CONTROVERSY OVER LEAGUE SYSTEM FOLLOWS STOLL RESIGNATION

The Reverend Samuel I. Lindsey Refutes Statement of Former District Superintendent Stoll Anent Work of the Missouri Anti-saloon Organization—Mr Stoll Repeats His Former Remarks, and Says That Facts in His Own Section Would Bear Him Out.

The Reverend Samuel I. Lindsay, State Superintendent of the Missouri Anti-Saloon League, denies the allegations of the Reverend George C. Stoll, superintendent of the De Soto District, in his letter of resignation, and asserts that had not Mr. Stoll resigned voluntarily he would have been discharged because of incompetency. He further asserts that Mr. Stoll violated conditions of his contract, in that he failed to carry out instructions relative to the work in the district, failed to organize the district, failed to properly reach the churches of the district in agitation and subscription work, and failed to raise in cash, or its equivalent, an amount equal to his salary and expenses.

On the other hand, the Reverend Mr. Stoll says that regret was expressed when he resigned, and he reiterates the charge of misconduct on the part of anti-saloon league officials in Missouri.

Mr. Lindsay says:

MR. LINDSAY'S STATEMENT.

To the Editor of The Republic:

St. Louis, Oct. 15. Replying to certain allegations made by the Reverend George C. Stoll, relative to the work of the Missouri Anti-Saloon League, and which were published in your issue, I desire to state:

First: That at the time I received Mr. Stoll's resignation I had already decided to request his resignation, as the result of the investigation on the ground of general incompetency.

Second: My contract with Mr. Stoll for said district contains the following terms and conditions as stated, viz.: (1) Faithfully to carry out instructions relative to said district as given by me from time to time. (2) Failure to thoroughly organize said district, both as to county and local leagues. (3) Failure to properly reach the churches in said district in agitation and subscription work. (4) Failure to raise in cash or its equivalent, an amount equal to the salary and expenses provided.

Third: Said contract further stipulates that Mr. Stoll was to receive a salary of $100 per month, and such necessary expenses as railroad fare, hotel accommodations while in the field, and such incidentals as are germane to the work, said salary and expenses to be paid at the end of the month provided the church records thereof, said district organized, and such sufficient to cover salary and expenses provided.

During the first months of Mr. Stoll's work in the district I frequently corresponded with Mr. Stoll, and did not succeed in securing a month of proper work during the period. His work thereafter as far as I received letters from leagues of this district, was marked by letters from leagues protesting against his work as District Superintendent, and stating that he was doing more harm than good. I deeply regret the necessity of my statements, and should not have made them had not Mr. Stoll, in his letter of resignation, made certain statements as to the work in Missouri which I consider unfair and misleading.

Mr. Stoll's statement that he was about ready to call for my resignation, or had decided to cancel my contract, is in direct conflict with the following letter which he sent me accepting my resignation:

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 13, 1909. Reverend George C. Stoll, City. Dear Brother Yours of even date received, and in reply I hereby accept your resignation as Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, to take effect at once. I regret very much to lose you from the work, but realize that it is a misunderstanding on the part of some more individuals, and which, when all concerned were either subjected to them or understood, either from personal or other sources, explained away, such misunderstandings would be no more. I shall be glad to have you continue your subscriptions and interest in the work, and should be glad to have you continue in the work in some other capacity, if such should be in your mind. Kindly return your contract and such other papers and literature as you may have. Let me hear from you from time to time. Yours fraternally, (Signed) SAMUEL I. LINDSAY.

Mr. Stoll replies:

MR. STOLL REPLIES.

Mr. Stoll last night said:

"It is rather strange that Mr. Lindsay should assert that he was about ready to call for my resignation, or had decided to cancel my contract. The following letter is consistent with the following letter which he sent me accepting my resignation:

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 13, 1909. Reverend George C. Stoll, City. Dear Brother Yours of even date received, and in reply I hereby accept your resignation as Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, to take effect at once. I regret very much to lose you from the work, but realize that it is a misunderstanding on the part of some more individuals, and which, when all concerned were either subjected to them or understood, either from personal or other sources, explained away, such misunderstandings would be no more. I shall be glad to have you continue your subscriptions and interest in the work, and should be glad to have you continue in the work in some other capacity, if such should be in your mind. Kindly return your contract and such other papers and literature as you may have. Let me hear from you from time to time. Yours fraternally, except to state that I consider work on the basis adopted is giving a great success in other parts of the Union, and success in what is left of the Union has called I remain yours sincerely, (Signed) SAMUEL I. LINDSAY, State Superintendent.

"Now, I have no desire for any controversy but, since Mr. Lindsay sees fit to challenge my statements, I mean to live up to the line, let the chips fall where they will. Had Mr. Lindsay decided prior to receiving my resignation to request my resignation, he had at least one full week in which to do so, and no excuse for acting on the grounds of insubordination. In a week ago last Saturday the assistant superintendent, Mr. Robinson, and I had a conversation, which became quite warm, relative to the methods of the work.

"Two months before handing in my resignation, August 12, I wrote our headquarters and here is an extract of the letter I received in reply:

"'Dear Brother: Your letter received and noted. I am sorry to hear of the difficulties you have had with the work. Hope you will be able to overcome them. Kindly let me hear from you from time to time. Yours fraternally, (Signed) S. I. LINDSAY.'

"Shortly before the meeting referred to in my letter of August 12, I had a letter from headquarters, which I quote:

"'Dear Brother: Yours received and noted.