

RIVAL SCHOOLS OF RELIGION IN BITTER STRIFE

Dean Gray of Moody Institute Calls Dr. Mathews Heretic for Stand on Higher Criticism.

By JOSEPH B. BOWLES.

The conference on "World Evangelism and Vital Christianity After the War," recently held at the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago witnessed two developments of unique and even extraordinary religious interest.

The first resulted from the opening address by Dr. James M. Gray, dean of the institute, in which he dramatically crystallized the issue which has long divided what may be termed the evolutionary school of theology and that which adheres to the Bible as a divinely inspired revelation.

Declaring that "German militarism is dead, but the German theology that made it possible still lives," he held up the dean of the University of Chicago Divinity school and his co-workers (though without naming Dean Shailer Mathews) as exponents of "German theology," quoting from their utterances and writings which frankly reject belief in the virgin birth, the deity, the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and reduce Jesus to the status of a mere man, a great religious teacher.

In the vivid light of the quotations from the university professors and Dr. Gray's comments, as printed in the next day under "scare heads" in the Chicago newspapers, it became clear that the theologians of the "evolutionary school" set aside the foundation of orthodox Christian faith. A shell from a "Big Bertha" exploding in the Chicago "Midway institution" would scarcely have caused a greater commotion. The reality and vital character of the chasm between the current scientific "modern Christianity" and the orthodox theology has long been understood by theologians the world over, but multitudes of church members with thousands of ministers and the public at large, have been hazy, or entirely ignorant, of its real significance. Hence, the disturbance the publicity created.

"Never was there a sterner demand on Christians of the evangelical faith," said Dr. Gray, "never a sterner call for bold and united testimony to God as he has revealed himself in Jesus Christ."

I very seldom mention names when speaking in a gathering of this kind, but sometimes it is a false courtesy, sometimes rank cowardice not to mention names; and so I propose to mention the name of Chicago university, which is standing today, according to the printed text which it sends out, for all that is opposed to what we understand by the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"The dean of the theological school of that university has said very recently, as quoted in the public press, that orthodoxy met its Waterloo in the war; and his illustration of it is that the kaiser is orthodox."

Then quoting from a new book, edited by Dr. Gerald Birney Smith, professor of Christian theology in the University Divinity school, and made up of essays written chiefly by other professors, Dr. Gray continued:

"This is what they say about the Bible, that in the light of the new historical criticism, the Bible has been discovered to be a natural instead of a supernatural book. The twentieth century world needs a twentieth century religion, and part of its task is to make a religion for itself."

"Then this is what the book says about the deity of Christ. One of the professors informs us in speaking of the agnostics and their belief regarding our Lord, that they adopted the myth of the God-man."

"There is a professor in a divinity school, regarded by some as an evangelical school, practically affirming that belief in the God-head of Jesus Christ is a belief in a myth."

"We find, too, another professor who sees a 'growing appreciation of the life of Jesus in this world, and a lessening emphasis on such matters as the virgin birth and Christ's supernatural nature.'"

"This is what he says about the atonement. 'To insist dogmatically, as a principle, that without the shedding of blood there is no remission

of sin, is both foolish and futile in an age which has abandoned the conception of bloody sacrifice and which is loudly demanding the abolition of capital punishment."

"At such a time as this, action is required as well as words. There must be some kind of an offensive and defensive alliance against the enemies of the truth within the professing church. A fresh declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us must be followed by an aggressive, forward movement in the name and power of Almighty God."

Dr. Mathews promptly issued a reply which made no denial of the views ascribed to him and his fellow professors, but asserted that the old school adherents refused to accept the discoveries of modern scholarship.

He said, as quoted: "Dean Gray and his school of thinkers live in an entirely different world from that in which the rest of the people live. He and his school deny evolution and refuse to apply scientific methods to the study of religion. There are hundreds of thousands of young men and women who are graduates of our colleges and universities and leaders of all our social movements who are wondering whether it is possible for them to remain in the churches and maintain their intellectual self-respect. They cannot if Christianity involves what the type

of religious teaching represented by Dean Gray and his school think it does. A view of Christianity that is not so intelligent as the state of present knowledge warrants will not help the people who are already the leaders of our work."

Food Shipped Into Poland Via Danzig Over Hun Protests

Paris, Feb. 23.—In spite of annoying efforts by the Germans to hinder the provisioning of Poland, the supreme food and relief council has landed three shipments of food in Danzing and sent the food by railway to Warsaw, where it is being distributed under allied control.

