

Former Wife of Mellon to Wed New York Man

License Issued to Mrs. Nora Mellon and Art Dealer, Who Is 14 Years Younger.

New York, March 1.—Mrs. Nora Mary McMullen Mellon, 44, divorced wife of Andrew W. Mellon of Pittsburg, secretary of the treasury, is to be married to Harvey Arthur Lee, 14 years her junior, and reputed of little means. Their marriage license was obtained yesterday.

Mrs. Mellon has not been before the public much since 1912, when a divorce was granted to Mr. Mellon on grounds of desertion after he withdrew allegations of misconduct with Alfred George Curphey, an Englishman. Mrs. Mellon was awarded custody of their two children.

Both were reticent today concerning their plans. Mrs. Lee said they met 18 months ago in this city. He described it as love at first sight, and said their friends have known for some time their marriage was imminent.

Closes Antique Shop. Mr. Lee had an antique shop on Park avenue, but he closed it February 1 and expects to open another business, he said, though declining to name it.

The antique shop he described as a plaything but he is also reported as saying he has comparatively little money.

Mrs. Mellon, the daughter of one of the founders of the Guinness Brewing company of Dublin, Ireland, has a large country place on the Hudson, and is understood to receive \$30,000 alimony annually from Mr. Mellon, who also is said to have settled upon her \$1,350,000 when they were divorced.

Appeals to King. An effort to get his divorce secretly made by Mr. Mellon but Mrs. Mellon appealed to the British king and parliament to intervene, claiming an agreement with her husband in 1909 not to divorce her. Sir Edward Grey, then secretary of foreign affairs, ruled that Mrs. Mellon succeeded British citizenship when she married an American and denied her plea.

After vacating the Mellon home in Pittsburgh in 1911 on court orders, Mrs. Mellon was divorced through the report of a commission in Pittsburgh, which had taken testimony in England, France and cities in this country.

Board Must Approve All Dodge County Salaries. Fremont, Neb., March 1.—(Special)—District Judge E. W. Button granted an injunction ordering that the salaries of Dodge county officials must be approved at a meeting of the county board before being paid. The order follows as a result of litigation brought under the name of Edward Ruwe against County Clerk Fred Ruwe and Chairman W. A. Murphy of the board of supervisors.

This action is the latest step in the fight against the present salaries of the county officers. The plaintiffs claim that the Dodge county officials are drawing salaries in excess of that allowed, according to the population.

Although the last census credited Dodge county with 25,000 people, the plaintiffs state that 23,000 is nearer correct. If the latter claim is proven it will mean a cut in the salaries for the officials of this county.

Peeres of Humble Birth. Medina, March 1.—Lady Cook, widow of Sir Francis Cook, who recently died in London, is remembered here as Tennessee Claflin, once poor, but good looking, who was born at Homer, near here, and spent her early life in Medina county.

Births and Deaths. Bernard and Marie Mustard, hospital, boy. Walter and Violet Helms, 644 South Thirty-fourth street, boy. Edward and Agatha Helms, 4421 Pacific street, boy. James and Anna Pecher, 4943 Erskine street, boy. Gust and Mary Machacko, 8024 South Thirty-ninth street, boy. George and Emily Smith, Sarpy county, Nebraska, girl. Max and Helen McDonald, hospital, boy. Theodore and Grace Grow, hospital, girl. Roy and Maude Pierce, hospital, boy. Mike and Beale Verbeck, 1909 Q street, boy. Sebastian and Lulu Falconer, hospital, girl. Peter and Evelyn Herkx, hospital, girl. Jack and Julia Home, hospital, boy. Phillip and Francis McDermott, hospital, girl. Joseph and Antonia Suchan, hospital, boy.

Deaths. Homer S. Shearer, 35, 5611 Davenport street. James Bowls, 83, 2325 Dodge street. Elmer Margarette Collins, 7 months, 1123 North Twenty-ninth street. Ella Jane Turner, 79, 2214 North Fourteenth street. M. W. Swigart, 68, 4203 Burdette street. Howard Grange, infant, 2748 South Twenty-third street. Catherine Schmidt, 26, hospital. Lida A. Case, 41, 5223 Kansas avenue. August Rhea, 71, 812 South Eighteenth street. Mrs. Margaret Schroeder, 81, 2418 South Seventeenth street. Margaret L. Callaway, 9 months, 7144 North Nineteenth street. Margaret McNabb, 88, 2923 North Main street. Lillian McDowell, 66, hospital. George J. Coleman, 46, hospital. Dorothy Coffin, 59, hospital. Anna C. Larson, 96, 2626 Corby street.

Marriage Licenses. The following couples have been issued a license to wed: Louis Gaymard, 52, Omaha, and Anna Fischer, 23, Omaha. James H. Williams, 47, Los Angeles, and Margriet, 23, Chicago. Marshalltown, Ia. Ralph McCauley, 22, Omaha, and Viola Mason, 19, Omaha. Emil Kruse, 24, Fort Calhoun, Neb., and Stephanie Ketchmark, 19, Fort Calhoun, Neb. Albert Whittier, 25, Omaha, and Mollie Hinwick, 23, Omaha. William K. Finning, 33, Chicago, Ill., and Corredia M. Tucker, 21, Omaha. George Barnhart, 23, Omaha, and Etta J. Ziedman, 19, Omaha. Leo A. Ball, 28, Plymouth, Ind., and June E. Gibb, 26, Beatrice, Neb. Andrew N. Anderson, 47, Omaha, and Louis Jenks, 45, Omaha. Jack M. Setzer, over 71, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Sylvia M. Waters, over 21, Auburn, Neb. John W. Jones, 28, Omaha, and Sadie Alexander, 21, Omaha.

