

PROF. DALE IS CENTRE OF A LIVELY DEBATE

Deputation Asks That He
be Given Public Wel-
fare Post.

MAYOR IS UNSHAKEN

Clashes Sharply With
M.O.H.—City Solicitor
to Make Report.

Ald. Risk introduced a large deputation of citizens interested in social welfare work to the Board of Control yesterday, all of whom were desirous that Prof. J. A. Dale, of Toronto University, should be appointed head of the Public Welfare Branch of the Health Department as recommended by Dr. Hastings, M.O.H. Among the speakers were Rev. Canon Lawrence Skeg, Rev. Father Minehan, Rev. Salem Bland, Rev. F. J. Moore, Mrs. Andrew Glen, James T. Gunn, C. L. Burton and Mrs. J. W. Bundy. They claimed to express the views of church organizations, the Brotherhood Movement, labor organizations, and the Local Council of Women which embraced all women's organizations. The general trend of their remarks was that Prof. Dale had been very much maligned, owing to the fact that he had presided at the Scott Nearing meeting in Massey Hall when the latter expressed some revolutionary ideas and theories. The members of the deputation declared Prof. Dale was not a revolutionary nor an extremist, but a loyal British subject, who was an authority of social welfare matters and who believed that progress in social welfare work could be made only by the process of evolution. They further declared the Professor was a keen searcher after truth, and a critical analyst of existing social conditions who was most earnest in his desire to render service to humanity by improving the status of the under-privileged and improvident classes. In order to accomplish his purpose and to acquire a true knowledge of actual conditions, he had to mingle, and did mingle freely, with all classes of the community. That was the reason he had presided at the Scott Nearing meeting; not with any thought of endorsing the views of the speaker.

Canon Skeg, who had attended the meeting, denied that Prof. Dale had called for cheers for Scott Nearing or approved his sympathetic references to the Russian Soviet.

Mayor Strongly Opposed.

Mayor Maguire informed the deputation that Prof. Dale's name would never have been sent on to Council if the Nearing meeting had taken place earlier. As Mayor of the city, he had no intention of allowing any employees in the civic service to support Bolshevistic theories and revolutionary doctrines. Scott Nearing was no friend of Canada or the British Empire, and endeavored to keep the United States from taking part in the Great War. Not only that, but the man had been fined \$3,000 for publishing seditious pro-

paganda in his paper. Nearing was in the same class as the man Bruce who was wanted in Nova Scotia by the police to face a charge of sedition. People who associated with men of that calibre should not complain if the public placed them in the same category as the speakers. Prof. Dale, in presiding at the Nearing meeting, conveyed the impression that he was a sympathizer with Nearing. If he disagreed with the statements made, he should have repudiated them there and then.

Dr. Hastings intervened to remark that he took full responsibility for having named Prof. Dale for the position of director of public welfare, as he regarded him as a man possessing exceptional qualifications for the work. He could not understand the reason for the opposition. As head of the Health Department he was responsible for the actions of all employees in that Department and intended to continue so. He complained of discrimination, as the recommendations of the heads of other departments of the civil service were never questioned by the Board of Control.

Mayor Maguire promised the deputation the statements they had made and the views expressed would receive serious consideration. After the deputation had withdrawn, the matter came up again and Dr. Hastings informed the Board it was imperative his recommendation be approved.

Dr. Hastings Angry.

Then trouble started in real earnest. Mayor Maguire said the Doctor's recommendation was not in order and should not have been made until he had consulted the Finance Commissioner and himself. Dr. Hastings retorted he was head of the Health Department and had the sole right to say whom he would employ. The control of social service work was a branch of the health work and he intended to engage the very best help obtainable. He had appointed Professor Dale because he was the greatest expert on social service work on the Continent. He entirely disagreed with the Mayor's view that he had to consult anyone in regard to the matter. He had consulted the City Solicitor on the matter and that gentleman said he had absolute jurisdiction.

Mayor Maguire intimated the City Solicitor had advised him differently. Then the doctor became angry and declared he was not going to be in a minority in regard to any manner concerning the management of the Health Department.

It was pointed out to him, that when the Social Service Commission was abolished, and its duties were transferred to the Health Department, he was directed to make a complete reorganization of the staff and work and was given a free hand. That task having been completed in 1921, he had nothing more to do but see that the new organization functioned properly. Now, he was proposing another reorganization that no one has asked for. Further, he was proposing to set up a theoretical organization for a practical organization, and to place at its head a man who would devote only part of his time to the work. That man also stipulated that he was to name his assistant. In so doing he was inaugurating a new policy, something beyond his powers.

Dr. Hastings challenged the accuracy of these statements, but was immediately confronted with the minutes of Council which expressly stated "That in reference to the grants to hospitals and charities and matters of policy, he be assisted by an advisory board composed of the Mayor and Finance Commissioner, who will make their recommendations to the Board of Control for their approval."

Mayor Maguire said those were the facts. The City Solicitor had advised him that it was clearly the intention of the City Council that matters of policy should be referred to the Advisory Board and that advice would be acted upon. The Dale appointment and that of his assistant would not be approved, but would have to stand over until Finance Commissioner Ross returned to duty.

Dr. Hastings again objected, but was met with a new obstacle, as Controller Gibbons said one of the chief reasons for abolishing the old Social Service Commission was that the work had increased to such an extent that it was imperative it should receive constant attention. The members of the old Commission could not devote their whole time to the work, so Council made the change. Now Dr. Hastings wanted to revert to the part-time plan. Controller Gibbons said he was strongly opposed to part-time in every way and would not vote for the Dale appointment under such conditions. Controller Singer was inclined to support Dr. Hastings, and for a while it looked as though the issue would be forced to a vote, when Controller Hiltz expressed the opinion it would be better to let the matter stand to give the City Solicitor an opportunity to go into the matter very carefully again. It was decided the Board should meet on Monday morning to consider the matter and decide whether or not it be reported to Council.

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