

THIS BROKEN ENGAGEMENT CAUSES MUCH DISCUSSION



CHEVALIER TRENTANOVE

MRS LUCILLE BLACKBURN LANE

In spite of the explanation of Mrs. Lucille Blackburn Lane, daughter of Senator Blackburn, that her engagement with Chevalier Trentanove, the Italian sculptor, was broken by herself because the chevalier embarrassed her by his lack of tact in prematurely announcing their betrothal, society is busy preparing other reasons for the breach that came so unexpectedly.

Is Marriage . . . a Success?

Some pertinent evidence on the subject of whether marriage is very much of a success or a good deal of a failure is furnished by the records of Lancaster county.

It will probably not be so very surprising to those who read the daily newspapers to learn that one marriage in six in this county turns out badly, that is to say, the records show that for every five marriage licenses issued there is one application for a divorce.

The number of marriages in Lancaster county has been increasing each year. So have the number of divorces. The percentage of increase is slightly in favor of the divorces. Not all of the applications for divorces, however, are from persons who were married in Lincoln. In a number of instances the applicants are persons who come to Nebraska because here a year's residence only is necessary. In other cases the parties are bona fide residents

whose marriage was solemnized in some other state. In still other instances Lincoln people have gone to Council Bluffs to marry because the Nebraska statute does not allow marriage to follow divorce until after six months have elapsed.

Marriage licenses are issued in the office of the county judge, where Harry G. Abbott enacts the role of Cupid to the sighing swains who seek legal permission to wed. Here is what his record shows for the past five years:

1897.....	46
1898.....	498
1899.....	545
1900.....	600
1901.....	606

Divorces are granted by the equity branch of the district court. The record is kept by the district clerk, and Deputy J. S. Baer has made this transcript for the past year:

Number of Applications Granted.....	117
Number of Divorces Granted.....	86
Number to Women.....	76
Number to Men.....	10
Number Dismissed.....	6
Refused.....	1

During 1900 there were ninety-nine applications filed and seventy-one divorces were granted. Of these fifty-

two were granted to the wife and nineteen to the husband. Most of these were on the grounds of desertion or

non-support, one generally including the other. Drunkenness as a cause of divorce is seldom pleaded nowadays. Cruelty is a much more prevalent cause. Only in a few cases is adultery charged. The real causes are generally shrouded in mystery. Time and again the woman, asked why her husband left her, contends that she does not know why. No more is told than is thought necessary to secure the decree. In many of the cases there is plain evidence that the couple have agreed to disagree and while collusion, in the strict legal sense of the term, is not capable of being proven, yet it is patent that it exists.

Some years ago it was a very frequent practice for attorneys to file petitions one hour and get the divorce the next. Under the rules of the court, where service upon the opposing party is not waived, the case cannot be called until after four weeks have elapsed. It is generally comparatively easy to secure the signature of the defendant to a voluntary appearance. These were filed at the same time as the petition and the case could then be heard at any time.

Cases were found to exist where the court had been imposed upon, and most of the judges in recent years have refused to take up cases as soon as they were filed. They must await their return. Their favorite hour for hearing divorce cases is between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon, although now and then one drops in in the morning. Most of the women are impressed with the solemnity of the occasion, and each is generally accompanied by two or more feminine friends to steady her nerves.

The county judge marries a considerable number of those who make application for licenses to him. This is usually the case when both parties live outside the county, and the parties do not care to expend some time hunting up a minister. The handiest solemnizer is wanted. He is the judge.

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