

Offers to Vacate Skinner Plant if Stockholders Ask

Dold Attorney Springs Surprise in Suit Brought by Neville to Cancel Contract.

Attorney Frank Gaines, for the Dold Packing company, threw a bombshell into the Dold-Skinner hearing in federal court yesterday when he told Judge Woodruff that his clients would vacate the Skinner plant if stockholders of the company ask them to.

"But we question the right of the receiver, Keith Neville, to seek to cancel our contract," declared Gaines.

The hearing was on the suit filed by Neville to abrogate Dold's contract with Paul Skinner.

Gaines further informed the judge he was certain that if the Dold people were able to sit around a conference table with stockholders who put money into the corporation, they could avoid expensive litigation now threatened.

He intimated the receivership was the impending force, and added: "It is conceded this company was never insolvent. A receiver was appointed only because of the misconduct of Paul Skinner. Now that he is eliminated from the company, there is no further need for a receiver."

Judge Woodruff, earlier in the day, denied a motion of Alfred Munger, attorney for one faction of stockholders, to oust Neville.

After further argument by counsel, the judge referred the whole matter to B. H. Dunham, master in chancery, for two points.

One is whether any one receiver or stockholders has a right to abrogate the contract between Paul Skinner and Dold; and second, if so, what are the conditions?

Further Authority Denied. He withheld authority from Dunham to go any further into the controversy than he defined, but will himself decide whether, if any one has a right to abrogate the contract, it ought to be done.

Gaines and his associate, Myron Learned, told the judge the stockholders' best interests dictated that the Dold contract be continued.

"The plant will be idle a long time otherwise; the Skinner interests are in no position to operate it now," they said.

More than 600 men are now employed in the plant.

Bride Seeks Annulment: Only 16 When Wed. She Says Alice Norton asked district court yesterday for the annulment of her marriage to Parnell Norton, 21, 1616 Carter boulevard, on the grounds that she was not of age when the marriage license was obtained.

The Nortons were married, according to her petition, on January 9. She charges her husband induced her to swear to an affidavit that she was 21, when in reality she only was 16. Their marriage was without the consent of her parents, and since the ceremony he has failed to support her, she sets forth as other reasons why she should again be made single.

Mrs. Norton asks the restoration of her maiden name, Alice Staniford.

Pleads Guilty to Forgery and Gets Two-Year Sentence. Walter Chapman, plumber, 1618 California street, charged with passing forged endorsements of Wood County bonds, pleaded guilty before District Judge Leslie yesterday and was sentenced to two years in the state penitentiary.

Open Bids Today. The city council will open bids this morning for paving and curbing 43 improvement districts and also for grading 10 districts.

Matron Gibbons Convalescing. Police Matron Ella Gibbons is convalescing at her home from an operation two weeks ago in the Presbyterian hospital.

The Dancing Master

By RUBY M. AYRES (Copyright 1922)

SYNOPSIS. Elizabeth Conway, a country girl, is visiting her city cousin. They take her to a dance. She falls in love with a young man who is not her cousin. Her cousin leaves her with the dancing master. Elizabeth's relatives tell her that she is a dancing master's wife. Elizabeth's uncle, with whom she lives, tells her that she is a dancing master's wife. Elizabeth's uncle, with whom she lives, tells her that she is a dancing master's wife.

(Continued from yesterday.) She sat, playing with her coffee spoon while he talked, and against her will her resentment and anger died away as she listened to his quiet, kind voice as he tried to point out to her the folly of what she had done.

"You must never speak to a stranger like that again," he added earnestly, and Elizabeth lifted her eyes to say, "But, if she is your wife, surely it would be all right?"

An inexplicable sort of emotion crossed his face and he laughed. "I don't want to discuss my wife," he said, "I only wanted to promise me that in the future you will not be so foolish. If you really want to learn to dance I shall be only too pleased to give you lessons, as I said before, or to arrange for you to have lessons with someone else. If you like, I will call and see your aunt about it."

He shrugged his shoulders, "Hobson's choice, I fancy. I came out of the army and could not get a job. I was not qualified, you see. Before the war broke out there was no need for me to work, unfortunately. I had plenty of money, or at least, that there was nothing I could do in the useful line. Then the dancing craze came, and that was a line I did know something about, so I bought a piano and a gramophone, and hired a room, and—well, there I am. It's a rotten job, I suppose, from some people's point of view, but it's a living, anyway."

"You dance beautifully!" said Elizabeth, with a glowing memory of that one never-to-be-forgotten night.

"Do I? He looked amused. "I used to be fond of it. If you only knew how I loathe it now!" "Really?" She was incredulous. She had quite lost her shyness; she felt as if a firm basis of friendship had been established between them during the last few days.

"Who was the girl in the gray shoes?" she asked suddenly. "The girl you were with at Paddington?" He hesitated a moment, as if he had forgotten; then he laughed. "Oh, she was only a pupil! We met quite by chance."

"I see," Elizabeth's eyes grew retrospective. "She was beautifully dressed," she added wistfully. Royston laid down his cigarette and looked at her steadily.

"Why do you think so much about clothes?" he asked. She sighed and shook her head. "Perhaps, because I've never had any nice ones. Perhaps because all my life I shall remember that dance when I met you and how awful I felt next to everyone else."

