast snarled. Ziegler spoke again. Mars made a swipe with his claw. Ziegler stepped back. He stumbled over a stool, fell flat on his back. In a flash Mars leaped and sank his teeth into his trainer's arm.

A thundering roar arose from the lion's cage. Seventeen sleek bodies flew through the air, landing in a clawing, snarling heap over the body of the prostrate man.

Assistants Paralyzed

Outside the barred arena assistants were paralyzed. They were roused to action by furious cursing coming from beneath three tons of heaving lions. Now and then they saw a bleeding human arm emerge from the yellow pile. The hand still gripped a whip that cracked down on a lion's nose. Then a beast, freed from the pile, leaped and the arm disappeared again.

these retiring clergymen will reside in Fredericton.

The licenses of Mr. Joshua E. McNabb and Mr. Fred Trail as lay preachers were rewarded for the current year.

The question of a chaplain service or county jails was discussed and referred to the Committee on Evangelism and Social Service.

The applications of the eight ministers of other churches seeking admission to the United Church were reported and placed on file.

Rev. T. Spencer Crisp made application to be restored to the active work after several years of poor health. This was recommended. Many matters of routine and correspondence were disposed of. Mr. J. E. McMullen, treasurer, then reported for the Presbytery fund, which showed a balance of \$159.00.

Rev. A. V. Morash recently removed to Amherst, N. S., applied for transfer to the Cumberland Presbytery, which was granted.

The meeting after adjournment for luncheon, reassembled at two o'clock or further business. After devotions the remit from General Council on the ordination of women was taken up and after a lengthy discussion was approved by a vote of 16 to 9.

The report of the Home Mission Committee was presented by Rev. George Telford, recommending grants to mission fields and other matters. Some matters were passed on to the Conference Committee and the report adopted.

The consideration of Students and Candidates for the ministry came before the Presbytery being introduced by Rev. J. S. Gregg. Two names were dealt with, namely Mr. Edgar M. Baird, B. A., who having completed all required studies, was licensed to preach and recommended for ordination at the ensuing conference at Sackville in June. Mr. Baird has been appointed to Indian mission work in Manitoba. The other student, Mr. Raymond Rowley, having gone to the United States, his name was dropped from our lists.

The report of the Committee on Religious Education was presented by Mr. W. M. Burns and spoken to by Revs. H. H. Blanchard, A. S. Murray, R. H. Barker, and its various recommendation adopted.

Nominations for the various Presbytery committees were then presented and adopted as follows: Home Missions, Rev. George Telford; M. and M., Rev. E. E. Fytche; Education of Students, Rev. J. S. Gregg; Social Service, Rev. R. W. Barker; Foreign Missions, Rev. J. E. Shanklin; Pastoral Relations, Rev. W. A. Burge. Appointments to Conference Committees was left to the Executive.

Assistant Vincent Cusumano cracked his own whip. He might as well have waved a straw in the wind. The voice beneath the thrashing beasts grew less strong, less furious. It was agonized, pleading for help.

Assistant Frank Phillips fired six blank shots. The lions startled, reared back, roared, retreated to corners of the arena. But three lions remained—Mars, Menelik and Tobey—all favorites of their master. They crouched over Ziegler as lions crouch over a freshly killed gazelle in the jungle.

Licks Master's Wounds

The torn, bleeding Ziegler, freed for an instant, cracked Mars on the nose with his whip. It was a feeble blow, but it gave him time to get out his blank pistol. He fired six shots. But this time assistants were entering the arena. Mars and Tobey retreated. Menelik grabbed his master's foot in his mouth and dragged him to the door, and as assistants closed in with prodding irons, he liked his master's wounds.

Ziegler was taken to a hospital. His body bleeding from nearly 100 wounds so weak he couldn't move, he whispered:

"They didn't know what they were doing. They're just big kids."

Ziegler died an hour later. The accident occurred yesterday on the lion farm of Charles Gay, where the beasts are bred, reared and trained for circuses and the movies.

The lay representatives to conference were to be the same as those to Presbytery except where changes took place before the first of June.

Representatives on the Settlement Committee for 1936 were then elected by ballot and resulted as follows: Regular—Rev. J. E. Shanklin and Mr. J. Jewett; Alternate—Rev. E. E. Fytche and W. M. Burns.

The committee on Presbytery records was reported by Rev. D. R. Chowen and recommendations adopted.

The ten years of Church Union, which will be consummated in June is to be fittingly celebrated throughout the entire church and the committee on this matter, reported certain recommendations for its observance, which were adopted. A thank offering will be one feature of the celebration. June 16th was the day favoured. Other details were left to the executive.

