

THE UNION ADVOCATE  
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
Established 1867

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The "Union Advocate,"

Dr. Duncan begins and ends his lengthy reply to me by trying to minimize me. Attempts at personal reflection, especially when not provoked, are weapons used by persons when trying to defend a bad cause. In this case I am only "Mr MacLean of Newcastle, while he is "I" of Montreal. From this exalted position he tells his readers that he was amused, but I can well believe he was pained at my confusing thought as his letter throughout indicated. Having assured himself that I am of Newcastle he goes on to assure his readers that "it matters little" what I may think or say and asks them to trust in his infallibility—Would it? What a say or think, to his mind matters little but; that I should adhere to the facts do. This observation I grant without discussion, but would add that it equally matters that Dr. Duncan does. From what they have heard of him the people of Newcastle will not, without question, accept his infallibility. Let us examine some of his attempts at facts.

He refers to "Memorial re-mutual acceptance of Ordination" to which I referred in my previous letter and states: "Neither in the Memorial nor in the Minutes is there one word as to re-ordination. The word has been used by some who wish to prejudice the matter in the eyes of those who do not understand what was involved in our previous conference." Did the Assembly or its clerk try to prejudice the matter in its heading of a section of the minutes? If so, the Memorial could not have had such a cordial reception. If they did not understand it probably Dr. Duncan does not. If they understood it—and I think Presbyterians will believe they did—they simply headed the minute according to what they believed the Memorial implied. Consequently on page 132, General Assembly's Minutes for 1923 the word "Re-ordination" is found as a heading. No, the word "Re-ordination" is not in the body of the Memorial but

implications are as important as words. These words are there; "That each, while retaining their present position, should accept the ordination service of the other church etc." What do these words imply? What do Churches do when they go through the "Ordination Service" but to ordain? Would not that mean, for a man already ordained additional ordination, or re-ordination? If it does not, what does it mean? Dr. Duncan might explain it in full; and show how such does not, in the slightest degree reflect on the previous ordination of Presbyterians. This is the question which Dr. Duncan has not answered. It is the only question under consideration and not the historicity of the Presbyterian Church. So far Dr. Duncan seems to be quibbling with the word "re-ordination." Let us keep to the text.

In his third section he does not admit my statement in regard to the pulpits of the two churches, as being universally true. Does he deny it is not true in Canada? Where is it that the Anglican church puts Presbyterian clergymen on equal footing with its own? It did not take the Bishop of Toronto long to tell Canon SKey that such was contrary to the canon law of the church.

We all desire closer fellowship with the Anglican and all other Christian churches; but some of us, at least, would not seek it on the plan of Dr. Duncan's Memorial, and that is why I object to him posing as a special champion of Presbyterianism at this time. Closer church relationships likely means more to me than to Dr. Duncan and that is why I am a unionist to the limit of the present opportunity—to unite with Methodist and Congregationalist not only does not mean anything to him but is positively a most undesirable thing, but gives no reason why. When it is possible to negotiate on union with the Anglican Church on equal footing as we are doing in the present union I shall, if living, be still consistent and be an ardent unionist. This is how I value spiritual movements. When it comes to value a "spiritual movement" I doubt that the Church would think of Dr. Duncan as a special expert.

The word "prostitute" may have been strong, though I doubt. It was meant as meaning to degrade, debase, in which sense it is commonly used. As an adjective it means "debased, degraded" etc. in which sense I used it, believing that any other ceremony from another Church which would in that church, give greater rights to its pulpits was to degrade former ordination. This I still believe, and I am not alone in believing it. As to my definition of ordination, it is not worth while discussing. I know its defects as a theological or ecclesiastical definition. It was intended to show the place and dignity of ordination relative to the church.

Again in his own courteous way he speaks of the lady in question as "One who at the Newcastle meeting had confessed her renunciation of the Anglican Communion in favor of a Presbyterian Manse." It is difficult to understand how this transition could be made from a Communion to a Manse. Besides that, the statement is absolutely false. Probably in his then perturbed state of mind he did not grasp all that was said.

