

ATTACK ON STAGE MEETS WITH REPLY

The Rev. Dr. Straton Declares Theatre, Reeking With Infamy, the Devil's Church

FRANCIS WILSON ANSWERS

New York, May 2.—A sweeping indictment of the theatre, coupled with an attack on the character of theatrical people, featured the last of a series of divorce sermons by the Rev. Dr. John Roach Straton at Calvary Baptist Church last night.

"The stage," he said, "is a rotten proposition. It is reeking with moral infamy. It is the devil's church and is engaged in robbing the true church of its Sabbath."

Francis Wilson, to whom the attack on his profession was read by telephone last night, replied that the stage was the greatest moral influence in the world.

"Men like Straton," he said, "fearful of losing their influence and popularity, always take a fling at the theatre. They should seek to improve the character of their own profession rather than slander that of another."

"The home is a necessary evil," said Dr. Straton in the course of his sermon, referring to its portrayal on the

stage. "It is the place to which we go when everything else is played out. All honest work is drudgery. Prohibition is a calamity, and drunkenness a lost virtue."

The Stage Clergyman

"When a clergyman is portrayed upon the stage at all, he is pictured either as a knave or a fool. The Sunday-school ideals are mentioned only to produce merriment."

"If these things are not true, then I wish to raise the question of why the most popular actors of today are those with the longest string of wives to their credit. Certainly the theatre is the only place where a blot on a woman's character is an asset rather than a liability."

"I wish also to raise the question of why it is that in every divorce scandal that has shocked the New York public—especially in recent years—one or more actresses have figured."

"Yes, the stage of today is a rotten proposition. It is reeking with moral infamy, and the tides of its pollution are flowing out from New York as a nation. The theatre as it exists today is the devil's church, and it is now visible engaged in robbing the true church of the Sabbath, which has been one of its chief foundation stones."

FIRST SLACKER LIST OUT

17,000 Names on Report for Illinois-Michigan-Wisconsin Area

Chicago, May 2.—The first official list of draft evaders in the Sixth Army Corps area, embracing Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, has been received at Fort Sheridan.

The list, containing 17,000 names, will be printed and sent to newspapers, postoffices, county sheriffs, United States marshals and chiefs of police. A reward of \$50 is offered for the capture of each man named on the list and every citizen is authorized to make arrests.

Mayor Signs Many Contracts

During the month of April, with twenty-six working days, Mayor Moore signed a total of 261 contracts, involving a gross expenditure of \$1,001,243 and making close to a record month for his administration, according to figures made public by officers of the Department of Public Works.

The larger part of the city expenditure thus provided for during the month, has been set aside for repaving, the condition of many of the city streets demanding immediate attention.

Wilson's Reply

Mr. Wilson declared he could name a long list of ministerial malfeasants. Why is it, he asked, that the great moral influence of the church doesn't make more ministers Christian in deed and spirit?

"Men like Straton are always fearful that the theatre with its increasing popularity will outweigh the church in spirit, in energy and in influence," he said. "The theatre, with almost every

KILPATRICK SHIFTED TO STRICTER PRISON

Russians Take Precautions Against Escape of Red Cross Man

ACT AFTER COOPER FLEES

Riga, Latvia, May 2.—Captain Ernest Kilpatrick, the American Red Cross worker in the hands of the Russian Bolsheviks, was transferred last week from the comparatively comfortable war prisoners' camp at Moscow to the "Tehka" prison by order of the Extraordinary Committee, according to Mrs. Seala, head of the Czechoslovak Red Cross in Moscow, who arrived in Riga yesterday.

The transfer of Captain Kilpatrick to this prison, which is a solitary-celled lock-up where "third degree" methods are used by the committee to wring confessions from inmates, was due, according to the belief expressed in Riga, to the escape from another prison camp of Captain Merion Cooper, an American, who was a member of the Polish Kosciuszko Aerial Squadron.

Captain Cooper had no assistance whatever in making his escape. He had not seen Captain Kilpatrick for several months, but the fact that Kilpatrick and Cooper at one time lived at the same prison camp was sufficient to make difficulties for Kilpatrick.

Mrs. Seala brought no details of the transfer of Kilpatrick. She said she merely knew that orders had been received that the food packages which her organization had been sending to Kilpatrick should be addressed to him at the "Tehka" prison. Mrs. Seala added that all the Americans in prison in Russia now were receiving food packages.

ELOPERS IN SHERIFF'S CARE

Georgia Pair to Be Taken Home. Woman Asks Husband's Pardon

WOMAN ASKS HUSBAND'S PARDON

West Chester, Pa., May 2.—M. B. Lundy and Mrs. Herman Moore, both of Macon, Ga., who have been locked up here as elopers, will be sent back in charge of the sheriff of Newtown county, Georgia, this afternoon. The sheriff will take the couple back in his automobile.

Mrs. Moore has sent a pathetic letter to her husband, who is described as an honest, industrious young man, asking his forgiveness and promising to be good in the future.

According to the sheriff, Lundy had been sent by his father to the Georgia Military College for discipline some time ago, and he was a student there at the time the couple eloped.

B. M. Pennington, of Covington, Ga., came here today and took the automobile used by the couple, which is the property of his father, W. R. R. Pennington, a banker.

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