

Laws Made in Deepest of Boredom

Divorce Measure Passed Upon by Yawning Legislators.

BY GRETNA PALMER Times Special Writer.

NEW YORK, April 24.—The Ross bill which would make three years' desertion legal cause for divorce was defeated in the assembly by a vote of 80 to 53. Seventy-four votes were necessary for its passage. The one woman member, Doris Byrne (Dem., N. Y.), voted against the bill.

These stark facts are not sensational. They seem hardly to justify the expense and energy involved in having your servant scurry up the Hudson to a city which is, on the whole, less pleasing from the entertainment point of view than New York. But the scenes in which they were enacted form one of the juiciest experiences in a crowded lifetime.

Conceive, if you will, of a large and rather rococo chamber, with lots of marble pillars and a great many comfortable leather chairs. Introduce into your mental vision more than a hundred gentlemen in various stages of after-dinner relaxation. See an atmosphere blue with smoke and overlaid with laughter.

Cupiditors are here and they have a functional purpose. Every few minutes the conversation becomes noisy, that is to say, the Speaker is so noisy, he gave a sharp speech, making a crash, strongly suggestive of the "bowie" of the comic strips. The sounds of "Sweet Adeline" coming from a committee room, add an extra note of festivity.

We have before the assembly some act bearing on the preservation of the nests of the blue heron. Or on the city limits of a town of whom most of the legislators have obviously and excusably never heard. Or on the reinstatement to a police force of a stranger to all of us. With such a diet as this before him what does the average assemblyman or senator do? Exactly what you would do. He yawns. He chats with his neighbor. He moves for adjournment so every one can go to the ball game, as actually occurs.

STATE DAY AID



Miss Peggy Anderson

Miss Peggy Anderson is on the committee for the white rose luncheon and dance Saturday which will mark the state day observance of Kappa Delta sorority.

curried in the assembly yesterday. He votes, if at all, out of a depth of boredom so acute that few of the measures suggested ever reach his conscious mind.

A long and apparently heartfelt speech is being made by the be-whiskered man in the fourth row. Every one is pleasantly chatting with his neighbor or glancing over the evening paper.

"Don't they ever listen?" I asked. "Not often," said the veteran reporter. "This one's just talking for the record. He wants the folks back home to read what he is spouting now."

A gray little man comes up to the clearing.

"I'm going out for a while," he says. "Vote 'aye' for me on everything."

Perhaps it is naive to find this colossal boredom of our legislators so surprising. Perhaps "Of Thee I Sing" and "Both Your Houses" should have prepared one for so monumental an indifference.

But these men, who get excited only over the "roll call," are drafting measures that will affect your life and mine. They have in their hands as much power as any of the Caesars or the Borgias.

They determine, in their sleepy "Ayes" and "Noes," whether a woman who has been deserted by a man twelve years ago may gain her freedom for remarriage. They decide, whether the collusion and crookedness and perfidy that attend many of New York's divorces must continue.

They are running a state in a manner which probably would lead any private enterprise to bankruptcy within a year. And we elected them.

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W. C. T. U. WILL HOLD INSTITUTE

A demonstration by white ribbon recruits under direction of Mrs. I. E. Rush, county director of child welfare of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, will be presented at the annual institute tomorrow in Grace M. E. church. The morning session, opening at 9:30, will include reports of county directors.

In the afternoon a report of the national regional conference held in Louisville recently will be presented by Mrs. L. E. Schultz, president of the county union. County officers and presidents of local units will be in the east of the "Torchbearers," a candlelight service under the direction of Mrs. C. W. Ackman. Mrs. Martha Gipe will be in charge of dedication of "The Book of Memory."

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