Sunday School Lesson

April 21. Lesson III—Comfort for God's People—Isaiah 40: 1-11. Golden Text—As one whom his mother comforteth, os will I comfort you. —Isaiah 66: 13.

ANALYSIS

I. THE MESSAGE OF COMFORT, vs. 1, 2.

II. THE VOICE, vs. 3-8.

III. THE GOOD TIDINGS, vs. 9-11.

INTRODUCTION—With this chapter we begin the reading of the second part of the book of Isaiah, now commonly called Second Isaiah. It will be noticed: (1) that while in the first part of the book the Assyrian empire and its invading armies are everywhere present, here Assyria is mentioned only once, and then, with Egypt, as an oppressor of times past (ch. 52: 4); and (2) that the prophet appears to be addressing messages of comfort and of hope to people who have been long in exile in Babylon, and predicts both the overthrow of that empire, whose period of great power followed that of Assyria, and lasted from about B.C. 604 to 538 (47: 1-9; 48: 20), and also the return of the exiles to their own ruined and devastated land.

It will also be noticed that the prophet mentions Cyrus the Great, king of Persia, who conquered Babylon in B.C. 538, and who permitted the captive Jews to return to their own country, as having already been raised up, and as having already, for some time, proceeded upon his career of victory (41: 2, "the righteous man"; 44: 28; 45: 1-5; 46: 11; 48: 14). This fact would seem to fix the date of this second part of the book of Isaiah, or at least of chs. 40 to 49, shortly before the fall of Babylon, or within the four or five preceding years. The people to whom he addressed himself, and to whom he brings his messages of comfort, are the Jewish exiles in Babylon, despairing after long years of captivity of ever seeing their home land again.

It will greatly help in the understanding of the Lesson if the whole of chs. 40 to 49 be read.

I. THE MESSAGE OF COMFORT, vs. 1, 2.

The prophet hears the divine voice calling upon him and his fellow prophets to bear a message of comfort and of hope to his captive people, to Jerusalem in exile. The word warfare means literally a period, or term of service, and should be so translated (see Job 7: 1, where the same Hebrew word is translated "appointed time"). The reference here is to the period of exile which is now to be ended. Her iniquity for which the earlier prophets, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, declared she had been sent into exile, is now pardoned. She has received an amply sufficient punishment for all hre sins. Such seems to be the meaning here of the word double. Compare Jer. 16: 18 and Rev. 18: 6.

II. THE VOICE, vs. 3-8.

The company of the prophets now hear the divine voice bidding them prepare the way for the coming of the Lord to deliver the captives and to lead them back to their own land. The language is highly figurative and represents the prophets as pioneers preparing the road for the coming of a king. The dramatic form of speech both here and elsewhere frequently throughout the prophecy is very effective. The same words with slight variation are used of the preaching of John the Baptist, Matt. 3: 3, etc. The voice calls the prophets to prepare the minds and hearts of a deeply discouraged people for the great deliverance which he foresees. The words spoken by the voice (vs. 3, 4), may be rendered:

In the wilderness prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make level in the desert a highway for our God;
Set every valley be filled up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
Let the uneven be made smooth,
And the ridges a plain.

The deliverance of the Jewish captives in Babylon, following the capture of that city by Cyrus (45: 13), will be so notable an event that all the world will see and acknowledge the power and the goodness of Jehovah. (Compare ch. 52: 10 and Psalm 98: 1-3).

And one said (v. 6), probably one of the company of the prophets who voices the hopelessness of them all. They have no faith, or courage, to bear such a message of hope. Fifty years or more of exile, since the first deportation of captives in 597 (2 Kings 24: 10-16), had passed. The older people had died in Babylon, the younger had grown old, a new generation was growing up, born in Babylon. The generations of men, like the withering grass an fading flower, scorched by the breath of God's wrath, were passing away. There was no hope, vs. 6, 7.

