

MORAL PREPAREDNESS FIRST IS PLEA MADE BY REV. DR. TOMKINS

Holy Trinity Rector, Discussing Divorce Evil, Says It Is More Important Than Armament

LIKES EDMONDS BILL

"I believe that the man or woman who seeks freedom through divorce from the sacrament of marriage must be stamped as a coward," said the Rev. Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins, of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, today, commenting upon his appearance before a House Committee in Washington on Wednesday in support of the Edmonds Uniform Divorce Bill.

"I am heartily in support of the Edmonds bill," he said, "and was very glad to appear as an advocating its enactment."

The bill proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States in the following language:

"The Congress shall have power to establish uniform laws on the subject of marriage and divorce for the United States and to provide penalties for violation thereof."

"While this bill," Doctor Tomkins continued, "would not eradicate a great evil, it would go far toward controlling it. The alarming increase in divorce throughout the United States can be qualified as ruinous to the moral life of the country."

"From 1829 to 1914 divorce increased in this country 10 times as fast as the population. In 1915, 115,879 divorces were granted throughout the United States. Within the last 50 years there were between two and three million divorces granted here, and, by the same token, one and a half million children made orphans thereby. A very large percentage of these orphans, actually 34 per cent, according to statistics which I have looked up, became inmates of reform schools."

**DIVORCES KNOW BETTER.** "We are now second to Japan, a heathen country, in the number of divorces granted yearly in proportion to the number of marriages. If we increase granting divorces for the next 10 years at the same ratio we did in the past 50, we shall have one divorce to every three marriages."

"There is a great deal of talk and agitation about preparedness at the present time. I am heartily in favor of it; but I am even more heartily in favor of moral preparedness. The Edmonds bill, if it becomes part of the Constitution, will go far in this direction. It cannot perforce remedy the existing evil, but it will greatly help in making marriage more a matter of federal interest, and thus logically, make divorce more difficult. The prevalence of divorce at the present time is largely among people who know better. It is often used as a means of immediate remarriage; or remarriage so called, because no man or woman who has been married can ever be really divorced save by death."

**REMARRIAGE IS SWINISH.** "If it is not possible for a man and woman who have been joined in holy wedlock to live together on account of vice or drunkenness they should not be divorced, but separated from bed and board," and this prevented from remarrying. He said she who would do differently is a coward. I will go further, and say, in plain words, that I believe remarriage, so called, after divorce, is swinish. Even swine would know better."

"In supporting the Edmonds bill, in conjunction with representatives of other denominations, a representative of Cardinal Gibbons for the Roman Catholics; Dr. Charles Wood, of Washington, for the Presbyterians; Bishop Harding, of Washington, for the Episcopalians, and two other clergymen representing the Congregationalists and Southern Methodists, before a well-attended hearing, was pleading for the morality of our country, for the good name of little children, for national honor and the moral integrity of the individual who lives anywhere under the Stars and Stripes."

**Insanity Mrs. Rogers' Defense.** NEW YORK, April 14.—The trial of Mrs. Ida Sniffon Walters Rogers has been postponed until April 24, but will positively take place on that date, according to statements made by her attorney, Abraham Levy. Insanity will be the defense. It will be argued that when the mother gave her two children poison and took it herself she was driven by an unaccountable and uncontrollable frenzy.

**So Drunk He Thought He Was John D.** ATLANTIC CITY, April 14.—John Rockefeller in court? asked Judge Casskill in the Police Court yesterday. Nobody replied. The audience buzzed with surprise. The question was put again, again no answer. "Halt forfeited," said the Judge. The man must have been on a gasoline jag. A policeman picked up a drunken man on the Boardwalk last night and he gave the name of Rockefeller when giving \$10 bail.

GENERAL DU PONT STOPS USE OF HIS NAME IN FILMS

Also Induces Producer to Abandon Use of Son's Name

NEW YORK, April 14.—The film play, "Blue Blood and Red," that has been displayed in motion picture houses through the country is undergoing a rapid change in characters. Originally its chief figures were General T. Coleman du Pont and his son, disguised under the name of "Algy." The "General" was shown as a rich and indulgent parent and the son as a spendthrift, careless and unfeeling. A friend of General T. Coleman du Pont who saw the play grew indignant and wrote to him about it.

