

SOCIAL SERVICE DIRECTOR QUIT ASSEMBLY WORK

Dr. J. G. Shearer Resigns
From Presbyterian Church
Office On Wednesday.

ACCEPTS COUNCIL HEAD
Becomes General Secretary
of Inter-Denominational
Organization.

Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer, head of the social service work of the Presbyterian Church, has severed his connection with the church department on Wednesday.

He formerly accepted the position of general secretary of the Social Service Council of Canada.

The resignation of Dr. Shearer was taken up at the afternoon session of the general assembly, which was held at the same time that he was accepting the position of general secretary of the social service council of Canada.

The new position is interdenominational, as the federal council unifies the work throughout the Dominion through the provincial councils.

The object is to organize a local social service council in every city and town which will deal with the local matters. The provincial council will be the provincial council of the churches and other bodies doing social work through the federal council.

No Offer To Make.
At the assembly presented here the following was presented:

"Your committee regrets exceedingly that it is unable to propose to the assembly any offer of a position in the church that would make possible the retention of Dr. Shearer's services."

Some days ago when Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer tendered to the General Assembly his resignation as superintendent of the social service and evangelism department of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, so laudably and so valuable an official, even to release him for his secretaryship in the Social Service Council of Canada, that a special committee was appointed to confer with the board of home missions and also with Dr. Shearer, with a view of evolving a plan for the reorganization of the department of home missions and social service in order to make for Dr. Shearer a position that might induce him to withdraw his resignation and to continue his work in the church.

The statement made by the finding of the committee, which was reported by President Walter C. Murray of Saskatchewan University, College Policy.

While the question of the wartime policy of the Presbyterian Church in regard to the theological colleges has been regarded as a weighty question, it was decided during the present session of the General Assembly, and notwithstanding the fact that it was finally passed upon by the chief clerk of the church, the decision was not made until the afternoon session of the assembly, when the decision was made in regard to the resignation of Dr. Shearer.

Immediate protest was made by Rev. Dr. C. MacGregor against the finding of the special committee. He contended it would be a tremendous mistake on the part of the church to allow Dr. Shearer to go.

"This assembly ought to ask the question 'Why should we let him go?' The church is going to ask it," said Mr. MacGregor.

Work Satisfactory.
"Why disperse with his services?" continued the speaker. "It couldn't be because his work had not been satisfactory in the past." Mr. MacGregor pointed to the fact that the resignation of Dr. Shearer of national importance, from the placing of the Lord's day act on the statute books of Canada, to the present time, in view of the tremendous social questions facing the church and nation at the present time and those arising in connection with reconstruction, the social problems, Mr. MacGregor declared it would be an inestimable loss to the church and its people to lose the services of Dr. Shearer. He pointed out that Dr. Shearer is getting results in the business of interpreting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the modern world, and that if any possible position acceptable to him could be found, his "magnificent vision and tremendous executive power" should not be lost to the church.

MacGregor stated that, from his standpoint, of the committee entrusted to bring in a recommendation had "used the same ingenuity in solving the problem as in connection with the college question the report would not have come in this form."

The work of Dr. Shearer for this church is exceedingly definite and pressing, he continued, and affects the whole policy of the church and the work of the released college professors at the present time, he termed as "nebulous."

Resignation Report.
Dr. Murray, who submitted the report of the special committee, said the resignation of Dr. Shearer was fully presented the recommendations of the board of education to the colleges.

If there is nothing wrong with Dr. Shearer's services in the past, Mr. MacGregor declared, the assembly ought to know why such a report was made. He pointed out that the board, he added, should be determined by the task to be done, and not with a view of reconciling any elements.

Dr. E. Scott of Montreal raised the question, would not Dr. Shearer's services and position be more effective for the country if he were to remain in the Social Service Council of Canada. Mr. MacGregor replied that he would have less to say to the churches and the Social Service Council has 23 affiliations, and the only program that can be put into effect is one endorsed by all. The Presbyterian Church has had social movements in the past. He wanted to know if the church would do this now, to be measured by the slowest of the church.

