Sunday School Lesson

March 9. Lesson X—The Parable of the Sower—Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23. Golden Text — Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.—Matthew 13: 9.

I. THE STORY, Matt. 13:1-9.

II. ITS MEANING, Matt. 13: 18-23.

INTRODUCTION — The teaching of found in its most beautiful and simple form in the parables. They give a true revelation of the mind of Jesus showing us how he looked upon nature as a means of leading us up to divine truth. These parables were scattered throughout the Synoptic Gospels, and convey many different lessons. Their number is about thirty-three.

I. THE STORY, Matt. 13:1-9.

V. 1. The popularity of Jesus is at its height, and crowds gather wherever he appears. He remains seated by the side of the lake, till the numbers so increase that they have to push out a boat a little way, for him to sit down. It is a striking picture.

V. 2. Now for the first time he mentions the new method of teaching. It seems that Jesus deliberately introduced this form of preaching. The reason has been differently explained. As a rule the parables are so simple and clear, that it is impossible to miss their meaning. They are like illustrations. But in this case he seems to conceal the thought in his mind. This is the theory given in vs. 10-17, where the parable is delivered with a view of hiding the truth from certain classes of the audience. He puts his words in such a way that only they can understand who have a sympathetic mind to his truth. Up to this moment Jesus had preached about repentance as the preparation for the kingdom: now he passes on to describe the nature of the kingdom and the conditions of entrance.

V. 3. The sower is for the most part left out in the sequel, since attention is directed to the soil and to the seeds that fall into it.

V. 4. Three kinds of poor soil are mentioned, the first being that on the wayside. This was the piece of land near the boundary path, often trodden by the passer-by, so that no seed could penetrate the hard surface. The birds, ever on the outlook, naturally claimed all this seed as their own.

V. 5. The stony places were those parts where a ledge of rock lay beneath the thin layer of earth, so that when the seed grew up rapidly because of the unusual heat, it was unable to get any moisture, and it withered away.

V. 7. This part of the land had never been properly prepared. The weeds had not bee removed, and the old roots sprang up and prevented the seed from reaching its strength. Thus there are three stages: First, where there is no growth; secondly, where it is for a brief term; and thirdly, where it fails to yield fruit—the goal of all seeds.

V. 8. Now come the three kinds of good seed, which bring forth fruit in different degrees.

II. ITS MEANING, Matt. 13: 18-23.

V. 18. We are fortunate in having the explanation of the parable, and this shows us what was the thought uppermost in Jesus' mind. We must always try to find out the circumstances in which a parable was spoken. All these parables of Matthew, chap. 13, seem to bear upon the same general theme. The disciples had been wondering why the kingdom was not coming more rapidly with outward glory. Why was the leaders of the nation so bitterly opposed to their Master? Jesus in this parable is meeting their difficulties in this regard. The fault does not lie, he seems to say, in the sower, that is, in himself, as the great preacher, nor in the quality of the seed, that is the gospel of the kingdom, but in the soil into which the seed falls. The heart and mind of the listener are of great importance in deciding the result of preaching. This parable is concerned, we may say, not with the preacher, but with the pew. The apparent failure of many to listen to Jesus is no cause why he should stop preaching. The sower will go on sowing, but the result will depend upon the moral and spiritual attitude of those who listen.

V. 19. The seed of the kingdom has enemies just as the seeds in the land have. The forces of evil are present everywhere.

V. 20. The rocky soil represents the people of fickle character, who are ready to welcome the truth, but who forget it as quickly. Perseverance is a condition of membership in the kingdom.

V. 22. The thorns represent the preoccupations of this world. We have to work for our living, but these worldly interests often become so absorbing that spiritual thoughts disappear.

V. 23. But there will always be those who will listen and obey. They will accept the truth, will remember it, and allow it to mould their minds and lives, and these will bring forth fruit to the glory of God. Thus does Jesus teach his disciples that they must not be so easily discouraged because all kinds of people do not rush eagerly into the kingdom. They must be content to preach as he does, assured that they will never be without those who will gladly welcome the message they bring. The preacher must go forth in hope. There is good reason for confidence.

