

BIBLE IN NO DANGER FROM MODERNISTS SAYS RABBI

Jewish Leader Says It Is Not Infalible and Would Not Be Improved By Being So Regarded

New York, Jan. 11.—The Jewish faith does not accept the infallibility of the Bible, and Christian defenders of its infallibility are fostering falsehood through a misconception of the Bible's function, Dr. Stephen S. Wise declared in a sermon yesterday morning before members of the Central and First Synagogue in Carnegie Hall.

"The Bible was made for man, not man for the Bible," Dr. Wise said. "The Bible does not purport to be an infalible book. Nowhere in the Bible can its self-styled defenders find warrant for their anti-critical attitude."

"The Bible is not in danger in the rabbi's opinion. Higher criticism has not made it less divine, but more human, by tracing the hand of God in the slow and toilsome ascent of the people of the Book from the lower levels of ancient worship of one God out of many to the lofty heights of ethical worship of the one God of all mankind."

The conflict between modernist and fundamentalists will continue among Christians until they put away "their childish belief that man is a fallen being, and that He whom they have accepted as their Savior came to relieve them of the consequences of the sins of Adam and Eve," Dr. Wise declared.

"My dear friends, our Christian brothers are placed in a position subject to criticism because the whole structure of Christian dogma rests on Bible verses," he said. "As an example, the discussion over the virgin birth rests on one Hebrew word, 'Alma.'"

"It is little less than ludicrous to note the temper of the anti-critical position, as if the higher criticism impugned the veracity of God. It is not the veracity of God, but the accuracy of man's story of man's quest after God and His truth that is subjected to unbiased and painstaking investigation by the higher critics."

"Does it impair the value of the Biblical books to ascribe their authorship to men of moral passion and religious genius? Is it more honoring to God and man to consider the Bible writers faultless secretaries than to believe that, though their lips were touched with coals of fire from the living altars, yet they did not lose their human liability to err?"

Dr. Wise said members of the Jewish faith do not believe the universe was created in six days, but that they believe in a God supreme over a progressive creation of which man is the crown.

"We do not believe," he said, "that a council was held in heaven which agreed to test Job, but we do believe, and would live by, the glorious gospel of toleration proclaimed in this parable. We do not believe that the song of Songs is an allegory illustrative of the relation of God to His church, but we cherish this Song of Songs as the greatest thing in the world, constant, changeless love."

Minister Has Narrow Escape

King, Dec. 31.—Rev. Mr. Burrus, of Yadkin county while driving along the highway just east of town this afternoon in a Ford roadster had a very narrow escape for his life. There was a blinding rain falling at the time he met a truck loaded with knocked down wagons, parts of the wagons extended over the side of the truck. One of these pieces took off the whole top of his automobile. Mr. Burrus was hit on the head and knocked unconscious and he remained in this state until someone came along and picked him up. The man who was driving the truck and whose name was not learned made no stop. On account of the blinding rain and the fact that the obstacle that hit Mr. Burrus was in back of the man who was driving the truck, we are led to believe that he did not know of the damage he had done. It is hoped that Mr. Burrus is not seriously hurt.

Governor and Secretary of State to a "Chitlin" Supper

Rockingham, Jan. 15.—Governor Morrison and Secretary of State W. H. Everett are invited to visit the scenes of their boyhood days, the last of this week, and partake of a delicacy the like of which they have not known—certainly since their sojourn in Raleigh. In short, they are invited to an old-time chitlin supper—or "chittlings," as these are said to be called.

Begin Untangling German Finances

Paris, Jan. 12.—With the American, British and French experts on the spot, the Italians due to arrive here at 9 o'clock tomorrow and the Belgians at 4 o'clock in the evening, the first committee appointed by the reparations commission entrusted with the task of finding a means to balance the German budget and stabilize currency in Germany is ready to get down to business in earnest at 11 o'clock Monday morning.

Brigadier-General Charles G. Dawes and Owen D. Young have been putting in 10 hours daily since reaching here, analyzing a mass of documents submitted to them by the reparations commission. Each day has been devoted to the study of this information.