Dr. Murray replied to the implications contained in Mr. MacGregor's address to the assembly, that the committee had only submitted the report after most conscientious consideration of the whole situation, and after twice approaching the home mission board and Dr. Shearer. Personally, he stated, one thing he prized for himself was a reputation for fair dealing. Furthermore, in answer to an objection made by Mr. MacGregor, that the matter had been left over so late that Dr. Shearer was gone, he stated that the fact that Dr. Shearer was obliged to be in Toronto at noon on Wednesday was only known to the committee late Tuesday night. Dr. MacGregor of Montreal wanted to know if difference of opinion with influential men of the church re the social service policy had in any way influenced Dr. Shearer's resignation.

Submits Motion.
Rev. Dr. M. M. Macdonald of Montreal at this point submitted a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Bryce, that the report of the General Assembly put on record its high appreciation of the service rendered by Dr. Shearer, and request him to accept the office of secretary of home missions and social service department, as adviser of the executive, and executive of the committee's policy.

The special committee withdrew by permission during the sitting in order to reconsider the report. At the time of adjournment Dr. Murray stated that no change in the report had been found feasible as a result of reconsideration.

Starts On July 1.
Rev. Canon Tucker of this city, president of the Social Service Council of Canada, was chairman of the executive committee at Toronto which received Dr. Shearer's resignation and accepted his position. The announcement was made that the new secretary would commence his duties on July 1.

The question of permanent headquarters was discussed at length, but it was decided to leave it in abeyance until the next annual meeting in January and in the meantime continue the office in Toronto. Some of those present yesterday thought the headquarters should be in Ottawa.

Matthew Wilson, K.C., of Chatham, an appointing committee, and then in the place of Rev. Dr. Chown.

Dr. Shearer presented a report on the state of the social service organizations throughout the Dominion. All the provinces, with the exception of Quebec, have their provincial organizations. The western provinces have organized locally while in Ontario and the eastern provinces the local bodies are being formed.

To Issue Magazine.
It is intended, starting this autumn, to issue a magazine, which will be known as "Social Welfare," which will be the official organ of the movement throughout Canada. Dr. Shearer, in addition to his other duties, will be the editor of this magazine.

CHRISTIANIZE EAST
OR WAR WITH RESULT
WITHIN 40 YEARS

This Is Statement to Baptist
Conference.

CURSE OF HOARDING
Dollars Withheld from Church
Millions Around Children's Needs.

The crisis which the Christian church is facing in the question of foreign mission work as a result of the war was the subject of a paper read by Rev. J. J. Brown at last evening's session of the Middlesex-Lambton Baptist Conference.

The danger of another great world war within forty years unless the eastern countries are Christianized was pointed out by the speaker.

Dr. J. A. Gordon exemplified the comparative ease with which the Christian ministry, the line between secular and sacred callings, is drawn by the motion picture, which was taken up by the speaker. Brief addresses were also given by Professor McKee of Woodstock College, and Mr. McKee of Woodstock College.

Wednesday afternoon session dealt with the problems of financing the churches.

In connection with denominational education the statement was made that the meager salaries paid Baptist preachers is keeping large numbers of the finest young men of the country from entering the work. That this condition was peculiar to the Baptists was pointed out by another delegate.

This discussion is apparently encouraged by the fact that the foreign of Ontario and Quebec with a view of ascertaining the views of the several churches on the different phases of the work.

Took No Action.
No concrete action was taken by the delegates on the various questions under discussion. Another educational problem was discussed, namely, those who have no children support our educational institutions?

Those who have no families ought to be made pay the largest percentage of the cost of our educational system," said the speaker.

This brought a volume of applause from the audience.

That socialistic propaganda among the people, and especially the Finns, is hampering the missionary efforts of the church was stated by Rev. Dr. J. A. Gordon.

The inefficiency of the Sunday school, owing to the lack of trained teachers, was also briefly discussed. The importance of denominational papers was emphasized by the conference.

The work of the church in the foreign missionary work was briefly touched upon. While at the beginning of the war work masses will be aroused there, and a new era will be the eventual outcome.

Other aspects of missionary work at home and abroad were dealt with briefly.

Finance Questions.
"God is not exalted so much in our prayers, many of them meaningless, as in the mission of the church," said Rev. H. McDermid, I.A.A., Walkerville, opening the discussion.

The money needed for the extension of God's work should be raised by other means, as social and similar methods, was the general opinion of the meeting.

The importance of the subject of Christian stewardship is not generally recognized. The Bible places much stress upon it and the opinion was expressed that the church membership should be exhorted by the minister frequently on the subject.

