

WAR MAKES OLD CUSTOM EFFECTIVE

Ancient Hebrew Law Gains Authority in Minneapolis; Does Not Apply to Duluth.

Rabbi Maurice Lefkowitz stated last night that the ancient law of "get," which now in wartime is occasioning much comment as a purely Hebrew custom, has no application in Duluth, where the Jews are for the most part, reformed Jews, and abide by the "law of the land," in the granting of divorces. Rabbi Teplitz of the orthodox Jews here confirmed this opinion and said that he saw no occasion for reviewing an ancient law. He has had no cases of it.

In Minneapolis, however, where the old-time rite is still observed by the strictly orthodox Jews, a soldier leaving for the front may give his wife a conditional grant of divorce, which she may produce in case he does not return within six months after he has been reported lost.

This "get," as it is called, originated in the ancient Biblical custom in the time of King David. According to that, the Hebrew soldier who died on the battle field, safeguarded his wife against the tragedy of "Enoch Arden," by leaving in her hands this conditional divorce, the giving of which was attended, by many elaborate and sad ceremonies, performed before witnesses.

The "get" has been issued widely in Europe since the outbreak of the war, and Rabbi S. M. Sibling of Minneapolis, expects that many orthodox Jews in that city will come to him before they go into service. He is the only rabbi in the city empowered to grant such a divorce, which it must be understood, is only the religious ceremony. The "get" must be followed by the civil action before it is effective.

♦ ♦ ♦