Agitation Against Large Crop of Tobacco in 1924

Kinston, Jan. 5.—The Tobacco Board of Trade here is expected to begin early its annual agitation against a big tobacco crop in this part of the bright leaf belt. Though that conservative body may not take official action in the matter, its members will preach a nominal acreage and intensive cultivation throughout to Kinston territory.

"There should be no duplication of the 1923 crop; it was entirely too large," warehousemen, factory men and others are contending, now that the crop has been almost entirely marketed. "The product last fall brought good prices despite an excessive crop, but it was a matter of luck that it did."

Subscribed for Paper in Self Defense

R. H. Southern who lives on route 3 west of Mount Airy came into the News office the past week to subscribe for the paper. He gave as his reason for subscribing that a week before he had brought some eggs to town in a basket with a cloth over them. When the merchant who bought the eggs emptied the basket he put a current copy of the Mount Airy News into Mr. Southern's basket instead of the cloth. When the basket arrived home that night Mrs. Southern began to read her home paper and was so pleased with it that she persuaded her husband to subscribe for it on his next trip to town.

"She just pestered me about that paper," said Mr. Southern "until I had to subscribe for it in self defense." It would be a good thing if more of the women folks in Surry county would insist on having a paper in the home. Readers of The News would confer a favor on us and perform a service to their neighbors if they would occasionally lend a copy of the paper to a neighbor and call attention to the fact that a four month's subscription costs only 50 cents.

Exploding Dynamite Hurts Surry Road Worker 60 Feet

Bryson Dunevant, age 45, Thursday morning of last week was blown 60 feet down the mountain by the explosion of a charge of dynamite. He is now in Martin Memorial hospital suffering from a broken shoulder blade and various bruises and cuts about the face and body.

Dunevant placed seven sticks of dynamite in a drill hole on the grade now being constructed across the mountain near Lowgap on Wednesday evening just at closing time. He fired the fuse but for some reason the charge was not exploded. Thursday morning he attempted to set off the charge by means of another stick of powder placed in the hole on top of the unexploded charge. He lighted the fuse and retired for the explosion. The new charge exploded but the 7 sticks did not go off. Dunevant waited 12 minutes, he says, before going near the hole.

He finally ventured up to the hole and was standing directly over it when the old charge, presumably ignited from the burning paper around the first one, exploded blowing him some 60 feet down the mountain. He landed on his back breaking his shoulder blade. From the bruises and contusions on his face and body it is supposed that the explosion doubled him into a knot and rolled him down the steep bluff like a snowball.

Dunevant was immediately rushed to the local hospital where every precaution is being taken to prevent tetanus or lockjaw from setting up, as it so often does in the wake of injuries of this nature. Hospital authorities report that he is doing nicely. Bryson Dunevant has been in the employ of the county highway commission for several years and is said to be an efficient road builder.

COUNTY TREASURER'S STORE BURNS

\$2800 of County Currency and \$4000 in Unpaid School Vouchers And County Warrants Also Destroyed

The stove building of County Treasurer W. B. Marion on the Mount Airy-Dobson Highway some half way between the two places was burned Monday night about 11 o'clock, destroying not only the stock of goods but \$2800 in bills belonging to Surry county. The fire, which was of unknown origin, was discovered by a neighbor who awoke Treasurer Marion. The blaze when first discovered was on the east side of the building, that is on the opposite side from the Marion residence. Nothing was saved from the flames, not even the Ford car under a shed at the rear.

The treasurer's books with over a million dollars of county business on them happened to be in Marion's residence instead of the store. However, some \$4000 in unpaid school warrants and county vouchers, some of which had come by mail and had never been opened, were locked up in a desk in the store and these too were destroyed. As they had not been entered on the county books and had not been paid, Surry county bankers will be burning midnight oil for a long time getting them straightened out and making collections on them.

