

REV. B. H. ROBINSON GIVES PROTESTANT VIEW OF DIVORCE

Says Catholic Stand Splendid
in Theory—But Recalls
"Ne Temere."

"At the present moment there is a movement in favor of establishing divorce courts in Ontario, and there is in this city a lawyer whom you all know, whether you like him or not, who has on his list 100 applications for divorce."

In these words Rev. B. H. Robinson, minister of the Memorial Methodist Church, prefaced his sermon on the Protestant attitude toward divorce in addressing a large congregation last night. Mr. Robinson based his remarks on the nineteenth chapter of St. Matthew, eighth verse: "Moses, owing to the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives, but in the beginning it was not so."

"One organization," continued Mr. Robinson, "is putting up a splendid fight not only against the establishment of divorce courts in Ontario, but against the whole principle of divorce, and that is the Roman Catholic Church."

Splendid in Theory.
"The Roman Catholic Church is splendid in theory, but this does not always work out in practice, as in the case of the Ne Temere decree. This is an immoral procedure by which this church is assisting in separating men and women who have been married in all good faith. Therefore, I cannot wholly accept the Roman Catholic attitude towards divorce, but it is the Protestant attitude that I have now to investigate."

"I believe that Jesus would not have the marriage bonds dissolved without good cause, and I believe that marriage is a divine institution meant to work out for all that is noble in the character of human destiny; but I also believe that he made one reservation, namely, that infidelity was one reason for the dissolution of the marriage tie."

"There are some things that enter into that relationship which makes the continuance of that relationship impossible, and if there is one thing that is going to hinder the working out of God's will, it is domestic impurity."

"To my mind the granting of a divorce decree is not separating a couple where this trouble has occurred. It is only a legal recognition of the fact that they have already been separated. In all honesty I believe that the innocent party should have liberty to invoke the law and have permission to remarry."

"On the other hand, I think that the divorce law is absolutely wrong that allows the guilty party to remarry, but if both are guilty there should be no reason under heaven why their marrying again should be permitted."

"I do not believe that it was in the mind of Jesus Christ that where there was an innocent man or woman, that these parties should be debarr'd for life from working out the destiny for which God intended them."

Wife Eloquent in Absence.

Mr. Robinson then related the case of a young man who got married in haste before proceeding overseas, and whose wife eloped on the eve of his return. "It surely cannot be the view," exclaimed the preacher, "that as clean a young man as you could ever find, should be compelled to live alone for the rest of his life. It does seem to me that the fair and reasonable thing to do is to grant that boy his perfect freedom and give him permission to remarry. If you could annul such a marriage, then by all means annul it, for I don't like that abominable word 'divorce'."

"But I would prefer a committee of the Senate to examine such cases and not a divorce court. However, the Senate, the rich have the advantage over the poor."

Favored New York Law.

The speaker expressed approval of the divorce court procedure in New York State, where, he said, at the first trial, only provisional decrees were granted, and then if no reconciliation took place between the two parties by the second time the case was heard, it was made absolute by a third hearing. But the guilty party could not marry during the life of the innocent party without obtaining permission.

Mr. Robinson also expressed the opinion that the proceedings of divorce courts should never be open to the public. "It is a scandalous thing to me," he declared, "that people should be allowed to hear details of homes broken up. We have also to see, when this bill comes up, that no amendment is slipped in to take away the right of divorce. If they start slipping in these things they can soon slip in half a dozen."

He considered that Canada today stood in a most enviable position regarding divorce, when adultery and desertion were the only two legal causes. There were also less than 100 divorces granted in Canada in a year. This, he thought, was a mighty fine record, and it would have to be guarded.

Blames Foreign Element.
In conclusion, Mr. Robinson referred to the large and increasing number of divorces in the United States, blaming

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the rapid and expansion of the country, the nation brought on by negro slavery, and the large influx of the foreign element as contributory causes. Last year the ratio of divorces in the States was one for every nine marriages.

"Every Protestant that does not realize that we are standing in a most critical position regarding the divorce law today," he said, "does not understand what is meant by breaking up the family of the home," he said. "We are faced by the appalling danger of

the broadening of the grounds for granting divorce. There is one state, that of South Carolina, which does not grant divorce on any ground, and in three states where Roman Catholic influence is predominant, the divorce rate is the lowest.

"I believe, in all fairness, however, that this epidemic of divorce is only a passing phase in the life of the United States. It has got to pass, or the United States has got to pass. But there is only one force that can get rid of it, and that is Christian church."

If it is not got rid of it is bound sooner or later to destroy that life which Jesus Christ and the church uphold: the life of the home, the lives of our boys and girls."

**DEALERS ARE OUT
TO LOWER PRICES**

In its summary of the iron, steel, metal and machinery markets for the week, Canadian Machinery and Manufacturing News, Toronto, makes the following comment:

Some of the warehouses in the steel business continue to mark down prices. Sheets came down farther this week and are at a point they have not touched in the last two or three years. Still the price cutting has not improved the sale, and very few are moving. One firm placed an order for well over a car of iron this week for stock purposes, believing that the price and service they secured on the order were good enough to warrant them taking on the material. Some reinforcing bars are being sold,

and other work is under way that will call for a good tonnage of this sort. Dealers all over are out to sell now, in an effort to get their stocks cleared out. Many stories are heard in the street as to how long the U. S. Steel Corporation will stand by and see the independent operators cut away at their prices and stop the flow of business to their mills. One report says that so many of the large agricultural implement makers have taken on stock at present prices that should the Corporation come along with a cut now it would seriously involve these interests.

Some of the largest makers of machine tools have come along with announcements during the week of reductions in their selling schedule. These vary from 15 to 20 per cent. There is no thought that the new price will stimulate buying, but it is simply an effort of the builders to try and line up with other reductions. Long years of experience have taught the machine tool market that price reductions do not make sales. Machine tools are bought for a purpose and not because they are cheap.

The scrap metal markets are dull yet. Dealers have too much copper on hand,

some of the yards being badly clogged with this metal. Any prices quoted now are more or less nominal. Yards as a general thing are not carrying much heavy melting and stove plate, and would not take much added activity to make this class of material much in demand at better prices than are going now. Dealers claim it does not pay to collect and sort this at present values. There is no money being made in the scrap metal business just now, and it is probably a fact that the majority of the yards are losing every day they keep open for business.