

RABBI WISE STANDS PAT ON LABOR VIEW

Tells Congregation He Will Quit Pulpit Rather Than Retract Words.

HE ASSAILS GARY AGAIN

Calls Some Members of His Own Flock Creators of Bolshevism.

"If any considerable number" of members of the Free Synagogue of which Dr. Stephen S. Wise is Rabbi thinks that Dr. Wise's espousal of the cause of union labor and his denunciations from his pulpit of Albert H. Gary renders his reputation as head of the Free Synagogue and the venerable, traditional rabbi wanting to know it at once.

These attacks, he told his congregation yesterday, he will resign. Furthermore, if it is proved to him that his attacks upon Judge Gary and his championing of the right of labor to bargain collectively have brought Jews into disrepute or if he is subjected to any sort of a gag—mild or otherwise—he will resign from the ministry altogether and take himself off to some place and some other field of labor along lines dictated by his conscience.

These statements Dr. Wise set forth in his sermon yesterday to the congregation in Carnegie Hall. He talked over to the imagination. He disavowed and excoriated Bolshevism. He disavowed that in his congregation of 1,100 Jews, all of whom were not present, there were some who blamed for his economic theories. He said that already he had received letters from some of his flock spoken in their demand that he quit his pulpit. Then he declared that there were those listening to him who were opposed to his espousal of the cause of labor and who were afraid of trade unionism and looked for Judge Gary to fight their fight for them.

Big Audience Hears Him.

Seldom has Dr. Wise spoken to a larger audience. Some of the most influential Jews in New York were present. Likewise a full hundred employers of clothing makers and other needlework trades listened. Several labor leaders were in the congregation. The rabbi not only repeated the substance of last Sunday that Judge Gary and his associates in the United States Steel Corporation were among "the most prolific breeders of Bolshevism in the United States" but added that there were those listening to him who were quite as dangerous.

Just what Dr. Wise will do if he resigns remains to be seen. He was asked whether, in such an event, he would actively associate himself with the American Federation of Labor. Likewise he was asked whether, resign or not, he would now go to the steel fields and make speeches to the workers. "I'd rather not discuss that at present," he replied.

It is evident from the tone of Dr. Wise's sermon that he has received charge him with injuring the character of the Jewish people, for he said:

"Where I preached that right or wrong, true or false, my word would permanently and irremediably hurt my people, I would not be silent, but would instantly take up my pen, and under my pulpit, I am ready to-day to make the test. I offer my congregation the privilege of passing upon the question of whether I should continue to serve it or whether the hour has come for my withdrawal.

WILL NOT BE PETERED.

"I make no contract with the congregation. I serve it at its pleasure. If the congregation or any considerable number of the members deem it better in the interest of the Jewish people that I withdraw from my pulpit I shall do so without a moment's hesitation. The decision rests with you. But it is understood that within or without my pulpit I shall speak the truth as I see it. I shall be governed by my conscience. I shall be hindered by no fears. I shall consult no man in my decision and I shall help me and you alike to see and to do what is right in His eyes!

"It is easy enough to stand for something when no one is hurt. As some of the Synagogue said to me a few nights ago, 'this matter is a very practical one for us. If your views prevail it means great loss and hurt to us.' There are two charges which have been made with respect to the word of this pulpit last Sunday. One is that I have spoken disrespectfully of Judge Gary.

"Why are some of you so disturbed about an attack on Judge Gary? Why so sensitive in respect to my references to him? I know that he is a Jew as well as some of you. Because he is to many of you become a symbol, because he is fighting your battle, the battle which you wish to win, and because you dared, the battle which you believe will win for you without your help because you imagine that if Garyism can win unionism will be destroyed and workingmen's organizations be smothered.

"The other charge which I will notice for a moment and then allude to it no more is that I am undermining the Jewish name, that I have hurt the Jewish position by what I have said and done in the steel and iron industrial situation. If that be true, if it could be proved to you that I have done so, I would be glad to believe that to be true, whenever the moment comes that I feel there is any truth in that claim, that moment will I leave the Jewish pulpit and forever it forever."

Reason for His Attitude.

Dr. Wise explained his reason for setting forth his opinions of all those opposed to the organization of workers. He said that the Free Synagogue planned to erect a million dollar home and that he did not wish to appear as a receiver of funds from persons who might later say that they had known Dr. Wise's economic theories and that they have withheld their subscription. Furthermore, he said, he had decided to keep silent about the steel strike after President Wilson had called off the conference of capital and labor, which is now under way in Washington. But Judge Gary's refusal to arbitrate with the strikers unleashed his tongue, he said. Speaking of the hearings held by the Senate Labor Committee, the rabbi said: "The hearing seemed to me a pitiable affair. It was a farce. The Senate committee deal with Judge Gary as if he were some sacrosanct person whose public support might be injured. I felt and continue to feel that the Senate committee failed to institute a real hearing and merely served to give Judge Gary a further opportunity to show forth

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