MACKAYS OBTAIN DIVORCE IN PARIS

Postal Telegraph Co. Head and Wife Get a Mutual Decree from French Court.

BASED ON DESERTION

Custody of Three Children Given to Father—Separation of Property Effected Last Year.

DISCORD OF LONG STANDING

Mrs. Blake Sued Mrs. Mackay for $1,000,000 for Alienation of Husband's Affections—Wed in 1898.

Clarence H. Mackay, the President of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, and his wife, formerly Katherine A. Duer, were divorced in Paris a week ago, it was learned here last night. Each charged the other with desertion, and decrees of divorce were granted to both. The custody of the three Mackay children was awarded to Mr. Mackay, but Mrs. Mackay will have the right to see them at all reasonable times.

John B. Stanchfield, as attorney for Mrs. Mackay, and Frederic R. Coudert, representing Mr. Mackay, issued statements last night confirming the report that the divorce had been granted. Mr. Stanchfield's statement read:

"In December last Mrs. Mackay sailed for Europe and took up her residence in an apartment at Paris which she had held under lease for a considerable period of time. She brought suit in the Tribunal of the Seine against Mr. Mackay for a divorce on the ground of desertion. He voluntarily appeared in the action and interposed a counterclaim, alleging desertion on the part of the plaintiff. No other charge was involved.

"The Court, as is the practice in France, endeavored to bring about a reconciliation. Being unable to accomplish such a result, a divorce was granted on or about the 11th of February to each of the parties. The custody of the children was awarded to Mr. Mackay, with the right to Mrs. Mackay to see them at all reasonable times."

Mr. Coudert's statement was:

"On Feb. 11 the French Courts granted a mutual divorce to Mr. and Mrs. Mackay in an action brought by Mrs. Mackay on the ground of desertion, Mr. Mackay having interposed a counterclaim on the same ground. No other charge was involved. The decree grants the full custody and control of the three children to Mr. Mackay, with the right to visit them accorded to Mrs. Mackay."

Leased Apartments in Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Mackay established their legal residence in Paris by leasing apartments for long periods. Mr. Mackay took his apartment several years ago and Mrs. Mackay leased one a little later.

Last February Mr. and Mrs. Mackay met after a separation of several months to arrange an amicable settlement of their financial affairs and then separated again, Mr. Mackay going South and Mrs. Mackay, after a few weeks, to Maine. Their $6,000,000 estate at Harbor Hill, Roslyn, L. I., was deeded to their six-year-old son, John William Mackay, with the stipulation that Mr. Mackay was to retain possession of the property as trustee.

The estate, which is one of the finest on Long Island, was given to Mr. and Mrs. Mackay in 1899 as a wedding present by the late John W. Mackay, Mr. Mackay's father. Under the terms of the deed Mrs. Mackay surrendered her dowry rights in the estate, but it was agreed that if it was leased the rental should go to her. What other financial arrangements were made in the division of the property of Mr. and Mrs. Mackay were not made public. An attempt at secrecy was made when the deed of the property was filed in the County Clerk's office at Mineola, L. I. Across its outer cover was inscribed, "Please do not publish."

Immediately after the filing of the deed Mr. Mackay went to his game preserve in North Carolina and Mrs. Mackay took up her residence at the Hotel Plaza, where it was said that she was ill. She had just returned from Paris, where she had been for several months.

Mackay Takes Children Abroad.

In the latter part of June the Mackays' relations again aroused comment, and there were renewed rumors of an impending divorce. Mr. Mackay sailed for Europe with his three children on the Imperator, and it was said after they had left that he had used an assumed name, and that detectives had guarded him and the children until they were on the boat to prevent any one's serving papers at the instance of Mrs. Mackay. Mr. Mackay later denied that he used an assumed name.

Mrs. Mackay admitted that the departure of her husband with the children was a surprise to her and she held a long conference with her lawyer, Henry W. Taft, after the news had been conveyed to her. She denied, however, that she had attempted or intended to serve any papers in a divorce or other action against Mr. Mackay.

In July, while Mr. Mackay was in Scotland, Mrs. Mackay leased the home of former Mayor Adam P. Leighton in Portland, Me., and went there to live. She remained there in comparative seclusion until she went to her Paris apartment to begin the action that resulted in the mutual divorce last week.

The most sensational development occurred last September, when Mrs. Joseph A. Blake, the surgeon's wife, filed a suit against Mrs. Mackay for $1,000,000, alleging the alienation of her husband's affections. The Blakes and Mackays

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had been intimate friends, and, although it was known that Dr. Blake and his wife had been on no better terms with each other than had Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, no suggestion that their difficulties were interlocked was made until Mrs. Blake's suit was announced.

Asked $1,000,000 Damages.

The suit was filed in the New York Supreme Court, with the law firm of O'Gorman, Battle & Vandiver, representing Mrs. Blake and Arthur C. Train as counsel for Mrs. Mackay, who was still in Portland, Maine. In her complaint Mrs. Blake alleged that Mrs. Mackay "willfully, wickedly, and maliciously" enticed her husband from her and lowered his earning capacity, so that she suffered damages to the extent of $1,000,000. She said that she had lived happily with Dr. Blake until four years ago, when he began to come under the influence of Mrs. Mackay.

