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## MARRIAGE LAWS SHOULD BE MADE MORE STRINGENT

(Continued from page 45)

The system of issuing marriage licenses in most Canadian provinces is as badly devised as could well be imagined. Such licenses are usually sold by jewellers whose only interest is to pocket the fee and sell the wedding ring. There is actually less difficulty in obtaining a marriage license than in obtaining a license to peddle fruit on the street. The Italian immigrant who desires to sell bananas from a truck on the corner must satisfy the municipal authorities that he is a proper person to obtain this right, and his license may be cancelled at any time for cause. A person who desires to conduct a pool-room can obtain a license only after the proper authorities have made an investigation into the conditions under which he intends to do business, and are satisfied that he is a fit and proper person to obtain such a license. These licenses and all similar licenses are to be had solely from either government or municipal authorities, but a marriage license may be obtained over the counter from a jeweller without any questions being asked except the most purely formal.

### We Need New Laws

These are some of the circumstances which strike one in considering the present marriage laws of Canada, and compel one to the conclusion that proper legislation is required and that it ought not to be longer delayed. One may perhaps be over-sanguine, but it may be expected that the time is not so very far distant when legislation will be enacted adequate to safeguard those persons who are about to marry. It cannot be denied, however, that there are difficulties in the way. The subject is constitutionally one for the Dominion Parliament, which encounters so many various public opinions in the various provinces that in matters of this kind it has always been slow to act. Nevertheless, there is no doubt, that when, as a result of education and publicity, the people of Canada realize that the well-being of their country is founded mainly on the health of its inhabitants, public opinion will then insist that such legislation be enacted as will, both for the parties themselves and the children who are to be born of the marriage, protect them from some of the dangers which are so often attendant upon marriage under present conditions.

## MARRIAGE LAWS SHOULD NOT BE MADE MORE STRINGENT

(Continued from page 37)

years rather than ardently to seek an immediate improvement of the conditions we now have. If the same over-reaching spirit had actuated us at the beginning of the War, the world would to-day be in the hands of the war lords of Germany, and we in Canada would be guessing as to what portion of indemnity we should pay for having dared do anything, let alone say anything, against Germany's place in the sun. Let us win the War, and provide homes for our heroes on their return, and the boys will work with us to realize our ideals.

I would not say anything against revising the marriage laws at some time after the conclusion of the War, but I certainly do think that while the War is on, there should not be any radical change in the primary social laws of the Dominion.

### Cemetery Cynics

Husbands are often unappreciative of their wives' qualities and virtues in life, but it is not often they express their views on the tombstones of the dear departed spouses. Yet instances are extant where this has been done, as thus:—

We lived one-and-twenty year

As man and wife together;

I could not hold her longer here.

She's gone I know not whither,

But I suppose she's soared aloft,

For in the late great thunder

Methought I heard her very voice

Rending the clouds asunder!

That is a distinctly nasty one, but it is not the worst of a small but pretty bad set of tombstone rhymes which set out the wife's character in anything but rosy hues. Here is an arithmetical ditty which mournfully shows how the poor husband was "snowed under" in life and cannot regret the departure of the bad weather which made life miserable:—

We were not one, but surely ten,

I and the wife I sigh for;

My better half supplied the one,

And I supplied the cipher!

But this even must hide its diminished head, douse its glim, before the concentrated malice of the following. It starts so well. One imagines that idyllic life of perfect matrimonial harmony, and then, like a thunderbolt or a "Jack Johnson," crash comes the last fatal line:—

Here rests my spouse; no pair through life

So equal lived as we did;

Alike we shared perpetual strife,

I knew no rest till she did.

And lastly there is a punning effort by another undisconsolate husband, who finds it difficult to grieve that he is left alone in this vale of tears:—

Here lies my wife,

Who's gone on high.

If I said I was sorry,

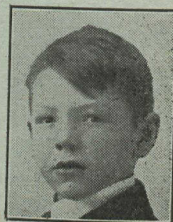
I, too, should lie.

"The Wishing House," which appeared in the February issue of EVERYWOMAN'S WORLD, was published by special arrangement with Harper's Magazine.

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March 19th, 1917

"Gentlemen:—Saturday afternoon I received your letter and the check for \$100.00. I just want to tell you I was a happy boy and thank you very much. It was easy to get the subscribers to Everywoman's World which I sent, and I could have done even better if it had not been so cold after I got home from school. Again thanking you and telling you I will try for another prize as soon as I can, I remain, Yours truly,  
LYLE F. O. BENSON."

Raoul Orbach, of Toronto—11 years old, won his \$10.00 prize one Saturday afternoon. He never dreamed that he could make \$10.00 so easily.

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