CLERGY NOT UNIT ON DIVORCE

Omaha Ministerial Union Adopts Perfunctory Resolution, Some Not Voting.

LATTER HOLD CHURCH LAW AS GUIDE

Pronounce it Scriptural and Refuse to Abide by Other Pledge—Appeal to Mickey to Close Saloons Sunday.

After a strenuous session on the subject of divorce the Omaha Ministerial union, at its regular meeting Monday morning at the First Congregational church, adopted this set of resolutions, merely as an expression of the union rather than to bind any member to an observance:

Realizing the great and growing menace to the purity and stability of the home found in improper marriages and multiplied divorces and realizing our responsible relation to the matter as ministers of the gospel, we, the members of the Omaha Ministerial union, while fully recognizing the difficulties of the subject and the necessity that each minister be free to follow his judgment and conscience in each case, do hereby express our convictions as to the principles which should guide our action by the following resolutions:

First—That no marriage should be solemnized until the officiating minister has carefully informed himself as to the facts concerning previous marriages, if any, and the fitness of the parties to enter the marriage relation.

Second—That a minister should not solemnize a marriage in a case where in his judgment either of the parties is morally or physically unfit for marriage.

Third—That a minister should not solemnize a marriage in a case where he has reason to believe that one of the parties is the offender against the former marriage bond, nor where the previous marriage was dissolved by collusion without adequate ground, nor in any case within one year from the granting of a decree of divorce.

Fourth—That the above resolutions have no reference to the annulment of marriage for causes existing before marriage, nor to the reunion of a couple who have been divorced.

Committee on Resolutions.

The resolutions were presented by Rev. H. C. Herring, chairman of a committee to which the question of divorce had been referred, the other members of the committee being Rev. J. R. Smith, Rev. A. S. C. Clarke, Rev. J. W. Conley and Rev. J. E. Summon. The question was before the union two weeks ago, but the ministers at that time were so far apart as to what action the union should take that a committee was appointed to draw up new resolutions.

The above resolutions were declared adopted by virtue of the fact that the ayes were more than the nays, although many refused to take any part in the proceedings so far as adopting the resolutions was concerned.

Explaining why he should not vote on the resolutions, Rev. Frank L. Loveland of the First Methodist church said:

"I think ministers should follow the law of their respective churches in the matter of divorce. The question before us this morning involves many questions of sentiment and conscience which cannot be acted on by this body. To adopt resolutions establishing principles and then have a preamble saying we may act as we choose will place us in a peculiar position. I ask to be excused from voting under these circumstances."

Dr. Burdick Also Objects.

Rev. Newman Hall Burdick of the Second Presbyterian church, said he had a growing conviction that the union was taking hold of something it could not carry out. He said he did not care to vote as he considered the law of the Presbyterian church to him higher than that of the Omaha Ministerial union.

Rev. Charles Herron of the Presbyterian seminary then declared that the law of the Presbyterian church was scriptural and, therefore, binding on himself and other ministers of that faith.

Dr. Loveland then rose to explain he believed the law of the church on the subject under discussion was scriptural.

Dr. Conley of the First Baptist then tried to calm the troubled waters by saying the resolutions were intended merely as an expression of judgment by the union.

Dr. Cissell of Hanscom Park Methodist said the resolutions were meant for a moral effect on the community.

The striking out of the word "unrepentent" before "offender" in the third clause of the resolutions, caused considerable discussion, which resulted in the word being stricken out to preclude the possibility, as some contended, of a minister solemnizing the marriage of a "repentent offender of the former marriage bond." It was argued that the fact that a man repents afterward does not change the law of God on the subject, that only persons having obtained divorce on scriptural grounds shall be married again.

While the resolutions were adopted it was evident they were not embraced by a majority of the union membership.

Appeal to Governor Mickey.

After disposing of the divorce matter the ministers took up the recent hearing before Governor Mickey of the charges preferred by the Civic Federation against the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. Dr. Conley said Governor Mickey needed the support of every minister in Omaha in the consideration of the Omaha Sunday saloon matter, now in his hands. A motion that every member of the union write the governor a letter was carried and another motion prevailed that the secretary of the union write the governor, all the letters being an appeal to the chief executive of the state that he close the saloons in Omaha on Sunday.

The union will meet next Monday morning to consider matters of interest in connection with the Torrey-Oliver mission.