Sunday School Lesson

January 19. Lesson III—Jesus Begins His Ministry—Matthew 4: 17-25. Golden Text—Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.—Matthew 4: 17.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLE, 17-22.

II. THE BEGINNING OF THE MISSION, 23-25.

INTRODUCTION—In order to follow the movements of Jesus after the temptation, we must turn to the first chapter of John. Evidently he did not return at once into Galilee, and when he did come back, he did not go to Nazareth, but went to Capernaum, on the north side of the Lake of Galilee, which now becomes his headquarters.

I. THE CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLE, 17-22.

V. 17. This call of the disciples is a matter of great significance. There are four accounts of this call in the gospels, and all agree in showing that this was one of the first things to which Jesus gave his attention. The evidence for this discipleship is very full. He felt the need of having helpers who would come to know him personally, who could learn of the true nature of his teaching, and to whom he could entrust the future of his kingdom. It is only in the case of great men that we find disciples. Ordinary people do not have followers. Jesus gave a great deal of his time to the training of the band of intimate followers. He took them with him wherever he went, and acted like a teacher to them. The four here mentioned belonged to the ordinary folk. They were fishermen, who earned their living with physical toil. They were resourceful and courageous, and the result justified the choice of Jesus. We may be astonished that he did not call men of more influence, who had wealth and fame, but perhaps this class was not willing to come after Jesus and only a few rich men joined his cause.

V. 19. Jesus does not shrink from asking these men to give up their calling. In fact, there was no sacrifice that Jesus would not ask his disciples to make, if necessary. He demanded of all those who were to follow him, that they should take up their cross and follow.

Jesus did not expect them to do this with any recompense; for he held out to them a much finer kind of life than that which they were giving up. They were to be fishers of men, and were, therefore, to be concerned with a much nobler and more interesting duty.

V. 20. The response is immediate. There seems to be a capacity for sacrifice in our nature, which is one of our noblest qualities. Every age tells us of the many men and women who have surrendered wealth and comfort to follow the call of Jesus into the most remote and difficult work.

V. 21. These four men formed the first group of the Twelve, and they continued to have the first place in the development of the church.

V. 22. Perhaps we can understand the immediate acceptance better if we read John 1: 35.

II. THE BEGINNING OF THE MISSION, 23-25.

V. 23. A most comprehensive verse, giving an outline of the work of Jesus. We picture the active movements of Jesus and his disciples as they go from place to place in Galilee. They go first to the town near the Lake of Galilee, then they go to the village in the interior, and afterwards make longer trips, always returning to Capernaum. In each village there was a synagogue. This was the meeting place of the Jews, and it was built in some conspicuous place, on the hilltop, or beside a river. It was the most important building of the village, like the church today in some countries. Here services were held every Sabbath, and also on two week-days. There was the reading of the Old Testament, and exposition. The synagogue was also a school for the children, where they learned to read and write, and to know the law.

It was natural that Jesus should go first to these places of religious influence, and he never neglected the services in these places. We are told in Luke, ch. 4, of the time when he went to the synagogue in Nazareth, where he had been brought up, but we have no account of a full sermon preached in the synagogue. Most of the sermons reported were delivered out-of-doors.

His work is divided into teaching and preaching. The first of these was more informal, and would include answer and question, and repetition. Jesus made much of teaching, and was called the Teacher, while his followers were called "disciples" or learners. Preaching was more formal, and appealed more to the mind and emotions of the hearers.

The subject of the preacher is given here as "the gospel, or good news, of the kingdom"; and this introduces one of the common words of the New Testament. The term, "kingdom of heaven," or "the kingdom of God," occurs very frequently in the four gospels, though it is found very seldom in the rest of the New Testament. It occurs in the Old Testament, and means the sovereignty or rule of God. Jesus takes a term that was known to the people of his time, and gradually reads new meaning into it.

V. 24. It was no wonder that the fame of this preacher spread quickly through the land, especially when we think of these marvelous cures which he wrought on the sick. We should notice in this verse the great variety of his miracles, and recognie the fact that the healing of the sick was a distinctive part of the work of Jesus. In this the church has tried to follow his example, in the founding of hospitals, and in all the efforts to care for the necessities of the body.