Rev. Mr. McDermid emphasized the fact that the primary object in getting members to give to church work should be to lead them to the Lord.

Things as practiced by Abraham ought to be followed by the church in supporting the Lord's work today in the opinion of the assembly.

Questions as to whether tithing should be carried out by people in all circumstances were invariably answered by the speaker quoting scripture texts to the effect that the Lord would bless those who obey Him.

Every dollar withheld from the Lord is a million lost to the church, said Rev. Mr. McDermid's statements.

J. B. Campbell of London gave a report on the mission of the budget.

Prof. J. L. Gilmour, D.D., chaplain of C.E.F., addressed the meeting on the subject of the worship of the church.

At the evening session Rev. J. G. Brown in a masterly address dealt with the mission of the church.

The comprehensiveness of the Christian ministry was given by Rev. Mr. Gordon.

Brief addresses were also given by Rev. Mr. McKee of Woodstock College and Prof. Wright of Western University.

Rev. James H. Boyd and Rev. Mr. Bligh of London, Rev. R. McKee, Samson, Rev. W. King, Arnsperg, and Rev. Mr. McKee of Woodstock College.

This evening marks the closing of the conference.

RUSH OF DRAFTEES MAY BE CAUSE OF NEW CAMP HERE

W. O. R. Lines Must Be Extended at Once.

USE 1916 LOCATIONS?
Merwin Camp of the 142nd Possible "Overflow" Quarters.

The camp at Carling Heights is getting crowded for space, and it is the intention of the military authorities to extend the lines of the Western Ontario Regiment to Quebec street. The companies will be reduced to a strength of 100 men, and new companies will be formed by conscription.

In view of the fact that the companies in charge of arrangements state that with present conscription it will be unhealthy to keep the troops crowded, and as the drafted men will continue to arrive for some time yet, it may be necessary to reopen a camp at Merwin Heights or other adjacent property.

Will take charge of whole state's health department.

Dr. H. W. Hill Assuming Complete Minnesota Control.

MAYOR PRAISES WORK
Declares Cuts in Quarantine Have More Than Saved Salary.

Dr. H. W. Hill, who has tendered his resignation as health officer of the city, and as director of the Institute of Public Health, will take charge of the health department of the state of Minnesota on his return to the United States.

"It is pretty hard for us to compete against a whole state in keeping him," said Mayor C. R. Somerville today.

He added that the militia department, under which Dr. Hill is now serving as sanitary officer of Military District No. 1, would be glad to have him.

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Rush for Papers Means Additional Office Equipment

City Clerk Forced to Ask For
Further Mechanical Assistance To Cope With It.

City Clerk Baker wants a new type writer (machine). The rush for marriage and birth certificates because of the M. S. A., is so great that he has been obliged to augment his clerical staff and now his equipment.

"I would not have asked for the machine only I have the money to pay for it," said the city clerk. He stated that the money he has received for vital statistics, issuing marriage certificates and birth certificates, has by far exceeded the estimates.

He had taken in as much money in a month as he used to take in during a whole year.

Mayor C. R. Somerville remarked that it was a good thing that the city had a department got a little ahead of the estimates they wanted to spend the money on.

Later the mayor suggested that a sign should be erected outside the city hall, stating that the city had a surplus of money, and that the money was being used for the benefit of the city.

"Fixed marriages, arranged births, etc."

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NO MORE CAMPS BE MODERATOR OF CHURCH YET

Vexed Question Not Decided
by General Assembly, But
Sent to Presbyteries.

REPORTS IN NEXT YEAR
Till Then No Change in Head
of Church in Canada
Can Be Possible.

No elder of the Presbyterian Church need aspire to the moderatorship of the general assembly, a Presbyterian Church in Canada for next year. It won't be done. Established law and custom are against it.

Later, if at all, in the democratic church. Being a democratic church, the question of the moderatorship which has been provocative of animosity and frequently attacked discussion in the supreme court of the church this year, will be referred to the presbyteries and reported next year to the general assembly of 1920.

An amendment to the motion before the assembly on Wednesday evening at closing time, moved by Dr. Scott of Montreal, seconded by Dr. MacQueen, that the Moderatorship of the church be referred to the presbyteries for their consideration to be reported to the general assembly of 1920.

The question of whether an elder should be eligible for election as moderator of the church was discussed at the greater portion of the evening session of the assembly Wednesday.

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