The original holders of these warrants and vouchers had received payment on them from their banks, but in a case of this kind the banks will go back on the endorser of the warrants for their money. Where these people are not worth the money, as for instance old people who may have received county warrants in payment of monthly relief, the banker will have to apply to the generosity of the unfortunate county treasurer; or to the county commissioners to issue a new warrant covering the amount.

The store was insured for \$1750 but the stock of goods inventoried around \$3500 the first of the year. All the store books and records as well as some \$800 in notes were destroyed. Over a hundred dollars in silver melted in the flames.

When asked by The News reporter how he came to have so much county change on hand Marion explained that some people do not like to take checks so on December 31 he cashed a county treasurer's check at the First National Bank of Mount Airy for \$3000 and that he had \$2800 of that in the store to pay off such people. He said the bills were in denominations ranging from one dollar to a hundred dollars and exhibited some charred paper wrapped in a newspaper that he had rescued from the smoldering ruin. These he thought were some of the charred bills.

Marion explained to the reporter that the county does not provide his office in the courthouse with a vault or safe or any fireproof place to keep the county money and books. This fact was later verified by prominent men in Mount Airy. He said that it was his habit to keep a part of the county stuff in his store and part in his home, a hundred yards away, so that in case of fire all of it would not be consumed. He has a little baby safe in his home but two husky burglars would have no trouble in packing it off. The safe, moreover, is his own personal property. When asked if he kept the county books in it, he said no; that the books were so large they would not go in it.

Treasurer Marion upon being questioned as to his ability to meet the county loss said that the county would not lose a cent, nor would his bondmen have to meet the bill. His bond of \$50,000 is not secured by a bonding company but by private individuals of the county. Inquiry about Mount Airy reveals the fact that he is not in debt to the wholesale houses for goods.

This fire gives rise to some very pertinent questions that are freely discussed on the streets. What if the county treasurer's books, with a million dollars in county business, and with no duplicate accounts in existence, had also gone up in the flames? What if the county treasurer's home where the books are kept, instead of his store, had been burned? Why is not his office in Dobson provided with a fireproof vault or safe, and why do the county commissioners not require him to keep the county valuables there? Why does the county business have to be housed in any man's store

or residence? And why does not the county require any and all county officers to give dependable bonding companies as sureties instead of individuals, even the those individuals be the best of men?

This blaze has brought to light also considerable criticism that for months has been directed at the present county treasurer and was before his time brought against his predecessor. This criticism is to the effect that the business of the treasurer's office has not been in the past and is not now, conducted in a business-like manner. That proper records are not kept and that bills are not paid promptly. It is said that purchasers of Surry county bonds have had and are now having trouble in collecting interest on the county's outstanding bonds, altho the taxpayers have paid in the money to meet such interest charges.

Flood Sweeps Paris

Paris, Jan. 12.—The year begins badly for Parisians, with a flood which bids fair to equal the devastation of 1910, and turns attention from world affairs to those of rescue and relief.

It is absurd to try to wall up rivers in the midst of great cities, and the ancients knew better than to attempt it. The moderns are less wise or less prudent. Just as the Japanese constructed modern American style buildings on volcanic ground, Paris has confined the river Seine between high walls of masonry, which it occasionally overflows with dire effects.

Already the damage is tremendous. In 1910 the maximum flood was reached Jan. 30—and we are still far from that date. Above and below Paris the river has overflowed widely. Thousands of houses can be entered only in boats. Thousands of families have had to evacuate their homes and their condition is serious, in view of the housing shortage.

They are being housed in schools and public buildings, bridges are being built from house to house, and pumps are at work, but the river keeps rising.

Judge Stack Deals Boxers A Knockout

Charlotte, Jan. 7.—A peremptory demand upon the new Mecklenburg grand jury to indict all who have had anything to do with recent boxing bouts at the city auditorium and any responsibility for the operation of bucketshops or patrons of such, and of all delinquent administrators, guardians and executors of estates, were three bombs that Judge A. M. Stack, of Monroe, presiding over his first criminal court here, let fall in the courtroom this morning.