General du Pont consulted his lawyer last Saturday. A complaint was prepared against the Fox Film Corporation, George Walsh, who represented "Algy," played the part with great spirit. An explanatory word thrown upon the screen read:

"Although he was the best liked man in college and the greatest fullback that ever wore the crimson, Algy had no use for books and his dismissal worried him not at all."

Then came the screen information that he was dismissed from Harvard University because he would not study and was unfeeling to his fellow students. This was especially galling to General T. Coleman du Pont, because his own son, Francis Victor du Pont, is an honor student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is noted for his sober, studious habits.

Word was sent to Mr. Fox that the names used in the play must be changed, and an application was filed with the Supreme Court for an injunction restraining its further presentation. Yesterday counsel appeared before Justice Greenbaum, of the Supreme Court, where it was agreed that the word should be sent to all the houses showing the film to change the names or to stop producing the play.

MAYOR FAVORS SPOONING

Discusses Protest Against Ruling for Harrisburg Parks

HARRISBURG, April 14.—Mayor Meals has dismissed the protests of several elderly persons calling on him to prohibit "spooning" in the city parks. The Mayor said that he could see no reason for not permitting young couples from "holding hands and counting stars" in the park.

"The park is a real place for spooning," Mayor Meals added. "Our department sees no reason why it should be tabooed. This is the time of the year young people enjoy each other's company."

Police Court Chronicles

Tom Glass is always "broke." And the police venture the plain assertion that he's cracked. Furthermore, some of the bluecoat was out in Germantown say they can see through his plans.

But whether or not Tom is playing any game is a matter of conjecture. Follow him and judge for yourself. He arrived on the outskirts of Germantown in rather free-looking clothes and a disreputable high hat which had lost its days of happiness. But despite his second-hand scenery, his pure white beard and locks gave him an almost distinguished air.

Tom gathered up a number of stray plants and then strolled along Hillcrest avenue with his eyes glued on the ground. He picked up all sorts of pebbles which he dropped in his pocket and paid no attention to approaching traffic. Persons who observed him concluded that he was an early spring naturalist. This suspicion gained weight when the wanderer chased a bug of mammoth dimensions which darted across his path. It eluded him for fully a block. But Tom kept right on its heels, much to the chagrin of a noterman and automobilist. The bug came to a sudden halt at Germantown

avenue. Glass got down on his knees with the idea of surrounding it. The drivers of several vehicles coming in the opposite direction shouted in vain, but the man in a little-rumored, who was directly in front of the naturalist, tooted his horn and shouted. He might as well have appealed to the sphinx. Tom was intent on catching the bug. He was about to close in on it when he felt a heavy hand on his shoulder. Turning, he looked into the eyes of Policeman Black.

"I want the bug for my collection," said Glass.

"And we want you for our collection," said the cop. "We collected you before, but you slipped out again."

Tom informed Black in rather flowery language that he was mistaken, but the cop was sure he was not, and took the naturalist before Magistrate Pennock to decide the question.

The Judge readily remembered Tom as a former customer and Glass also recognized the Judge, which revived his memory. And he was seized with this inspiration: "You have a Glass before you now its true."

He's in his declining days, but he is broke and empty, too. Won't you let him mend his ways?" "One more chance," said the magistrate. And Tom bowed gracefully.

CLUBMAN HAS NARROW ESCAPE WHEN GUN BARREL BURSTS



Members of the Racquet Club are congratulating James Spear, Jr., one of the members of that organization, on a narrow escape from serious injury on a recent gunning trip in Florida. Mrs. Spear also handles a shotgun skillfully and accompanied her husband on the trip. Mr. Spear was shooting a 12-gauge gun and Mrs. Spear a smaller weapon of 20 gauge.

Mr. Spear himself carried the ammunition for both weapons and by mistake inserted a 20-gauge shell in the left-hand barrel of his 12-gauge gun. The natural result followed, and the explosion blew a clean hole through the barrel instead of splitting it, as is frequently the case. The pictures illustrate the nature of the explosion. Mr. Spear's only injury was a scorched wrist, which did not prevent him from going out the next day and shooting a target match.