Thornton Burgess, Bedtime Story Writer, Totes Gun for Sparrows

Thornton W. Burgess, of national-wide fame as a creator of bedtime stories for children, who soon will join The Omaha Bee's star staff of contributors, is a "gunman."

And thereby hangs a tale of conflict between friends, a wordy war in which typewriters serve as cannon and statistics as G. I. shells, with Bully, more commonly known as the English sparrow, serving as a piece of resistance, a Ruhr basin of advance, or an animate No Man's land. In the bedtime tales written by Burgess, to be printed soon in The Omaha Bee, the sparrow is dubbed Bully, which expresses just what Burgess thinks of him. Despite his humane treatment of animal topics generally, Mr. Bed Timer is perfectly willing for one to catch every Bully and wring his neck on the spot.

Ready to Help. Better still, he's ready to help by shooting. He keeps a gun handy at his home in Springfield, Mass., so he may rush out to deal death to the winged tribe. It is only an air gun, and the barrel is crooked, and it shoots in circles and Burgess never has hit anything yet, but he thrives on hope.

"Every day in every way I'm getting madder and madder at Bully," is his translation of Couesin.

All of which is very wrong, in the opinion of John Fitz Roberts, 2304 South Thirty-second avenue, president of the Audubon Society of Omaha, prominent figure in the livestock industry and 100 per cent protector of bird life, who is the other "army" in the wordy war.

Latest Broadside. Burgess' latest broadside was dated February 15 and was as follows: "I am delighted to know that you are still loyal to your friend Bully the English sparrow. Loyalty is a splendid thing. Don't lose sight of the fact, however, that a few instances in which good is done cannot offset a great number of instances when harm is done. It is possible that out in your country Bully has had a change of heart and that it is reflected in his character. No one has ever denied that at times he destroys some noxious insects. But the good he does in this way is overbalanced by the harm he does in driving away those birds which feed almost wholly on noxious insects and weed seeds.

Birds Have Individuality. "Then again you must not lose sight of the fact that there is individuality among birds. There are good and bad individuals. In estimating their places in our economic life we must judge the race as a whole. Bully and his friends are exceedingly numerous around my home. I have daily opportunity of watching them and I am going to confess to you that I keep an air rifle within reach because of them. The darned thing will not shoot straight, so none of the sparrows has suffered up to date, but they have been repeatedly frightened and are growing very canny. I am feeding many birds on a window shelf, including chickadees, whose services to mankind cannot be overestimated. Were it not for my persistence in driving away the sparrows these other birds would have small chance of getting the food they need on my window shelf.

"Last summer in spite of all I could do the English sparrows broke up the



John Fitz Roberts

housekeeping of a pair of wrens in two houses in my yard. They tried the same trick on a pair of white-breasted swallows but I was able to discourage them in this instance.

Place Not in America. "I do not deny that Bully has his place in the world. What I do contend is that his place is not in America. He doesn't belong here, and should never have been brought here. If we could confine him entirely to large cities, which other birds avoid, it would be a different matter."

Now Roberts has read "2,000 bedtime tales by Burgess," and has found the information unflatteringly correct—except as to sparrows. In the 2,001st story he discovered his friend Bully was being lampooned.

"You have one argument against him, which is he is an American," he stated in a letter to Burgess. "My daughter and I have been watching him for years and we find he is one of our most valuable birds for destroying

ing millers, eating weed seeds, etc. Once we saw one kill a locust."

Later on he fired some more facts at Mr. Nine O'clock. "Farmers' Bulletin No. 493 of the United States Department of Agriculture," he said, "contained indisputable data in defense of the sparrow. Investigation by the bureau of birds that destroy the alfalfa weevil in northern Utah, showed English sparrows were feeding their nestlings largely on weevil larvae and eat worms, both of which are very injurious to alfalfa. In this case the sparrows, attracted by grain in the fields and poultry runs and by excellent nest sites afforded by the thatched roofs of many farm buildings, left the city and taken up their abode in the country where the weevil outbreak subsequently occurred."

Outside of their war over sparrows, Burgess and Roberts are good friends. Burgess looks forward with pleasure to an expected trip to Omaha—his first—and a journey down to Senora island, where there is a herony of the great blue herons, the largest flying birds. If he is one of the few known heronries in the middle west and usually boasts of about 150 nests.

"I read Mr. Burgess' bedtime tales with more eagerness perhaps than a

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child." Roberts said, "and consider his articles the most informative of all such literature. He knows the wild life and tells of it interestingly. I know persons 80 years old who read his article first of all, and I know at least 15 who will begin taking The Omaha Bee as soon as his articles begin to appear. The tales are a constant source of pleasure for the man who has come to know the birds and animals of our day, for in them are found few intimate details of the lives of our wild friends."

Later in the year, when birds are chirping their welcome, feathered characters occupy most of the stage of his column-wide animal theater. "His articles attract one's attention to native life that one may find perhaps at one's door," Roberts said, "and inform as well as entertain, seizing the interest of persons of every age."

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