The matter of the call to Rev. M. D. Olive to the Marysville Church was reported with all necessary papers and was approved by Presbytery and the action reported to the Settlement Committee for Confirmation.

The M. and M. fund allocations for this year were then presented and explained by Rev. M. H. Manuel. An advance over last year had been raised and the present allocation amounts to \$7,905. The report was adopted.

The question of discussing the Christianizing the Social Order was, for lack of time, deferred to the next regular meeting.

Rev. A. D. Archibald was nominated for Conference President for next year. The time and place of the Spiritual Conference was left to the Executive as was that of the next regular meeting. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Sackville during the sessions of conference. The benediction was given by the chairman.

Angelo Patri says what every man who ever was a boy knows is true:

"Children in the first fighting stage are often called upon to defend themselves. They must show readiness to do so if necessary. Many times the mere show of readiness is enough. Should one of them retreat or show fear in the face of a challenge, he at once becomes the object of all the bullies in the neighborhood, and his life is made miserable."

Substitute "nation" for "child" in the above and you have all there is to world politics in 1935. Substantially a nation is a crowd. A crowd has a collective mind, regardless of the individual minds of the human units that make up the crowd. Every statesman and every showman knows this, and acts accordingly, or falls down on his job.

You Will Prefer It "SALADA" TEA

FROGS TO JUMP IN MARK TWAIN CONTEST

But New York Recreation Centres Bar Stuffing Rivals' Entries With Buckshot.

N7W YORK, N. Y., May 17—This city will have its first frog-jumping contest on May 19. It will be held in Central Park under the auspices of the Mark Twain Centennial Committee.

The idea was prompted by Mark Twain's short story, "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County". The story relates how a city "slicker" won a frog-jumping contest by forcing his opponent's frog to eat buckshot.

But James V. Mulholland, Supervisor of Recreation of the Park Department, is going to see frogs in the Central Park contest.

The frogs will be sent from Louisiana by airplane in "commodious crates lined with moist moss". There will be 200 of them and the smallest will have a body at least ten inches long.

Boys' and girls' clubs and playground organizations from all over the city will enter the contest. Each organization having more than 100 members may have a frog. Representatives will go to the zoo before the contest, choose their frogs and name them. Mr. Mulholland hopes names of historical figures or characters from Mark Twain's works will be picked. The names of living cele-

brities will not be used without their permission.

If it is found that the frogs differ greatly in weight they will be divided up into light middle and heavyweight classes. The contest is not a race. The frogs will jump. Each one will get three jumps, and the organization whose frog makes the longest leap will win. The frogs have been known to jump as far as twelve feet in a single bound.

PROFESSIONAL

DR. J. C. McMULLEN
Dentist
X - RAY

Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2 p.m.-5.30 p.m.
Phone 504 Loyalist Building

G. I. NUGENT, M. D.

333 BRUNSWICK STREET
Phone 808.
FREDERICTON, N. B.

Hanson, Dougherty and West
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, Etc.
Carleton Chambers,
61 Carleton St. : Fredericton

DR. G. R. LISTER
: Dentist :
QUEEN STREET : Below Regent
Phone 531-11
Burchill-Wilkinson Building

ARTHUR F. BETTS
Plumbing and Heating
315 QUEEN ST. PHONE 512

**Fresh
Bermuda Spinach**
— 15c per pound —

FRESH PORK — BEEF — AND VEAL

HAROLD YERXA

GROCERIES, MEATS AND FISH
PHONE 305 89 YORK STREET

- THE CAPITAL GARAGE -

— W. E. Vaughan, Proprietor —
QUEEN ST. FREDERICTON, N. B. CAMPBELL ST.
PHONE 206-21 OFFICE 206-41

Northern Electric Radios

Lacquer System of Painting Tires and Accessories of All Kinds

Johnson Outboard Motors and Boats
Weaver Automatic Brake Testing Service

DISTRIBUTORS FOR U.S.L. BATTERIES
Special Attention to Tourist Travel OPEN ALL NIGHT

**INSURANCE
HOWARD H. BLAIR**

RELIABLE BRITISH and CANADIAN
COMPANIES

PHONES—Office 291-21
Residence 345-11

68 YORK
STREET

—You Can Rest Assured—

CHRISTIES BISCUITS

We Have Just Received a Fresh Shipment. A Good Assortment of Their Best Varieties.

LEAF LETTUCE CUCUMBERS TOMATOES GRAPEFRUIT,
ORANGES BANANAS NATIVE RHUBARB

A. E. EARDLEY Phone 618 and Be Satisfied.
Home-owned Store
Corner Brunswick and St. John Streets