She leaned her elbows on the table and, resting her chin in her hands, looked at him with eager eyes. "If ever I have any money," she said in quick excitement, "I am going to buy clothes—and clothes—will you can't think! I am going to have my hair done as all the girls you know do theirs. I am going to show everyone that I'm not really such an ugly duckling. She laughed and sat back in her chair. "But I never shall have any money," she said dispiritedly again. "Once I thought I might have some—when my uncle died—that was why I went home after the dance, you know. There was a wire for me when we got back, and I had to go. He had died suddenly, and he left all his money to a hospital—£20,000. That's a lot of money, isn't it?"

"Yes," he thought it was. He had £100, that was all, and now that's nearly all gone."

He smiled. "Not on clothes?" he asked. She shook her head. "No," she said. "But she did not tell him where it had gone; it seemed somehow a thing of which to be ashamed, to think that she had been practically robbed of it by her own cousin. The waiter came to the table. "Will you have something more, sir?"

Royston shook his head. "No, thanks; the bill, that's all." He looked at his watch, and a startled expression crossed his face. "I had no idea it was so late." He looked at Elizabeth. "It's nearly 10."

"Oh, it won't matter," she said. "My aunt and Dolly are never in till ever so late. Have we got to go?"

"I think we must." She rose reluctantly; for the last two hours she had been quite happy, and she wondered why. Earlier in the evening she had hated Royston, but now things seemed to have changed in a most disconcerting manner.

She was not sure if she ought to pay for the dinner she had had. She fidgeted with her purse, but could not make up her mind. "And about the lessons?" Royston asked as they drove away from the restaurant. "Would you like me to call and see your aunt?" Elizabeth hesitated.

"I should like you to," she said at last truthfully. "If she was different—but, oh, she thinks I'm impos-

Supreme Court Rules Against Commerce Body

Commission Held Without Authority to Compel Abandonment of Strictly State Railroad.

Washington, March 13.—The Interstate Commerce commission was held today by the supreme court to be without authority to authorize or compel the abandonment of a strictly state railroad.

The decision, which was handed down in a case brought by the state of Texas against the Eastern Texas Railroad company, to prevent that railroad from dismantling, under an order issued by the commission, declared that where a railroad lies entirely within a single state, it is owned and operated by a corporation of that state and is not a part of another line and where its continued operation cannot be of more than local concern, the commission was without jurisdiction.

"Interstate and foreign commerce will not be burdened or affected by any shortage in the earnings of any carrier in such commerce have to bear or make good the shortage" of the Eastern Texas railroad, Justice Van Devanter stated in delivering the opinion to which there will be no dissent.

A construed by the court, it was the intention of congress to enact a law to regulate interstate and foreign commerce, and to affect state commerce only as it may be incidental to the effective regulation and protection of interstate commerce.

Justice Van Devanter said there were many manifestations on the part of the government remaining from any purely state commerce such as was involved in its righting of its control over interstate and foreign commerce.

The action was brought against Arthur Frenzer Mackay, Clarence Mackay and Esther Mackay, all residents of Minneapolis, Minn.

James Silk Sued for \$25,000 by Widow of Poison Suicide. Mrs. Sena Gilliam, 4006 Seward street, yesterday filed suit in district court for \$25,000 alleged damages against James J. Silk, proprietor of a drug store at Twenty-fourth and Hamilton streets.

She charges Silk with being the cause of her husband's suicide. She said in her petition that Silk sold her husband liquor daily for two months previous to his suicide and made an habitual drunkard of him. It was while under the influence of liquor he drank carboic acid, she said.

Dineen Is Candidate for Municipal Judge. Frank M. Dineen, unsuccessful candidate at the last primaries for the democratic nomination for police judge, filed yesterday afternoon in the office of the election commissioner for the nomination to be municipal judge. He is the first candidate to file for judge at the coming primaries.

Give Benefit for Drill Corps. Entire receipts of Thursday night's performance of Orphans of the Storm at the Brandeis theater will be given to the Mt. Calvary commandery, Knights Templar, for the benefit of the drill corps fund. The drill team is to be sent to the conclave in New Orleans in April.

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Young Bandit in Tears as Mother Greets Him

"Mother, you were always too good to me," Roy Troutman, 22, confessed bandit, sobbed when he met his mother from Hayward, Ia., in the police station yesterday morning.

"I have forgiven you for running away," the mother said, "but this last is too much." As she petted him she showed him a basket of good things to eat she had brought from home.

Troutman was shot in the thigh last week by John Kroupa, a drug clerk, when he and his pal, Castle C. Pritchard, 19, Mansfield, O., attempted to rob the Hermansky drug store.

The men may be extradited to Waterloo, Ia., as they have confessed to burglaries in that city. While in Omaha they committed nine robberies and holdups, they told detectives.

176 Mennonites on Way to Mexico Go Through Omaha. "We are Germans and we want our children to be Germans," was the declaration of Benjamin Fahr, one of 176 Mennonites, men, women and children, who passed through Omaha Sunday night bound for new homes in Torreon, Mex.

The Mennonites are making the pilgrimage because they object to laws requiring their children to attend public schools, according to members of the party, which came from Haskett, Minn.

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Two Bandits Rob Douglas Street Store in Daylight

Two bandits entered the second-hand store operated by Solomon Layton, 1201 Douglas street, at 10 yesterday morning and while not handily covered Mrs. Layton with a gun the other took \$235 from the cash register and \$50 in jewelry. They escaped.

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