We might be inclined to overlook that misrepresentation as being due to the situation then existing, were it not for the fact that previously in his address, I am informed, he had made statements not true to fact, e.g.: he mentioned that in the United Church there would be a separation of persons, while the basis of their union was the pastoral relation shall be with out time limit. Moreover, that

in the United Church congregations could not call their ministers while the same basis states: "Any pastoral charge in view of a vacancy may extend a CALL or invitation, to any properly qualified minister or ministers." It goes even further to say: "While the right of appointment shall rest with the settlement Committee it shall comply as far as possible with the expressed wishes of Ministers and pastoral charges". It does matter that in all things Dr. Duncan should stick to facts and to facts, the meaning of which is not open even to discussion.

Of the St. John Globe article or item he speaks as "not a very tasteful attempt to discredit a speaker behind his back" while he, behind their back, abuses unionists. This is the way a man, who approved spiritual movements presents facts, and shows the fruits of spirituality. But he still assures his readers that Presbyterians like himself are too loyal to their historic and spiritual traditions to throw their ordination, as Mr. MacLean is willing to do, into a non-descript melting pot". I suppose the "non-descript melting pot" is the creed or Basis of the United Church of which Principal Fraser and Dr. Scott; the two leading anti-unionists, when in their sober minds, had said such splendid things. (I quote from Prof. R.E. Welsh of Montreal). Of the Basis of Union Dr. Scott has said: "Its excellence must impress every thoughtful reader. It is full, simple and scriptural. There are few Presbyterians who can find any substantial difference between it and the Shorter Catechism or the Confession of Faith. Methodists and Congregationalists will doubtless find it in equally substantial accord with their accepted beliefs. Even if organic union should be delayed the work of these committees has not been in vain. Their statement of doctrine will be of permanent value to the Christian world. It will be a standing testimony to the essential unity of the Protestant Evangelical Church; both in this and other lands, and will be of value in helping to set before the world the substance of the Protestant Christian faith. It may also serve as a standard or model to other churches contemplating union." This was said Prof. Welsh "the verdict of Dr. Scott in his sober mind before Principal Fraser wrote in the Harvard Review some years ago. "The compilers of the basis of union have preserved the ancient technical charter of Catholicity. The compromise effected in the basis would seem to meet fairly well the need of all the churches. The statement of polity is practically Presbyterian. Evidently the aim of the joint committee on polity has been realized, to provide a substantial congregational freedom and at the same time to secure the benefits of a strong connexial tie and co-operative agency. The irreconcilable traditionalists appeal to the system of Presbytery as historically ideal shows that they are practically in bondage to ancestral ecclesiastical forms. A great many silent folk are governed by sentiments rather than reason. Church loyalty, like patriotism, is not always rational." This represents Principal Fraser's sober mind; and it truly represents the basis. Why does Dr. Duncan call it "a non-descript melting-pot even if his leaders have changed their attitude—no one can say anything about their minds—without attempting to show what better should replace it? Mere denunciation means nothing; has no value to independent minds.

And lastly, Dr. Duncan says that Presbyterians like himself, are "too proud of their honor as men and Christians to betray their ordination." To betray their ordination is to give up their historic and spiritual traditions to throw their ordination, as Mr. MacLean is willing to do, into a non-descript melting pot. It is the only question under consideration and not the historicity of the Presbyterian Church. So far Dr. Duncan seems to be quibbling with the word "re-ordination." Let us keep to the text.

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Canadian National since the last session of Parliament. In July a loan of \$22,500,000 was issued for the purchase of rolling stock which with the issue now proposed will make a total flotation of \$72,500,000 for the Canadian National during the parliamentary recess. Both loans were authorized by Parliament at its last session but the time of issue was left to the railway and government authorities.

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REV. W. McN. MATTHEWS CALLED TO ST. JOHN

The congregation of the First Presbyterian church in West St. John has decided to extend a call to Rev. W. McN. Matthews, of Millerton, N. B. At a meeting of the congregation with Rev. W. M. Townsend, interim moderator presiding A. W. Fraser was appointed secretary and on the motion of Mr. Fraser seconded by Lenoard Wilson, it was decided to proceed with the business of extending a call to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Rev. Dr. J. A. Morison. On the motion of W. W. Allingham, seconded by Miss Janet Sinclair, it was decided to extend a call to Mr. Matthews. The call was practically unanimous. It was decided to hold a meeting on Jan. 30 in order that the call may be formally sent on to the presbytery of Miramichi.