According to Dr. V. Kellogg, an American member of the supreme relief council, just returned to Paris from Poland, the Germans did not dare to offer serious opposition to the shipments through German territory and over German railways to Poland, but minor officials complained bitterly that Germany should be left before Poland.

However, the American navy provided the food ships and manned them with naval officers, so the Germans were afraid to interfere, as it would have been a violation of the terms of the armistice.

Herrick Sees Danger to Republic in Trend Toward Paternalism

Los Angeles, Feb. 23.—"The best governed people are the least governed people," said Myron T. Herrick, former governor of Ohio, and American ambassador to France at the beginning of the world war, in an address here at the annual banquet of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

"A grave danger now," he continued, "is the reversal of our form of government in the rapid trend toward paternalism."

"The war has broken down the old order of things the world over. The future success of America depends upon reconstruction and adjustment, upon the successful creation and direction of a new order, international in character and dealing not only with material things, but with ideals and value of spiritual things which have laid dormant and have been rediscovered by the shock of the war."

Washington's Birthday Celebrated by Irish Club

Washington's anniversary was fittingly commemorated by the Irish Self-Determination club at its regular meeting in the Labor Temple Sunday afternoon. Speeches were made by several members and "The Farewell Address" was read in full by Louis D. Kavanagh, who related many incidents showing the keen interest and appreciation of Washington for the aid and friendship of Ireland during the American revolution. Washington, it was pointed out, became a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, December 17, 1781, at Philadelphia, and manifested in other ways his sympathy for Ireland in her struggle against oppression.

Announcement was made at the meeting that arrangements had been completed for the St. Patrick's day program which will be given at Creighton university auditorium, under the auspices of the United Irish Societies. Edward G. Dunn of Iowa will be the principal speaker. At the next regular meeting John Rush will be present and report on the action of the Irish Race convention held in Philadelphia, February 22 and 23.

About 200,000 Jews Served the Country During World War

That the Jews of America have contributed more than their proportionate quota to the armed forces of the United States in the war is shown in the official "War Record of American Jews," which has just been issued by the American Jewish committee, through its office of war records, New York City.

While the report does not pretend to be a complete record of the activities of all Jews who responded to the call of their country it is sufficiently comprehensive to indicate the important part that they played. The total number of Jews in the military and naval service of the United States is estimated at from 165,000 to 200,000, or from four to five per cent of the total personnel of the American forces at the time the armistice was signed. The Jewish element in the general population of the United States is about three per cent. The Jews of America have therefore, according to these figures, contributed at least one-third more than their proportionate share.

The number of Jewish commissioned officers so far recorded include 5,162 in the army, 206 in the

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navy and 40 in the marine corps. It is probable, however, that these numbers will be more than doubled when the record will finally be completed. The highest rank reached by Jews is that of brigadier-general in the army and marine corps, and rear admiral in the navy.

Their casualties amount to about 10,000, of whom probably 2,000 were killed in action. Other evidence of the quality of their courage is found in the long list of citations for valor furnished in the report and in the testimony of commanding officers like General Bell, Lieutenant Colonel Whittlessey and Captain Harrigan, who trained the Jewish recruits in camp or lead them in action.

Blame for Explosion Costing 87 Lives Put Upon War Department

Washington, Feb. 23.—Concentration of enormous quantities of explosives by order of War department officials and in disregard of New Jersey laws was responsible for much of the destructiveness of the explosion last October at the Gillespie munitions plant at Morgan, N. J. The senate was informed by the military affairs sub-committee which filed a report covering its investigation of the disaster.

The company was exonerated. Recommendations of the sub-committee, which consisted of Senators Myers of Montana, Beckham of Kentucky and Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, include federal legislation to regulate storage of explosives near populous centers and a rigid War department inquiry into the conduct of army officers responsible for conditions at the Gillespie plant.

The committee found that 87 deaths and loss to private property estimated at \$3,900,000 was caused by fire and explosion while more than 10,000 persons were compelled to leave their homes, many of which were badly damaged.

Soldiers' Home Notes.

Grand Island, Neb., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Mrs. Peters returned to Burkett last evening from the general hospital in Grand Island, where she had been receiving treatment. She was admitted to the west hospital for further treatment.

Mrs. W. Miller, in cottage No. 4, is reported not so well as her friends would wish for, but the attending physician states that the patient is in no immediate danger.

The attendance was light at sick call this morning.

Uncle David Rumbarger yesterday celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. Mr. Rumbarger was born on February 15, 1842, in Pennsylvania. He came to Nebraska in March, 1878, and in a few days will be a resident of Grand Island, 40 years. Since he laid away his walking stick he is able to walk to Grand Island and return the same day, providing the weather permits.

In the Good Old Days

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