SAVILLE PEOPLE PUZZLED BY NEW WIRELESS TOWERS

Opinions Differ as to Increased Power of German Radio Station

SAVILLE, L. I., April 14.—Residents of Saville, who have learned to base their war prophecies upon the activities of the German wireless station here, are having difficulty in finding a solution of the puzzle the crew of that institution has just furnished them.

"Two additional 200-foot steel towers are being erected to reinforce and add power to the present plant, and there are other evidences of a project to make further use of the wireless devices. More men have been put to work to carry through these new plans—whatever they may be—with all possible speed."

The result of all this mystery is that many supposedly well-informed residents of the neighborhood are now convinced that the Germans are preparing for an early peace, and hope to make further use of the wireless here in communicating with the United States in the negotiations. Others are just as certain that the Germans have given up all idea of an early peace, and thus are planning to increase their facilities for getting news through the only certain channel through which they may communicate with the outside world.

PROBERS HIT CHARITY FOR PRIVATE GAIN

Chamber of Commerce Committee Asserts Many Contributions Are Misused

Thousands of dollars are being taken from the purses of charitably disposed Philadelphians every year by pseudo-charitable organizations, which are being operated primarily for the purpose of enriching interested persons who stand in the background, and are frequently physicians.

This is the conclusion drawn by the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce following the report of an investigation made by the Charities Bureau of that organization, which was recently appointed to make complete and penetrating investigation of the numerous organizations, institutions and movements that conduct campaigns for funds from the public.

The result of the investigation conducted by the bureau indicates that thousands of dollars yearly are being given by the people of this city without any knowledge of the uses for which the money is being utilized.

There are certain hospitals within the city, according to M. D. Griffith, secretary of the new bureau, which are being run for the personal benefit of the coteries of physicians, who are "cleaning up" as a result of the false reputation that the hospitals have for being charitable.

Moreover, certain supposed relief organizations, semicharity bodies and alleged religious movements are also in the class of the hospitals, as described above.

GOVERNOR TO MEND ROADS

Executive Will Spend Day in Active Work on Highways

HARRISBURG, April 14.—In the week that has elapsed since Governor Brumbaugh issued his proclamation fixing Thursday, May 25, as "State-wide Good Roads Day," plans have developed rapidly for making this day a success.

The Governor has placed himself at the disposal of the State Highway Department and will spend "State-wide Good Roads Day" at work on the roads, as he did last year.

Organizations formed in many counties last year to further the object have taken up their work anew and are making arrangements for a large turn-out on the highways this year.

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ONE-THIRD OF PUPILS OF STATE BACKWARD, EDUCATOR ASSERTS

Doylestown School Head Urges Promotion by Subjects Rather Than by Classes at Conference Here

MADE EXTENSIVE PROBE

A third of Pennsylvania's school children are backward pupils, according to Carmon Ross, supervising principal of the Doylestown public schools. Mr. Ross made known this fact this morning at the convention of educators that is being held at the University of Pennsylvania. The convention is known as "Schoolmen's Week."

Mr. Ross' findings were the result of an extended investigation of the subject of mentally deficient school children, covering every section of the State. He referred to these boys and girls as "retarded," meaning that they were unable to progress in their classroom work as the normal child should, but not necessarily implying that they were feeble-minded.

Prof. Harlan Updegraff, of the faculty of the School of Education of the University of Pennsylvania, presided at this morning's session. Others who made addresses at this session were Frederick W.

Robbins, superintendent of schools at Williamsport; H. H. Bash, superintendent at Altoona; A. Wannor, superintendent at York; J. Linwood Eisenberg, of Chester, and Prof. G. D. Strayer, of Columbia University.

NECK BROKEN; JUST LEARNS IT

Happened in August, but Caused No Inconvenience

GRASS VALLEY, Cal., April 14.—W. J. Mow, a miner of this place, has just learned that he has had a broken neck since last August.

Mow was struck on top of his head by a falling pipe at that time, but apparently was not much injured. Recently he suffered pain and applied to the Accident Commission for compensation. An examination disclosed that the bones of his neck were splintered.

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