Mr. Matthews was born in Prince Edward Island and, when still an infant, was taken by his parents to New Brunswick and his early home was at Chatham. He is a graduate of Pine Hill College, Halifax, and after graduation was called to church at Bathurst where he ministered for several years, removing to Millerton later. He was heard recently in the First Presbyterian church pulpit and his addresses were much appreciated.

NO INVITATION EXTENDED  
Hon. T.A. Crerar says that he was not invited by Premier King to enter the federal government. He stated that his visit to Ottawa last week was for the purpose of discussing with the Premier the general political situation. He urged on the Premier the necessity for retrenchment, a balanced budget, fiscal reform, a representative system and the re-organization of the government necessary to carry out these policies.

50 MILLION LOAN FOR C. N. RAILWAY

A new fifty million dollar loan for the Canadian National Railways will be issued shortly under the auspices of the department of finance. A conference on the subject was held recently in the office of the minister of finance, between Hon. J.A. Robb; acting minister of finance; Hon. George P. Graham; minister of railways; and Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways. This is the second loan issued by the Dominion Government for the railway.

Here and There

A new record has been established by the Department of Marine and Fisheries in the number of white fish eggs collected for hatchery purposes in the Great Lakes and the Lake of the Woods. A total of 464,660,000 eggs were obtained, which exceeds all previous collections in the province of Ontario.

A new deposit of soapstone has been discovered on Trap Lake, a small lake south of Wabigoon Lake, in northwestern Ontario. The quality of the stone has been reported as excellent for various industrial uses, and practical trials are under way. Water transportation is available direct from the deposits to Wabigoon and Dryden, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

It is announced by the Canadian Pacific Railway that two free scholarships covering four years' tuition in architecture, chemical, civil, mechanical or electrical engineering at McGill University, are offered, subject to competitive examinations, to apprentices and other employees enrolled on the permanent staff of the company and under 21 years of age, and to minor sons of employees.

Canada's fisheries' production during 1923 is estimated to be worth \$40,000,000. At the beginning of the year it was not thought that anything like this mark would be reached, for the Federal tariff had cut deeply into exports to the United States. But as the year wore on the demand and prices generally improved, thus giving fishermen along the Atlantic coast especially a much better market.

Approximately \$5,000,000 will be spent by the Dominion Coal Company to open up a new mine and colliery at Lingan, Nova Scotia, and construction of a branch line of railway to the new site has already been started. The new colliery will be equipped with every modern device, and a model town will be planned in its vicinity. It will have a capacity of some 2,000 tons daily.

The tenth annual Ski Tournament will be held at Revelstoke, February 5th and 6th, in connection with which ski-joring, tobogganing, snowshoeing, skating, etc., will be featured. An endeavor is being made to secure the attendance of Uno Hilstrom, Sweden's champion ski-jumper, as well as other famous ski-jumpers from both Canada and the United States.

Canada in 1923 produced more coal, lead, cobalt and asbestos than during any other year since mining records have been kept. The output of coal was in the neighborhood of 17,300,000 tons, or 635,000 tons better than the best previous record, and 2,000,000 tons over that in 1922. The output of copper, nickel, cement and asbestos was also much above that for the preceding years. Gold production was down somewhat, but this was due more to a power shortage than anything else.

As a result of efforts on the part of Hon. J. A. Robb, Minister of Immigration and Colonization, a 20 per cent. preference rate on Atlantic passages for all British immigrants settling in Canada has been arranged to come into effect on March 1 and continue until the end of the main immigration season at the end of November. It will apply only to British immigrants coming direct to Canada from the British Isles, and will affect all lines coming to Canadian Atlantic ports.

Three delightful cruises have been awarded to agents of the Canadian Pacific Railway for services rendered the company during the past year. One of them, J. J. Forster, general agent at Vancouver, will sail on a round-the-world cruise on the "Empress of Canada"; W. C. Casey, general agent at Winnipeg, will spend sixty-eight days cruising the Mediterranean on the "Empress of Scotland," while D. R. Kennedy, general agent at Buffalo, will enjoy a twenty-nine-day cruise in the West Indies on the "Empress of Britain." The trips were awarded by the company in recognition of the agents' services during the past year.

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