V. 25. This verse shows the extent of his mission, including, not only Galilee, but the lands that lay both south and east.

A French View of Stresemann

We must not fail to grasp the principles and sentiments that determined Herr Stresemann in adopting the attitude he assumed in leading Germany along the path she has followed for the past five years. The chief diplomat in Germany had nothing of the mystic about him. On the contrary, he was a complete realist in the full meaning of the word and attached himself only to immediate possibilities. Being German in heart, mind, and soul, he had no other thought than German interests. In spite of certain general formulas that he loved to repeat, his actions lacked that generous enthusiasm for a great idea that characterizes the efforts of such a man as Briand. In spite of his evolutions, Stresemann remained absolutely himself, but he did have the merit, though he was a former Imperialist, to understand that the policy of resisting the peace treaty, the policy of revenge, had no chance of proving useful to his country.

Success

London Daily News (lib.): (Mr. Snowden says that no man succeeds who never takes the opportunities offered him; and the unlucky man cannot be a successful man). Can mere "luck"—whatever it may be—make a man successful? It may float a pure mediocrity to great place and even apparent power. But if he is only a mediocrity he will not long retain the place, and he will never be able to really exercise the power. Has he then "succeeded?" Again, the successful man must take his opportunities; yes, but more often than not he must make them, too.

The Root Protocol

New York Sun: Whether the protocol is kept in camphor for a year, or five years, its opponents will be ready for it when it comes out. Senators Borah, Moses and Hiram Johnson, all members of the Foreign Relations Committee, are bitter enemies of the Root protocol and all are hard fighters. And there are eloquent men in private life who will raise their voices against American entrance into the League Court except with the original reservations which the Senate wrote and Europe rejected.

South African Problems

Madras Mail: The country is young, precocious and, at times, irresponsible. In the complexities which face it, it is unique among the self-governing countries of the Empire, and upon its handling of them not only does its own future—but als—for this is a test case—does the future of the Empire depend to a very large degree, these complexities it has to face, and insists upon facing, for itself.

A man in Brooklyn, sentenced for wife-beating, was instructed to kiss his wife every morning for six months. After all, it is the woman who pays and pays.

"Anybody can learn to dance," says an instructor. The simplest method is to volunteer to put up a shelf in the kitchen and bang a thumb with the hammer.

One Ceremony the Boys All Enjoyed

AN OCCASION FOR REJOICING IN THE RHINELAND TOWNS AND CITIES

Joy and wild abandon were the rule in Rhineland towns as the troops of the Allies' Army of Occupation evacuated the second zone in accordance with reparations agreement. The British troops are shown leaving Weisbaden as the French troops (left) enter.

Ills of Whites Called Menace To All Eskimos

Ultimate Extinction Feared as Civilization Brings New Disease to Natives

Montreal.—Six thousand Eskimos living cheerfully in Arctic and sub-Arctic Canada, are threatened with ultimate extinction by the spread of civilization toward the Arctic Circle, authorities on the Far North predict.

Disease and death, brought slowly but surely as the white man advances northward, are creating a menace to the Eskimo which will prove one of the dilemmas of northern development, they say.

Totally without immunity to white mans' disease, the Eskimo succumbs to ailments which are considered minor misfortunes in the life of almost every white child. He suffers from malnutrition when fed white man's food, and yet he gorges himself with it whenever possible. He contracts tuberculosis from wearing store clothing under unsuitable conditions, and yet he likes them. Measles, whooping cough, chicken pox, grippe and other ailments he gets from the white man, and yet he is most happy in the latter's company.

Menaces Own Food Supply

He turns the advantage of trade with the white man into an agency for his destruction. Despite his friendly nature and good-heartedness he is a great killer. With his new rifle he shoots all the game he can find, and ultimately may transform a naturally bountiful country into a land of hunger.