More Miles To the Gallon Here's How!

Millions of dollars could be saved annually by the automobile-owning public through a more strict observance of the factors that govern fuel consumption. The suggestions are:

1. When standing or waiting for the light to change, don't race your motor.
2. When you are to make a stop of more than a minute turn off your motor.
3. Don't drive at excessive speeds unless the occasion demands. High speed travelling burns more gas.
4. Remember that the faster you drive the more gas you consume. So when you find that you are about out of gas and are heading for a gas station, take it slowly and your chances for negotiating the distance will be greater.
5. When starting watch the choke. Don't drive with the choke out a moment more than necessary.
6. Be sure that your brakes are not dragging. This cuts down your mileage. Get your brakes inspected frequently.
7. Have your valves ground when they need it.
8. See that the idling adjustment on your carburetor is set at the proper point so that the mixture is not too rich. It gives you inefficient idling performance and wastes gas.
9. Dont' fill your gas tank full to the cap, some will escape through the vent in the cap.
10. Don't ride the clutch.
11. Watch gas line for leaks at the joints. Check it periodically to see that fittings are tight.
12. Be sure that spark is in full advanced position.
13. Avoid excessive use of brakes in traffic.

Hard on Mr. King

Toronto Telegram (Ind. Cons.): The divorce issue looms up as the most contentious matter the coming session of Parliament will have to deal with. The Senate, with approximately 300 divorce bills staring them in the face, threaten to go on strike unless the Commons pass their bill providing divorce courts for Ontario. The Quebec Catholicc clergy are lined up solidly against the bill and will undoubtedly carry the French-Canadian M.P.'s with them. And now H. E. Spencer, M.P. for Battle River, has voiced the fighting attitude of another faction by declaring that "We do not propose to have divorce bills rushed through as in former years." Just how much of the time of Parliament can be taken up by proper consideration of divorce bills was demonstrated last session. On the whole, the Premiers's lot is not altogether a happy one. With an election coming on he dare not offend Quebec. Also he needs the Prairie members to fill out his majority. It will be interesting to watch Premier King and how he handles the situation.

"Jack Hugger is a great kisser."
"Hearsay?"
"No. I got it right from him."

We doubt very much whether harnessing the atom, if and when accomplished, will be found to be much harder than pulling leggings on to an active citizen of four.

Daytime Mode

In Lightweight Woolens Crepe Silk and Jersey

By ANNETTE

This swagger tweel coat in straight-line with belted waistline in fashionable green coloring, does double duty, for it may also be worn as a separate sports coat.

The sports dress of flat silk crepe in harmonizing green shade may also be worn without the coat.

Style No. 231 includes the pattern for dress and coat. It is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.

The dress is a slip-on type with new short kimono sleeves finished with turn-back cuffs. The collarless neckline has an inset band of white pique. The front of the bodice is decidedly modern in its pointed outline. Kilted plaits at either side of skirt below hipline are insets for this favorite dress is a one-piece affair. A narrow belt is worn at normal waistline.

The fronts of the coat are underfaced and rolled with the attached collar into revers. They employ the plain silk crepe which is also used to line the coat and for cuffs of sleeves.

The dress may also be made of wool crepe which is used for linging and trim.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Bow Bells May Ring Again

London.—Bow Bells will be able to ring again if an appeal issued by Sir Louis Newton in his capacity of Alderman of the ward of Cordwainer in which the Church of St. Mary le Bow is situated succeeds in raising £15,000 for the repair of Sir Christopher Wren's famous masterpiece.

The church was built on the site of an older structure destroyed in the great London fire of 1666. The crypt with its Roman bricks and Saxon masonry still remains. The chief repairs necessary are to the steeple, but the bells—silent now for more than three years—will all have to be rehung and two probably recast.

