

JUDGE FESLER GRANTS DIVORCE IN SLOAN CASE

Court Denies Custody of Children to Parents; Placed Under Care of Humane Agent.

When Judge Bert Fesler, in district court yesterday, granted Minnie Camille Sloan, age 26, a divorce from her husband, Cecil Gerald Sloan, age 26, he ended a controversy which has been bitterly fought since last January. Custody of their two children, Cecil Robert, age 7, and Betty Jane, age 3, was denied to either of the parents. They will be placed under the care of John Ross, humane agent, until further order of the court.

The Sloans were married in 1914. Action for divorce was first brought by Mrs. Sloan on grounds of desertion and infidelity, after her husband's return from military service, naming an Ironwood, Mich., woman.

Charges and Counter Charges.

Sloan thereupon filed counter charges in which he accused his wife of infidelity, naming a Minneapolis man as correspondent, and asserted that she was not a fit person to have custody of their children.

Charges, counter charges, letters and affidavits of character witnesses have been filed in the case until judges in district court have come to feel that the Saturday special sessions are not complete without the presence of attorneys for one or both of the principals.

According to an agreement entered into yesterday by attorneys for both sides, Sloan shall pay to Mr. Ross \$40 a month for the care of the children until the court shall award custody to one or the other of the parents.

"Slate Wiped Clean."

"I wish the principals in this action to remember that, under the law, the court has control of these children while they are minors. The parties to the action are old enough to be responsible for their own acts.

"They can dig their own graves, but they shall not be allowed to dig the graves of their children.

"The slate has been wiped clean. These charges and allegations will be erased so that this father and mother can start out afresh. Let this be a warning. If the conduct of either of them is not what they themselves know to be right and proper it will not lie in the mouths of either to protest, no matter how serious it may be. Upon your conduct from this time on, the court will base its decision should any other disposition of the children ever be made."

McCoy & Hanson have represented Sloan throughout the action. Mrs. Sloan was represented by G. A. E. Finlayson.