Six thousand persons spread over a land as long as the northern coast of Canada are an asset, officials declare. They point out that the Eskimo is, and will be still more, the agent of the white man in icy lands where the latter cannot live long.

Those who have been associated with the Eskimo longest say civilization, uncurbed, will do one of three things to him: absorb him, kill him, or drive him northward.

Hope Seen in Education

They are confident, however, that something can be done to help the Eskimo save himself. Education, they believe, will develop in his happy-go-lucky mind a sense of providence which will enable him to look after his future food supply and to treat his personal property less recklessly. Medical service, they think, will save him from the disease he seems bound to contract in settled districts, while his own predisposition to health will save him when he is far away from the white man.

There is one evil from which the Eskimo is free. Arctic authorities say. He does not like liquor. He will take a drink if he is pressed to do so, but does not seem to care if he never has another..

An English clergyman predicts a war between sexes. Think how the masculine army will quail when the feminine host cries "Charge it!!"

Carolist Campaign Quickly Quashed

Rumania Government Uses Force to Stop Issue of Newspaper

Bucharest, Rumania.—The Government used force Sunday night to quash a campaign for the return of Prince Carol, father of the boy king, Michael.

Under orders from the Minister of War, after reading the country edition of the Carolist newspaper Cuventul, the type was broken, which made impossible the printing of a city edition.

Earlier the semi-official newspaper La Nation Roumaine published an official communique denouncing the Cuventul campaign for Carols return, saying it was against Carol's own interests.

The government headed by Premier Maniu will never permit Carol to come back from Paris, where he lives with Madame Magda Lupescu, the communique said. Neither will Maniu allow any alteration of the present throne law.

Cuventul had asserted the country wished Carol to return and assume the throne, rights to which he renounced for his mistress.

The Beanfield

A beanfield in full blossom smells as sweet
As Araby, or groves of orange flowers;
Black-eyed and white, and feathered to one's feet,
How sweet they smell in morning's dewy hours!!
When seething night is left upon the flowers.
And when morn's sun shines brightly o'er the field,
And bean bloom glitters in the gems of showers,
And sweet the fragrance which the union yields
To battered footpaths crossing o'er the fields.

John Clare (1793-1864).

GIVING THE DETECTIVE A CLUE

Detective (investigating case) to office boy: "Who arrives at this office first in the morning, Mr. Jones or his partner?"

Office Boy: 'Sometimes one, sometimes the other, sir."

Detective: "Can you give me any information by which I can discover on what day Mr. Jones is likely to arrive first?"

Office Boy: "Well, sir, at first he was always last, but later he began to get earlier, till at last he was first; although before he had always been behind, he soon got later again, though of late he has been sooner; and at last he got behind as before. I expect he'll be getting earlier sooner or later."

Falling in love is recommended in cases of threatened nervous breakdown. A cynical correspondent says that a far less dangerous remedy is to fall in front of a double-decker bus.

To Keep the Boys Home on the Farm

Ontario Gives Farmers Cheap Power to End Drift to Cities

Toronto.—Electricity is being put to work on the farms of Ontario. To supply farmers only, 1,157 miles of transmission lines were built during the last year by the Ontario Hydro Commission at a cost of $2,650,000. This year the expansion program calls for 2,000 miles.

Rates for farmers, already reduced by the government, are to be still further cut in an endeavor to put electricity on every concession in the thickly settled parts of old Ontario.

The government contends that electricity, more than any other factor, is offsetting the tendency to drift from the land to the city. With power available there is no city convenience that cannot be had on the farm. Farmers are finding electricity cheaper for mechanical chores than gasoline power.

With extension of rural lines and extensive developments in the cities, the province faces a power shortage. To offset this the provincial commission has just contracted for 250,000 horsepower from the Beauharnois development in the St. Lawrence and is pushing its own developments at Chats Falls and Carillon on the Ottawa River, which will give a total of 275,000 horsepower.