The voice replies, v. 8. It is true that the generations pass like the grass that withers, and the flower that fades, but the word of our God shall stand for ever. That word of promise spoken by the prophets at the beginning of the exile, stands, and will surely be fulfilled (see Jer. 23: 5-8; 30: 10-24; Ezek. 36: 17-24).

III. THE GOOD TIDINGS, vs. 9-11.

In vivid, dramatic style the prophet now calls upon Jerusalem to shout the good news from the mountain-top to the other desolate cities of Judah, that the exiles are returning home. Very beautifully he pictures the Lord as a good shepherd bringing home his flock, dealing gently with the weak, and bearing the little ones in his bosom. For a similar picture see 49: 9-10 and Ezek. 34: 12-16.

Missing No Chance For Popularity

HERE IS LLOYD GEORGE STARTING SOMETHING

In this case it was the football match in which Wales and Scotland vied for supremacy and a trophy. The fighting Welshman kicked off the ball that started the championship game.

Mining Market Sound for Future

Temporary Recession in Many Issues Will Give Opportunity to Investors to Profit by Good News

NORANDA STRONG

By LLOYD J. MOORE
Member Standard Stock and Mining Exchange

Reversals overtook the entire Canadian mining list during the final week of March. Sharp declines were registered all across the list. There was a fairly substantial recovery before the Easter holiday, but indications were present that the selling movement was not entirely finished. There were some exceptional opportunities for securing stocks at bargain prices. Noranda dipped below $47 and Nickel went to $41.75 on March 26th, when call money commanded 20 per cent. in New York. The liquidation of mining stocks was caused primarily by the disastrous break which took place in New York. International Nickel was one of the principal sufferers, but although the decline in this stock was sharper than in most of the others, it was not greatly out of line. Much distress selling took place. This involved a great many people, since the stock is very widely held in Canada. The New York selling had every appearance of including heavy short sales augmenting the already large New York interest on the short side that has been known to exist.

Nickel recovered vigorously to $52 before the end of the week, but was again subject to further selling on Easter Monday in New York while the Canadian exchanges were closed. The sponsors of Nickel are quite as emphatic concerning its merits for a long hold as they were in more bouyant markets of January and February. Its market course has been more or less in line with the general trend of New York stocks. From the Canadian angle at least, it was vulnerable because of the large amount of stock held on thin margins.

Noranda Meeting

One of the most interesting developments of the weak was the annual meeting of Noranda Mines, at which President J. Y. Murdoch gave much data of a favorable character concerning recent operations at the Horne property. It was announced that diamond-drilling data shows the continuance of ore to a depth of 1,500 feet. The management is conservatively estimating a production of 2,000 ton from two reverberatory smelting units toward the latter part of the year. It is expected unofficially, however, that the production will be about 2,500 tons a day. Full advantage is being taken of the present high price of copper. The highest quotations availabl are being obtained for the current production of metal. The results of exploration and development work since the beginning of this year have been highly encouraging. Occurrences of sulphide below the 875-foot level are shown to be of very large dimensions containing much highly profitable ore. Mr. Murdoch was unable to give any further figures of new ore placed in sight beyond saying that the work thus far this year had shown up more ore than would be handled by the melter during the entire twelve months. Last year's work showed $9 of ore placed in sight for each $1. put through the smelter. In other words—the additions of new ore amounted to $52,000,000 and gross production was approximately $6,000,000. As has been indicated in these columns in previous articles the Horne smelter is performing much beyond expectations.

The shareholders were informed that only a small portion of the possibilities of the property has yet been explored and the officials are confident that ore will be found at much greater depth than have been investigated up to the present.

The shareholders approved the by-law to issue one new share for each thirty held at $45 per share.

