

MICHAEL LAYCOCK

Michael was born in Bingley, Yorkshire in September 1848 son of William and Ann Laycock.

He married Mary Foulds in Keighley in September 1876. They had two children.

He had great preaching ability but was of a nervous disposition and was dogged by family ill-health.

He suffered a breakdown died on Coronation Day (22 June 1911) at his home in East Croydon.

Very few newspaper records have been found.

He was accepted into the Primitive methodist ministry in 1872 but in a short time his health failed

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CONFERENCE RESIGNATION OF A MINISTER

At the Preachers' Friendly Society, held on Tuesday, a letter was ordered to be sent to a minister in the London District, informing him that a medical certificate of health was required before he could be admitted a full member. As this was the third certificate required, he (Rev M Laycock) wrote the Conference a letter, in which he stated that he would not supply another, tendering his resignation.

After considerable discussion, it was decided - "That a letter be sent, informing Mr. Laycock that the difference is not between him and the Conference, but between him and the Friendly Society; that four days would be given him for reconsideration, and that unless it was by that time withdrawn, the Conference would accept it"

The resolution was carried by 65 votes against 57

(Sheffield Independent 12 June 1880)

Despite ill health he stuck to his principles and was not afraid to speak his mind

PASSIVE RESISTANCE AT MANSFIELD. AMUSING PROCEEDINGS.

A batch of passive resisters made their appearance before the Mansfield borough justices this morning, their names and amounts owing being as follow: - J. W. Hodgkinson, 1s. 7d; Rev. A. Firth, 1s. 9d; Jos. Byard, 2s 11d; Rev. J. Carnegie, 4s; Wm. Singleton, 6s; Samuel Green, 2s; Rev. M. Laycock, 1s. 9d; Samuel Holt, 1s. 7d. The cases were proved by Mr. J. Walker (assistant overseer).

The Rev. J. Carnegie was allowed to make a statement on behalf of the resisters, and he remarked that there must be something radically wrong with an Act which forced Ministers, Sunday school teachers, and law abiding citizens into that court. There were certain sanctities of individual life into which the legislature had no right to enter. If it did so enter, their only course was to passively resist. He then stated the objections which Nonconformists had to the rate, mentioning that they did not believe in the doctrine of baptismal regeneration.

The Mayor: We are not dealing with that matter here. We want to hear what legal objection you have.

Mr. Carnegie: I understood you allow one representative to speak for the whole.

The Mayor: I expressly stated upon any legal matter.

Mr. Carnegie: Then I have nothing further to say.

Mr Singleton said he could not pay a rate which was used to teach children that they should not go into a Nonconformist Church.

The Magistrates' Clerk: You yourself signed the rate, and so made the people pay. You are the man who is ruining the country. according to your own statement. . .

The Rev A Firth said he declined to pay a priest rate. He raised a laugh by expressing a wish to retain his summons as he wanted to frame it.

The Rev. W. Laycock caused some amusement by personally asking the Mayor. "What is a legal objection?"

The Mayor: You must consult a solicitor.

Mr. Laycock: Will you not instruct the clerk to inform to what is really a legal objection. (Laughter)

The Mayor: I am afraid we have no power to instruct our clerk so. If a defendant does not understand the law he should consult a solicitor and pay his fee in the ordinary manner (Laughter)

Mr. Laycock: But we are poor persons. Will you just allow me one word?. My legal objection is the same as if someone had come into your house. stronger than yourself, had overpowered you, and did what they liked with you The Government has not consulted the country.

The Mayor: I really must stop you.

Mr. Laycock: Just hear me speak.

The Mayor: I must stand to the line I have taken. We cannot hear anything except on the Law.

Mr. Laycock: I should like to relieve my conscience.

The Mayor: No good purpose is to be served by forcing a speech on the Bench.

Mr. Laycock: I have a conscientious objection. and I am very much obliged to you.

Samuel Holt remarked that no person need contribute to the support of Roman Catholic teaching. during the reign of William and Mary (Laughter!).

The Mayor: We cannot go back to William and Mary. (More Laughter.)

The other defendants said they would never voluntarily pay the education rate. The usual orders were made.

(Nottingham Evening Post 7 March 1905)

His ministry was dogged by ill health

BRIGG CIRCUIT

Quarterly meeting held at Howsham on Wednesday, June 6th. Rev. M. Laycock presided and Rev. R. J. Fenwick was secretary.

The various reports showed the circuit to be in a prosperous condition.

Rev. M. Laycock asked to be released from his promise to serve the circuit next year (1936-7) on account of domestic affliction.

A resolution releasing him from his promise, sympathising with him in his daughter's illness, and regretting he was obliged to take this course, was unanimously carried.

(Primitive Methodist Leader June 1906)

DEATH OF REV. MICHAEL LAYCOCK.

Rev. Michael Laycock, after a strenuous term of thirty-nine years in our ministry, at the age of sixty-three received his crown at the hands of the King of Kings on Coronation Day. His passing was quiet and peaceful.

He had been a great sufferer during the last two years, the cause of death being a malignant disease of the stomach. He was superannuated at the Bradford Conference only a fortnight ago, and had taken up his residence at East Croydon, where he died in the presence of his afflicted wife and two children.

Mr. Laycock was in his earlier days preeminently a preacher, he possessed great pulpit gifts, and, had it not been for his excessive modesty and nervous temperament, would undoubtedly have risen into fame. He travelled in many parts of the Connexion, but perhaps his best work was done at Filey, where he led a debt reduction campaign, and greatly pleased the visitors by his eloquence.

We pray that the widow, who is a confirmed invalid, and the son and daughter may be divinely comforted in their bereavement.

(Primitive Methodist Leader July 6 1911)

The first meeting of the General Committee since Conference was held at Holborn Hall last Friday, and was presided over by Rev. John Welford.

Rev. James Pickett and Mr. S. J. E. Hartley were appointed fraternal delegates to the United Methodist Conference.

The committee learned with sorrow of the sudden death of Rev. M. Laycock, who was superannuated by the Bradford Conference, at the age of sixty-three, and after an active ministry of thirty-nine years. He, with his wife and family, had just removed to one of the suburbs of London.

He was described as having been a loyal, painstaking, and conscientious minister of our Church by Revs. G. C. Normandale, John Mayles, and Clark Hallam.

A resolution of deep sympathy with Mrs. Laycock and her family was adopted and forwarded to them.

(Primitive Methodist leader July 13 1911)