Judge Stack made the audience in the court room sit up when he called the names of those who had recently participated in boxing bouts and prize fights at the auditorium and called upon Solicitor John G. Carpenter to collaborate with the grand jury by drawing bills of indictment and to present the bills.

To Meet Mrs. W. E. Merritt Jr.

Honoring Mrs. W. E. Merritt, Jr., formerly Miss Olivine Porterfield, of Glade Springs, Va. who returned the first of the week from her bridal trip to New York City, Mrs. W. E. Merritt, Sr., and daughter Miss Elizabeth Merritt entertained their friends at a floating reception from 3 to 6 o'clock Friday afternoon.

The arriving guests were greeted at the door by Miss Katherine Price, and directed to the receiving line by Miss Bess Merritt.

In the line stood Mrs. W. E. Merritt, Sr., Mrs. Merritt, Jr., Miss Elizabeth Merritt and Mrs. Oscar Merritt. The petite honoree wore a becoming afternoon toilette of black velvet and georgette.

Mrs. Z. V. Roberson stood at the dining room door.

In the dining room a color scheme of pink and white was carried out with fragrant carnations and lighted candles in silver candelabra.

Mrs. H. K. Boyer poured coffee and Mrs. D. V. Price poured tea each seated at opposite ends of the table. These steaming beverages were served with sandwiches almonds and mints by Misses Mary Franklin Graves, Mary Thompson, Anna Rance, Elizabeth Lovill, and Margaret Ashby.

Leaving the dining room the guests were greeted in the music room by Mrs. J. D. Smith and goodbyes were said to Mrs. Marvin Sprager.

Negro Swims Pond And Makes His Getaway

Greensboro, Jan. 12.—Fourteen gallons of corn whiskey fell into the hands of Deputy Sheriff Mike Caffey, Otis Apple and J. E. Wagner in Sumner township, six miles south of the city, Friday afternoon. The liquor was found concealed in a body of woods, some distance from the nearest house.

After finding the whiskey, the officers sighted a negro and Otis Apple (best of the deputies) gave chase. The deputy held his own in fact was gaining until the negro took out through a sort of lake or pond, whereupon the chase was over—Deputy Apple didn't have his swimming clothes on.

Billy Sunday Will Meet Modernists For A Debate

Charlotte, Jan. 9.—"I have an invitation to appear in Madison Square Garden in New York to refute the arguments of Grant and the rest of the modernist crowd, and I'm going to accept. I'll skin that gang," declared Billy Sunday today in his afternoon sermon at the tabernacle before 4,000 people.

"They are devils, the I. W. W.'s, the radicals and the bolsheviks of religion," he said. "Men have the right to change the laws of man by legislative enactment, but they have no right to tamper with the laws of God."

"When you take the supernatural out of religion you have nothing more than a system of teaching left, and if this be done Christianity will degenerate to the level of Buddhism and Mohammedanism."

"They deny the virgin birth of Christ and would have him the illegitimate offspring of a Jewish harlot. They deny that he is the Son of God and would make him a man. I have more respect for the crook who sticks a gun under my nose than for the man who preaches false doctrine from the pulpit."

No further announcement of plans for the trip was disclosed, and Mr. Sunday declined, from personal reasons, to disclose the name of the individual or the organization tendering the invitation. It will be impossible for him to make the trip before the close of the Charlotte meeting, it is stated.

Methodist Divine Delights Baptist Audience

The Rev. Zeb Vance Price dean of local Methodism, held the large auditorium full of worshippers at the First Baptist church spill-bound Sunday morning with his sermon on "Christ's Invisible Empire." With a dry humor suggestive of the immortal Vance, whose nephew he is, and with a scholarly grasp of history illuminating every phase of the discourse, the clergyman beamed upon an audience eager to catch the merest chance remark. The doctrinal dispute now raging between Modernists and Fundamentalists was touched upon, but with the philosophical outlook of the historian the speaker did not seem to be alarmed over the outcome of the controversy.