Sherritt-Gordon

Among the other stocks that recovered readily from the selling pressure of the past week, none was more impressive than Sherritt-Gordon. This stock rebounded from its slow at $7.10 to a high at $8.75 before the close of the week. On numerous occasions recently Sherritt stock has seemed scarce and remarkably good buying power has been noticed. Upon the completion of construction of the railway line to the property probably by September the development of the mine will enter a new phase. It has been practically decided that the Hudson Bay smelter will be located adjacent to the lime deposits about twenty miles from the Flin Flon and not far distant from Cranberry Portage. This smelter will treat concentrates from both properties according to present indications. It seemed like unnecessary duplication to have two smelters in Northern Manitoba. Both Hudson Bay and Sherritt-Gordon should benefit substantially from the co-operative arrangement. Both properties are developing well. Current prices of copper should swell the probable profits of each and especially of Sherritt-Gordon, which has a higher copper content in its ore. It is difficult to predict the metal markets far ahead. The price of around .24½ cents for copper looks entirely too high to be reasonable. The demand and supply situation points to the continuance of comparatively high prices. An average of around 17 cents a pound over a long period would enable the new Canadian producers to earn very handsome profits. Such an estimated price appears to be very conservative.

Copper Refinery Promised

An announcement of far-reaching importance was made by Premier Ferguson in the Ontario Legislature that a copper refinery would be built by International Nickel-Consolidated Smelters and Ventures, Ltd., in the Sudbury district. The probability is that Sherritt-Gordon and Hudson Bay blister copper will be treated at this refinery. It will have a capacity of 10,000 tons a month and will cost approximately $4,000,000. It will treat Frood blister copper as soon as that mine comes into production. At the same time it is interesting to note that President J. Y. Murdock has reaffirmed Noranda's intention of building its own refinery at some site to be decided, probably on the Lower St. Lawrence. The Noranda enterprise has British Metals Corporation and Nichols Copper Company associated with it.

Don't forget, Mr. Moore answers any questions on mines and mining investments. Address, L. J. Moore & Co., 10 Jordan Street, Toronto.

BY LLOYD J. MOORE,
Member Standard Stock and Mining Exchange.

Question at Shoreditch County Court—"Did you hear her swear?" Man—"She looked as if she was going to, so I walked away."

LIMERICK CORNER

Joyous Jingles By Gifted Rhymsters

The Contest is closed. For the time being at any rate, the Limerick Contest will be discontinued. There is no question, however, about its popularity with readers as we have been literally swamped with letters. We will be glad, however, to hear from any others who have taken part in the contest, or who have found pleasure in following it in the papers. Let us know what you think of the Limerick Corner and whether or not you would like to see this feature continued.

On the other hand, if you have any ideas for a feature to take the place of Limerick Corner, let us have them. Editor, Limerick Corner, Associated Publishers, 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Following are some prize winners:—

LYDIA PINKHAM'S COMPOUND

A pale little lady was Minnie,
So gawky and frightfully skinny,
Until she once found
That Pinkham's Compound
Made her let out the tucks in her pinny.

Miss Annie McCulley,
Windermere, Ont.

BIG BEN TOBACCO

There's a funny old fellow called Mackey,
Who lived in the town of Camlachie,
He said, "When I chew
No other will do
But that superfine Big Ben Tobaccy."

Mrs. Joseph M. O'Neill,
Kent Bridge, Ont.

BROCK'S BOOK ON BIRDS

Read Brock's Book on Birds. He engages
To teach about birds and their cages,
Canary and linet
The size of a minute
Sing "Songs Without Words"—from its pages.

Mrs. E. Mills,
Elora, Ont.

GEO. A. ELLIOTT
Director of Colonization

Come, help us to build up the Nation,
Through the channels of Colonization,
If you need a farm hand
For the work you have planned
We'll welcome your prompt application.

Mr. R. H. McIlquham,
Lanark, Ont.

PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

Of her wonderful child, Mrs. Redditt
Said, "Yes, she's a darling, you said it;
But praise mustn't be
Accorded to me;
It's Pinkham's Compound deserves credit."