In her answer Mrs. Mackay denied all the charges against her. She said that the Blakes had not lived together since 1905 and that Mrs. Blake had lost her husband's affections by "her jealous disposition and ungovernable temper." Furthermore, Mrs. Mackay asserted that Mrs. Blake had sought to injure the surgeon's good name by "spreading among his patients, friends, and relatives unjust rumors and accusations," and that she had threatened to kill him.

Less than a month later the $1,000,000 suit was suddenly withdrawn. No explanation was given. Arthur C. Train, Mrs. Mackay's attorney, simply issued a statement saying that Mrs. Blake had discontinued the suit and signed "an instrument releasing Mrs. Mackay from all claims of every description and character." It was also said that nothing had been paid or promised to Mrs. Blake in consideration of her discontinuance of the suit.

The sequel of the Blake-Mackay suit was a suit for separation filed by Mrs. Blake against her husband in October, charging him with desertion and non-support. On Dec. 22 Referee Wilbur Larremore reported in Mrs. Blake's favor, and on Jan. 19 Supreme Court Justice Newburger affirmed the referee's finding. No alimony was awarded by the Court, it being announced that counsel for Dr. and Mrs. Blake, had agreed upon an allowance for Mrs. Blake. The amount of the alimony was not given out, but it was said that $10,000 a year, with $5,000 as an allowance for Mrs. Blake's living expenses during the time the suit was pending, was agreed upon.

Inherited His Father's Fortune.

Clarence H. Mackay is the only son of John W. Mackay, a California pioneer, who became wealthy from Western mine holdings and was the founder of the Postal Telegraph Company. Mr. Mackay was born in San Francisco April 17, 1874, and received the greater part of his education abroad. After the death of his father Mr. Mackay succeeded to the control of the Postal Company and the other Mackay companies and also inherited the large fortune his father had accumulated.

Mr. Mackay's clubs here are the Racquet and Tennis, Metropolitan, Union League, Riding, Knickerbocker, The Brook, New York Yacht, Country, City, Turf and Field, Tuxedo, and Meadow Brook. He is a Director of the Metropolitan Opera Company and was one of the founders of the New Theatre, now the Century.

Mrs. Mackay, who was Miss Katherine Alexander Duer, comes of an old Knickerbocker family. She was a writer of some repute and was acknowledged one of the most attractive debutantes of New York society. According to report, she first met Mr. Mackay when returning from Europe on a liner in 1898. They were married the same year.

After her marriage Mrs. Mackay soon became a leader in society, and she achieved additional prominence by espousing the woman suffrage cause a few years later. In 1908 she organized the Equal Franchise Society and became its first President. She became one of the most active suffrage workers in the city, speaking in the interests of the cause from many platforms, before the Legislature and Governor in Albany, and in interviews from time to time.

In April, 1911, Mrs. Mackay resigned as President of the society, and gave as her only reason that she was uncertain of her movements in the future. It was said at the time that the real reason of her resignation was dissatisfaction over the management of the campaign to get suffrage bills passed by the Legislature. Her activity in the suffrage cause practically ceased when she retired from her office.

In Roslyn Mrs. Mackay also was active in many ways. She took a decided interest in the public schools there and was elected to the local Board of Education. In a contest over the election of Trustees Mrs. Mackay put forward two victorious candidates.

Built $50,000 Church in Roslyn.

She built a parish house and a $50,000 Protestant Episcopal Church in Roslyn in memory of her mother. Dispute over the plans for the building of the church led to the resignation of the rector, the Rev. Isaac Peck, and the installation of the Rev. Norman O. Hutton, one of Mrs. Mackay's friends, as his successor. It was said that the dispute between Mrs. Mackay and Mr. Peck arose over the rector's refusal to accept certain designs made for the church by Standford White.

Mrs. Mackay's activities at Roslyn continued until the first rumors of her differences with her husband began to become current. It was there that her three children were raised during their infancy. They are Katherine Duer, 13 years old; Ellin Duer, 10 years old, and John William, 6 years old.

Harbor Hill is one of the finest estates in that part of Long Island. The cottage on it is a spacious three-story building, with lodges, farm barns, and a dairy. Other outhouses erected to harmonize architecturally with it are scattered over the grounds, which cover 540 acres. A large stock of horses and cows of the finest breed is kept on the place.

ALIENS BURDEN ON CITY.

Many Who Should Have Been Barred Cared For, Say Investigators

According to a report of the Hospital Investigating Committee to the Board of Estimate yesterday New York City spends more than $1,000,000 a year for the care of aliens in its hospitals and almshouses, and nearly $400,000 is spent on aliens who have been in the United States less than five years. A large proportion of these aliens, says the report, were afflicted, before they came to this country, with diseases for which they are now being treated, and adds that if the United States Public Health Service had sufficient Inspectors and facilities at Ellis Island to make more searching examinations many of these aliens would not have been allowed to enter the country.

"Many thousands of dependent aliens," the report says, "who are a proper charge upon the steamship companies that have brought them into the country, or upon the Federal Government, not only are a heavy burden upon the city for maintenance in public institutions, but they also occupy beds to the exclusion of many citizens of the city who are in need of custodial or medical care.

"The State Board of Charities has not fully exercised the function of removing aliens delegated to it by law. It has in known instances failed to examine a substantial proportion of the aliens referred to it for investigation for deportation, and has in other instances removed only a small proportion of cases that seemingly should have been made. The present power of removal vested in the board has not afforded adequate relief for the city, nor does it seem likely to do so."

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