

the nature of marriage as a contractual relationship, is obliged to grant the severance of a bond the moral foundations of which have been destroyed. Complex and changing conditions make recognition of new grounds imperative.

This was brought to the attention of the British public by the press in the summer of 1919. A well-known member of the British House of Commons and his wife found that for them to live together was impossible; the wife had committed no act of adultery, nor did either party wish their good name to be dragged through the mud; the husband registered at a well-known hotel with a woman of low character, and occupied the same room with her; this was used as evidence of adultery, and the desired divorce obtained. After the decree had been granted, the husband informed the public through the newspapers that as a matter of fact, although he had spent the night in the same room as the co-respondent, no adultery had been committed. In order that a highly desirable divorce might be obtained, it had been necessary for the man to appear in the roll of a moral delinquent.

The first reform throughout Canada should be to place women on the same footing as men; to make adultery alone on the part of the husband sufficient ground for a divorce by the wife. The inequality which at present exists in Provinces following the English Divorce Act has its origin in a past age when immorality on the part of men was looked upon as less serious than on the part of woman, this theory in turn being based on the belief that the man committing adultery would likely do so with a woman of loose character and under conditions which would be unlikely to produce children and thereby affect inheritance, etc., while in the case of the few wives who might err, the circumstances would in very many cases be just the opposite. As a matter of fact, there is in all probability in the vast majority of cases of adultery by either party leading to a divorce little likelihood of the production of children; while in very many cases of the offence by the husband, the possibilities of him contracting and communicating to his wife venereal disease are great. The reason more true to fact for admitting adultery as a ground for divorce to either party is that it strikes at the inmost privacy of married life, at the stability of the home, and at the happiness of the parties concerned—and to woman with her more sensitive nature and finer feelings, the idea would in most cases be far more loathsome than to man,