

# CHURCHES IN PLEA TO CZAR FOR JUSTICE

## Creds Unite in Effort to End Religious Persecution in Russia.

### SEND RESOLUTIONS TO TAFT

#### Also Ask That Treaty Be Cancelled Because Russia Has Not Ac- cepted Our Passports.

At a meeting of the Clerical Conference, held yesterday afternoon in Assembly Hall of the Metropolitan Life Building, ministers and rabbis joined in passing resolutions pleading with Russia to stop her persecutions of the Jews and other people worshipping outside the Greek Catholic Church. The resolutions are to be forwarded to President Taft, with the request that he communicate them to the Czar. A second resolution, moved by the Rev. William Carter of the Madison Avenue Reformed Church and seconded by Dr. McMullen of the Madison Avenue Methodist Church, was even more vigorous in its wording. It sums up the sentiment expressed in most of the speeches of the meeting, with regard to Russia's treatment of American citizens as follows:

Whereas, It is and always has been the fundamental principle of this Government that the rights of its citizens shall not be impaired at home or abroad because of religious belief; and

Whereas, Under the treaty between the United States and Russia, negotiated in 1832, Russia claims the right to and does discriminate between American citizens on the ground of religious belief, and as a consequence several classes of American citizens, notably ministers of various denominations, and especially Jews, are excluded from Russia, and American citizens of Jewish faith are subject to the same class of restrictions as the Government imposes upon its own inhabitants of the Jewish faith, all of which is contrary to the plain wording and meaning of such treaty. Therefore this assembly urgently requests the President to terminate said treaty at the earliest possible time, so that Russia may know that a discrimination against any part of our people on religious grounds is contrary to the fundamental principles of our Government, and that we cannot admit such a discrimination without being false to American citizenship, which covers the Jew as sacredly as it covers the Christian.

These resolutions were not passed until after a number of speeches, some of them firing the Assembly with much feeling, and it was with a broken voice that Bishop James Courtney of St. James's Episcopal Church, as presiding officer, called for the vote on the resolutions after Dr. Charles F. Ralston of Yonkers had placed at the door of the head of

the Russian Church the responsibilities for the deaths of more men and women in one week than were killed in all the French Revolution.

#### Basing the Appeal on Citizenship.

It was the argument of President Josiah T. Strong of the American Institute of Social Service that the appeal to Russia should be made on behalf of American citizens in Russia as American citizens and not as Jews—that the offended citizenship and not the persecuted faith would prove the safest and most practicable means of approaching the Government at St. Petersburg. That, he said, would be the strongest position for a protest from America. If protest were made against Russia's persecuting a man because he is a Jew, Russia might ask what such a protest meant coming from a people who had burned a man at the stake because his skin was black, said Dr. Strong.

"We should give Russia no chance to say, 'Tu quoque,'" he said, "for we are guilty before God in that matter."

Oscar S. Straus, former Ambassador to Turkey, protested against that analogy, for such burnings in this country, he pointed out, were never executed under Governmental orders or by reason of Government policy. Mr. Straus's speech was broken in upon by frequent applause. He declared that the "meeting of ministers to protest against inhumanity practised 5,000 miles away against people not of their faith" marked an "epoch in the growth of humanitarianism in this country." To such ministers, he said, would fall the task of arousing public conscience against a situation that would not alter until it be aroused. He, too, emphasized the fact that it is not a matter of creed but of citizenship.

"If Russia denies the right of life, liberty, and property to an American citizen, it is not for us to ask what is the creed or profession of that citizen. The great seal of the United States is not a sectarian seal. Anything more dishonest, more outrageous than Russia's interpretation of the treaty of 1832 the history of international law fails to disclose."

Something of his own experience in such matters he related, and he told of protection he had been able to extend to Christians in Turkey, a protection extended not to them as Christians but as American citizens, for he considered that therein lay their highest possible right to protection, higher than they could claim as religionists of any denomination. Then he told a little story of what he did some years ago when a group of American ministers and missionaries, on their way back after a leave of absence to their posts in the interior of the Empire, could not get permits to continue their way. The Sultan explained that he did not care to have them around, on the ground that they had an offensive liberalizing influence, so much so that they were reported back of the Armenian uprising. Anyway, said the Sultan, he understood that Russia was suffering to make such discrimination. Mr. Straus told the Sultan that it wouldn't do at all, and that he would advise Washington to do the utmost in insisting on proper respect for American citizenship. But the Sultan wouldn't grant the permits.

"I called those missionaries together and told them that, if I were they, I would go right ahead, permits or no permits. I told them they had my permission to go. And they did go, whereupon, before sundown, I informed the Sublime Porte that they had left for the interior."

"The English Ambassador was in great distress. 'What have you done?' he groaned, and explained that some of his own countrymen had gone with mine. 'Well, I told him, they are in good company.' I did not worry much, and at midnight, there came a polite note from the Sublime Porte's household, saying that he had sent on instructions that the Americans were to be accorded the fullest protection."

