

FIGHT OVER WILL IS HINTED

THREATENS FIGHT OVER RICH HUSBAND'S WILL

Mrs. Malcomson Demands Heirs Share Equally in Estate

Mrs. Alice Malcomson, widow of Alex Malcomson, declared today that she planned to contest the late millionaire coal dealer's will unless the interests of her two children were properly protected.

The will of the coal baron, who died Aug. 1, was filed for probate this week. It makes mention that "there is no real estate," and that the personal estate is valued at \$5,000.

A trusteeship is created under the provisions of the will, consisting of the Security Trust company; a nephew, Robert M. Allan, and a son, George W. Malcomson. They are empowered to transact all business and renew any and all promissory notes.

"FRAUD", SHE CHARGES

"If the will says there is no real estate and that the personal estate is valued at \$5,000, it is a gigantic fraud," Mrs. Malcomson said today at the home of her sister, Mrs. E. G. Phipps, 1240 24th street, where she is staying temporarily. She was separated from Malcomson, the man who gave Henry Ford "his chance," in March, 1923, although they had been living apart for sometime prior to that date.

"I saw a will made by Mr. Malcomson last October in which provision is made that all the children shall share equally in his estate," Mrs. Malcomson said. "That is all I ask. But if the will filed for probate stipulates there is no real estate, there is some mistake somewhere.

"After Mr. Malcomson's debts have been paid the estate would be worth approximately \$3,000,000. He owns a number of factories, coal yards, blocks of land and interest in several industries throughout the city. I kept Mr. Malcomson's books for a number of years and I am fully aware of just how much real estate he possessed. His debts and business obligations would amount to about \$1,000,000, but when they are cleared his holdings would be worth at least \$3,000,000.

HAD MUCH PROPERTY

"I have not seen this new will in which it is said that there is no real estate and personal property valued at only \$5,000. Why, the family home on LaSalle Boulevard is worth \$50,000. Then we had two summer homes, one of which would be valued at about \$40,000. What provision has been made to divide the income from these properties?

"I do not want to contest the will for myself, and I will take no steps to enter a legal battle if all the children share equally in the estate. That is my only concern. I feel certain, however, that Mr. Malcomson has treated all his children fairly."

In the Malcomson will is a paragraph explaining the strained relations existing between the late coal dealer millionaire and his wife.

"A decree of divorce from bed and board forever and a separate maintenance was awarded Alice Malcomson in her suit in the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne, in chancery, on March 22, 1923."

ASKED HER TO LEAVE

After more than 18 years of married happiness Malcomson asked his wife to leave their beautiful home at 7640 LaSalle boulevard, declaring he "didn't want her around, that she got on his nerves." That is the substance of the story Mrs. Malcomson tells today, a story purged of bitterness or criticism toward the man with whom she had lived almost two decades, and who cut her out entirely in his will. On their separation Mrs. Malcomson accepted a settlement of \$225,000, about one-fifth of what she would

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MRS. ALICE MALCOMSON

Widow of the late Alex Y. Malcomson, millionaire coal dealer, cut off without a penny in his will just probated. She says she will contest the will unless her own two children are treated fairly, but will be content with the small settlement made by Malcomson when they were separated. "Money caused our unhappiness," she says.

WIFE TO TEST RICH WILL

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be entitled to if his estate measures up to her estimate.

Money and the feeling of power and influence that it brings broke up her home and ruined her happiness, according to Mrs. Malcomson. Declaring she wished to say nothing bitter against either Mr. Malcomson or his six children, Mrs. Malcomson outlined with restraint the differences that arose in the coal dealer's household and finally led to her leaving the home

A LONG STORY

It's a story of children, their father and stepmother and the age-old pathos of father love struggling against the love of husband for wife.

"I loved Mr. Malcomson and his children—and I love them yet," Mrs. Malcomson said simply. "There is no bitterness in my heart against them. I am too thankful for the years of happiness I had as Mr. Malcomson's wife and the stepmother of his six children.

"We were old friends when I married Mr. Malcomson. We had lived in the same neighborhood and I knew his wife. He was interested in Sunday school and I taught a bible class in the same church. I was preparing to be a foreign missionary. When his first wife died leaving six young children, Mr. Malcomson said to me: 'You'd better do your missionary work here and stay and mother my children.' So I stayed—and I have never regretted it, despite any unkindness that may have happened in the last few years."

Not until the older children began to wish to control some of their father's wealth was there any trouble or friction in the household, Mrs. Malcomson says. Then gradually the subtle and poisonous influence of too much money began to

be felt, and the stepmother felt herself being pushed into the background by her stepchildren whom she had mothered and cared for.

"CALLED HER INSANE"

"About three years ago Mr. Malcomson asked me to leave him, said I was getting on his nerves," the widow related. "I didn't believe he could mean what he said. Finally he told me he wanted to get a divorce. He later told the court that I had a terrible disposition and that I was not right mentally. He even tried to have me declared insane. But the doctors only laughed at that. He urged me to take trips to California so it would appear as if I had deserted him. But I refused. At last conditions became such that we agreed to separate. It was then I made a settlement of \$225,000, turned over the old homes to the family. Everything that had grown dear to me by association.

"Although my share of the estate should be a \$1,000,000, I am contented with what I have in order to avoid any more bitterness or ill feeling. All that I ask is that my two girls be treated fairly by the terms of the will."

Mrs. Malcomson's children are Dorothy Jean, 19, and Margaret Alice, 14. They are now with

The other Malcomson children are: Mary Jane Raphael, Ann Arbor; Helen Josephine Gore, Benton Harbor; George W. Malcomson, Alex W. Malcomson, Allan Robert Malcomson, of Detroit.