Clarence A. Thompson,
Box 709, Thorold, Ont.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

Are you planning your trip for next summer?
I've decided on mine, said Dick Plummer.
I shall travel C.P.
Nothing else will suit me,
For I know my railways, quoth Plummer.

Grace Hubley,
Arundel, Que.

CUTICURA TALCUM

Said a young Mrs. Lee to her Malcolm,
"Cuticura I find the best talcum
For Junior and Jewel,
It's soothing and cool"—
"Seems a mighty good talcum," said Malcolm.

Mrs. J. A. Cook,
66 Forest Ave.,
St. Thomas, Ont.

AUNT DINAH MOLASSES

When Mrs. Monk comes in and passes
Her gingerbread round, lads and lasses
Smack their lips, and they say:
"Howdja make it that way?"
"Quite easy, Aunt Dinah Molasses."

Mrs. Fanny T. Hicks,
R.R. No. 2,
Niagara Falls, Ont.

DIAMOND DYES

There is a bright maid who confesses,
She longed for some new colored dresses;
But said, "I'll not cry,
I'll use Diamond Dye."
And her old gowns now nobody guesses.

Miss Gertrude Wilson,
Loverna, Sask.

MINARD'S LINIMENT

Old Isadore Stevedore Kenney
Stooped over to pick up a penny,
An auto whizzed by
And now the poor guy
Owes his life to "Minard's" and Nurse Denny.

Miss Mattie Robb,
Palmerston, Ont.

DIAMOND DYES

There once was a man named Ben Grifty,
Whose wife was exceedingly thrifty,
She used Diamond Dyes
Her old clothes to disguise,
And that's why she always looks nifty.

Miss E. E. Rorison,
Aubrey, Que.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Shure oime axin yez all to be savin'
And most of yer pennies be lavin'
In the good Royal Bank,
And ye'll have them to thank,
For soon ye may all quit yer slavin'.

Margaret McGillivray,
R.R. No. 2, Paisley, Ont.

PURINA FEED

The best feed for chicks is Purina,
For a good start just feed them Startena,
The young roosters crow
And how they do grow
If you follow that up with Growena.

Mr. Bill Sheryer,
R.R. No. 4, Fergus, Ont.

SALADA TEA

To the funny old town of Granada,
I journeyed with Mama and Dada,
Who each day at three
In the old park by the sea
Eat iced cakes and tea called Salada.

Miss Jean C. Little,
Agincourt, Ont.

SIMOND'S SAWS

A young Irish fellow called Sabers
Had a wood-piles much bigger than neighbors,
When asked what he used
He seemed much amused
As he said, "Only Simond's, be jabers!"

Miss L. Christian,
Box 61, ~~Port Elgin, Ont.~~

BLUE GOOSE ORANGES

"O, Doc, solves a very sad riddle,
Baby Dick's all balled up in his middle."
"Hum,—daily the juice
Of a little 'Blue Goose'
Will make him as fit as a fiddle."

Mrs. T. W. Hicks,
R.R. No. 2,
Niagara Falls South, Ont

BABY'S OWN TABLETS

About baby's health do not worry,
Though illness may come in a hurry,
Baby's Own is a friend,
To with sickness contend,
And banish its menace and flurry.

Mrs J.. W. Thorburn,
8 St. George Apts.,
London, Ont.

KEEN'S MUSTARD

There once was a man named Dan Dustard,
Who would only use one kind of mustard,
And if 'twas not "Keen's"
He'd say, "By all means
This stuff might as well be egg custard."

Mrs. J. W. Burns,
Southampton, Ont.

PRATT'S REGULATOR

The record for eggs has been beaten,
The story it comes from Jack Seaton,
To his hens he gave Pratt's
Regulator and that's
Why this crowing is done by Jack Seaton.

Jean Chalmers,
Box 243, Ridgetown ,Ont.

MUTT AND JEFF— —By Bud Fisher.

That's Going Too Far Even With An Innocent Deception