#### The Resolutions.

The resolutions passed were:

Whereas, We have listened to the presentation, by well-informed speakers, of the baleful effects of the lack of religious liberty in Russia, and, desiring to place on record an expression of sentiments which it awakens in our heart, we do hereby adopt the following preamble and resolutions as the sentiment of this meeting:

We, as representatives of divergent creeds, gratefully recognizing the fact that, in this favored land, the separation of Church and State gives to all religious bodies equality before the law, and withholds no right or preferment from any individual because of particular religious conviction or custom, learn with sorrow that:

1. The 6,000,000 Jews of Russia are singled out for systematic oppression and for persecution by due process of law.
2. They are confined within congested districts, at times ruinous to health.
3. Education is prohibited to all but a few, resulting necessarily in the increase of illiteracy.
4. They are restricted in occupations, reducing many to starvation.
5. Local governors devise petty persecutions of their own, which are zealously carried out by police acting brutally.
6. They are slanderously and libelously charged with "ritual" murder.
7. Their children are encouraged by the offer of pecuniary reward to abandon the faith of their parents.
8. At frequent intervals they are the victims of terrible pogroms, when many are massacred and their homes destroyed.
9. These unjust and barbaric conditions have been intensified this very year, local expulsions occurring weekly, in spite of promises of betterment.

We further learn with equal sorrow that Molokans, Stundists, Esthonians, Lutherans, Latins, Baptists, whether German, Lettish, or Russian, and Moravians, are often denied the right of public worship, and that, while the exercise of the religious freedom was granted to Christian teachers by the ukase of 1905, the governors of many provinces override the privileges granted by the Czar, arresting the religious teachers, and, subjecting them to unfair trials, casting them into prison or sending them into exile.

These indignities and injustices to Jews and Christians awaken within us a sense of wrong to religion, which, as the life of God in the soul of man, must be the free expression of the adoration and consecration of His children.

Therefore, Resolved, That we, as ministers of various religious denominations at work in New York City, assembled on this 20th day of October, 1911, join hands in earnest effort to terminate these evil conditions, and plead with Russia for justice from the nation to these injured peoples:

Resolved, Further, That the Chairman of this meeting select, in addition to himself, six representative ministers to present these

resolutions to the resident Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church in New York, with the earnest request that he forward them to the Holy Synod as the prayer of the religious forces of New York that it would intercede with the Czar in behalf of Russia's persecuted subjects.

Resolved, Further, That the President of the United States be furnished with copies of these resolutions, with a request that he will communicate them to the Emperor of Russia.

Among those present at the meeting were Dr. Edward S. Young, Chairman of the conference; Dr. Cleland B. McAfee of the Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn; Dr. Maurice H. Harris, President of the Board of Jewish Ministers; Dr. Edwin H. Farnham, Superintendent of the Baptist Church Extension Society; Dr. Charles L. Goodell of the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Frank O. Hall of the Church of the Divine Paternity, Rabbi Lyons of Brooklyn, Canon Chase, and the Rev. Nehemiah Boynton.

Andrew D. White, Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, Bishop Greer, and Dr. Lyman Abbott sent letters of regret.

The meeting yesterday was just six years to the day from the issuing of the ukase of 1905, that purported to grant religious freedom in the empire. That, too, was issued on a Monday, Oct. 30.

## CAN'T COPYRIGHT STYLES.

### Judge Ward Overrules Claim to Exclusive Catalogue Illustrations.

Judge Ward, in overruling yesterday in the United States Circuit Court, a demurrer interposed by the Standard Mail Order Company in a suit for alleged infringement of a copyright, declared that a copyright could not be used in such a way as to amount to a patent. He declared that a manufacturer of an unpatented article could not monopolize its sale by copyrighting a catalogue with illustrations of it.

The suit was concerning certain garments, which appeared to be identical in cut, and the court held that one firm could not be deprived of the right of issuing an illustrated catalogue of the garments merely because some other firm had copyrighted like illustrations, provided, however, the illustrations in the second catalogue published were drawn directly from the garments, and were not taken from the original copyrighted illustrations.

## MRS. VAN HORN ASKS \$100,000

### Says Her Husband Broke an Agreement to Give Her \$600 a Month.

Mrs. Endora S. Van Horn has started a suit for \$100,000 against her husband, Frank M. Van Horn, a banker, in the Supreme Court.

Mrs. Van Horn alleges that her husband made an agreement with her by which she agreed to drop a separation suit. Under its terms, she says, she was to receive \$2,500 a year for her own support, \$1,200 a year for the support of her three children, and one-fifth of all his income above his \$10,000 a year drawing account from A. B. Leach & Co. Van Horn guaranteed, she says, that she would receive a total of \$600 a month. Instead, she says, she has received but \$275 a month. Van Horn's answer to her complaint is a general denial.

## JURY FREES LANGIONE.

### Acquits Him of the Charge of Killing John C. Warner.

Alfred Langione, who has been on trial before Judge Malone in General Sessions, charged with manslaughter in the first degree as the slayer of John C. Warner, the young civil engineer of Highwood, Conn., on the night of Oct. 31, 1910, at Thirty-seventh Street and Seventh Avenue, was acquitted yesterday after the jury had been out for ten minutes.

On the night of his death Warner was walking down Seventh Avenue, wearing an olive drab uniform and carrying a shotgun, which he intended to use hunting ducks on Long Island. At Thirty-seventh Street and Seventh Avenue he was set upon by a gang of striking express drivers and mortally stabbed.

During the trial Albert Taylor, an actor from Central Valley, N. Y., testified that he saw Langione, sitting on Warner's back, strike him three times with his fist. Langione put in no defense.