Boy Shot And Left to Die

Hickory, Jan. 2.—Severely wounded with a bullet hole piercing the right side of his body and numbed by the cold, Ernest Sigmon, young man of this vicinity, was found beside a road several miles from here. Officers reported finding nearby a note evidently scribbled by him after he was shot, reading:

"I live at Jeff Sigmon's. Somebody shot me. You will find my gun in the car." There were signs that he had tried to write more but had failed.

Sigmon's automobile was found nearby and in it, the officers reported finding an empty rifle. No bullets were found they said.

Sigmon was in a critical condition it was reported at the hospital to which he was taken.

Officers regard the shooting as a mystery. There have been no arrests.

As Murderers Confess to Crimes

Birmingham, Jan. 15.—The ax murderers that have kept Birmingham in a reign of terror for months have been cleared up by the confession of a negro who told on the gang. Various colored men implicated confessed to eight out of 15 of the murders. The evidence showed that whenever a murder was to be pulled off the gang got together and drew straws to determine who should do it. The peculiar thing about all these murders was that the victims were all hit over the head with an ax.

REPUBLICANS SPLIT ON MELLON TAX BILL

Last "White Hope" for Campaign Success Goes Glimmering When Party Faces Internal Strife

Washington, January 12.—A split definitely developed today among republican leaders of the house as to the advisability of modifying the Mellon tax bill.

Representative Longworth, the party leader, said he realized a compromise was inevitable, particularly on surtax rates—a position also held by Chairman Green of the ways and means committee.

On the other hand Representative Thion, of Connecticut, a committee member, announced he was opposed to any compromise and believed the Mellon plan should be enacted into law substantially as drafted. He discussed the situation with President Coolidge and issued a statement as to his views after leaving the White House.

The position taken by Mr. Thion is understood to be in accord with that of at least five other republicans on the ways and means committee, while the rest are either non-committal or inclined to modifications of the treasury draft.

As the breach among the republicans widened democratic leaders who have offered a substitute for the Mellon plan declined to comment on the situation except to reiterate that they were convinced many republicans would refuse to support the treasury bill as written and would lean toward the democratic proposal on a showdown.

The ways and means committee completed its consideration of administrative features of the plan and on Monday will begin public hearings on the bill. The committee has been instructed to report the measure by February 11.

For a brief time today republican members of the committee were in conference to continue their discussion of tax policy but as on yesterday when they talked over the situation with Mr. Longworth no decisions were reached.

Chick Thieves Meet Death

Gaylord, Kan., Jan. 10.—The first instance of the death penalty being meted out to a chicken thief comes from Gaylord. Raymond and Edward Reach, farmers, living south of that town, one day last spring dug into a coyote's den and found two pups, hardly more than a few days old. These they took home and raised on the bottle.

One evening recently, however, they went on a foraging expedition and when morning came, their night's work was seventeen fowls from the chicken pen. A coyote court was called, the culprits plead guilty, sentences were fixed and now the pelts are drying in the sun.

Klan Giant and Emperor Ousted

Washington, Jan. 15.—H. C. McCall, Imperial Representative of the Ku Klux Klan in Washington today confirmed reports from Atlanta that William J. Simmons, Imperial Emperor, and Edward Young Clarke, Imperial Giant, had been expelled, but denied the Atlanta rumor that the Klan had moved headquarters from Atlanta to Washington.

McCall said the expulsion action was taken here two days ago at a meeting of the imperial officers headed by Hiran W. Evans, Imperial Wizard. He declined to divulge the charges against the two men.

Frog Sex Changed By "Simple Trick"

Koenigsberg, East Prussia.—Roosters may some day be transformed into hens and thus help increase the egg supply if promises of scientists are fulfilled. The promises are held out after several years of experimenting with bags, rats, guinea pigs and frogs.

The trick of developing a regular sure-enough female toad from a youngster who started out in the world as a male has actually been accomplished, it was announced here, and further experiments are being carried out with the view of bringing about perfection in these newest of freaks of nature. The discovery, announced by Prof. Horst of Koenigsberg, has attracted much attention in the scientific world, particularly among other experimenters who have been waiting for years on this particular sex problem.