Ornamental Patches

The writer had a pair of black satin evening slippers which were perfectly good except for worn places near the toes and on either side of the vamps where the surface had brushed off, leaving dull spots. To conceal these effects and to make the slippers suitable to wear with a golden colored frock, a yard of heavy gold metal lace was bought, which had a design easy to cut out and use as an applique. These applique patterns were placed in positions completely to cover the vamps, the original black satin merely showing through between the lace. The sewing had to be carefully done, but the result was entirely satisfactory The slippers did not look repaired, but were quite elegant.

Australia Closes the Door

Dublin Irish Times: Scullin has proclaimed publicly that Australia cannot take any more Britons. This move is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that successive Governments in the Commonwealth have insisted time and again that a "White" Australia is the aim of every citizen. The suggestion now that the Commonwealth cannot absorb 9,000 settlers per annum indicates that Australia is in a bad way; but the consensus of opinion seems to be that Mr. Scullin has exaggerated the country's condition.

Motorists get into most trouble nowadays not in trying to keep up with the Joneses but in trying to pass them.

Drastic Action Needed to Save Canadian Oyster

"If something drastic is not done about the Canadian oyster fishery it wil soon cease to be of any importance,' said J. A. Paulhus, former president of the Canadian Fisheries' Association, and one of the leading wholesale fish merchants of Montreal when asked what he considered to be the major problems of the fisheries of eastern Canada.

"Canada's oyster production is hardly one-fourth what it was years ago, and the quality of Canadian oysters we get in this market grows less satisfactory," Mr. Paulhus added. "Of course, it has been said before, even before the war, that the industry was declining and threatened with ruin. Some efforts have been made to save it by replanting some beds and enforcing closer restrictions on fishing, but these have not been successful. The production grows less, and the product sent to this market in the last few years have not helped the reputation of the Canadian oyster. Only the superior reputation of the Canadian oyster inherited from the past has kept it on the market at all. And the producers apparently don't think their business is worth keeping alive, as they send all sizes of shell oysters in the same barrel, and the dealer never knows just what he is getting.

U. S. Oyster Producers

"The American oyster producers are taking possession of this market and going the right way about it. If you went into a leading hotel in Montreal to-day I doubt if you could get a Canadian oyster. The hotel trade, an important trade, has been lost to the Canadian oysters, because when the chefs order American oysters they know just what they are getting.

Americans' Market Practice

"The Americans grade their oysters carefully, and when you order a barrel of a certain standard you know there will be so many dozen oysters in it, all of uniform size. Some firms sell oysters under special brands. One firm has a machine which puts its trade mark on every oyster it sells of a certain grade. Others bore a hole through the shells of every oyster and attach a tag that certifies to its grade and quality. The dealer and the purchaser at retail has something to go on, and is more and more buying American osters, instead of taking a chance on a barrel of Canadian oysters. And why not? The average consumer nowadays seldom tastes a succulent Canadian oyster, and few ask for them.

Politics in the Way

"The trouble is at the producing end and politics stand in the way of the development of oyster fisheries on a business basis. There is conflict of jurisdiction between the Federal and Provincial authority. A man may go to the Government of New Brunswick and obtain a lease of bottoms suitable for the cultivation on the understanding that he will plant so many oysters a year on beds that have been depleted. It might be thought that that man when his oyster ranch had become ripe to take off a crop would be allowed to decide when he should dredge his surplus oyster and offer them on the market. But no. The Federal Government fixes the fishing season, necessarily short, if all the public beds are not to be depleted right off; and the private oyster ranches has to dump his crop on a glutted market at sacrifice prices in competition with dredgers of public beds, who have made no capital investment. Most, if not all, the attempts to establish oyster ranches off the shores of New Brunswick have been failures.

P.E.I. Farmers Own Ocean

"In Prince Edward Island under some old law or custom the farmers, who are usually fishermen at certain seasons, claim the right to fish for oysters in waters lying off the foreshore of their farms. And they are not inclined to surrender that right in order to permit a private firm to start oyster planting; they hold on to it, even after the beds off their lands have been depleted, hoping that nature will restock them some time, to the benefit of their heirs if not to themselves.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

In the Dawn's Early Light