Then there's the middle generation—the one that raises the younger generation for the older generation to worry over.

If the Naval Conference wants a satisfactory example of disarmament, let it turn back to the abolition of the hatpin.

Canadian Wheat Wanted in Britain

British Millers Tell Thomas They Wish to Increase Purchases

PRICE CHIEF FACTOR

Australian States Planning Great Pool Covering Commonwealth

London—Right Hon. J. H. Thomas conferred recently with representatives of the Canadian Wheat Pool and of the Association of Millers of Great Britain and discussed methods of facilitating wheat shipments from Canada so as to assist coal shipments from Britain.

Spokesmen for the National Association of Millers made it clear to Mr. Thomas that their members would be glad to increase their purchase of Canadian wheat which would enable them to use a higher proportion of English grown wheat. They state that they have already made such a recommendation to their members but emphasized the fact that the amount of Canadian wheat purchased depended on its relation to the price of other wheat on the market.

Resents Charges

Winnipeg—Discussing the unwillingness of western Farmer Governments to consider seriously his recommendations that they importune Ottawa to create or express an intention to create, if necessary, a national wheat board to sell the Canadian crop, Col. F. G. Taylor, D.S.O., Conservative leader declared recently that he keenly resented charges that he was playing politics.

"There is much talk of England buying Argentine wheat and neglecting the Canadian product," said Taylor. "Let us turn back the pages of recent economic history and examine the facts. You will remember that a British economic mission went to the Argentine with a proposal for wider trade.

Trade Treaty Signed

"That mission went back to England with a trade treaty in its possession. The Argentine agreed to buy $40,000,000 worth of British goods for every $40,000,000 worth of Argentine wheat sold there. Already, I am reliably informed, Britain has bought more than 100,000,000 bushels of Argentine wheat under that agreement and has sold an equal amount of British goods to the Argentine under very inviting conditions of customs preference.

"If we in Canada want to retain our British markets for our Western farmers we must meet just these circumstances. Can we hope to do so with a group of Canadian farmers attempting to compete against a treaty of such a nature? The answer is obvious. And yet I am told that I am playing politics, dangerous politics packed with high explosives, when I say that we need a national board with the national authority behind it to handle the Canadian crop this year.

"The circumstances are altogether unique. They call for unique treatment. That is why I advocate a Canadian wheat board to handle all our export sales."

A dealer, who had been playing the market for an upturn and who had been outwitted by the desperate drives of the bears, declared that there is nothing in the statistical situation to justify price tendencies as they are developing. He asserted that the world's import requirements were up to 15,000,000 bushels a week, of which North America would be called on to supply 9,000,000. Europe was scraping out its grain bins and sweeping in small supplies from other countries. But it would have to come to North America and to Canada. Dealers knew this. That was why they were trying to shake out those interests which were thinly protected. That was why the Western Premiers were guaranteeing the pool bank margins and that was why Col. Taylor asked that the entire credit of the country be placed behind Canadian wheat—to protect the interest of the producer against that of the exploiter who feared the co-operative organizations.

Payment Guaranteed

Canberra, Australia—The Government agreed last week to guarantee payment of one dollar a bushel for one year, but refused to extend the guarantee for three years.

The three-year guarantee had been requested at a meeting of wheat growers' representatives who approved a plan for a compulsory pool of growers. The government, although refusing to go beyond one year on the guarantee, promised to consider the request for a renewal, if made in the light of the first year's experience.

Supply on Hand

Capetown, South Africa — South Africa has sufficient wheat at present to last until October, Minister of Finance N. C. Navenga said in moving the second reading of the Wheat Importation Restriction Bill in Parliament.

He said the Bill would not increase the price of bread but would enable the wheat farmers to make a better bargain with millers and obtain better prices.

Loan to Farmers

London—Establishment of a land bank, to lend farmers money at 2 per cent. on long term notes and three and four per cent on short term notes, was urged by Viscount Lymington in an address at the 1912 club, to aid British agriculture

Lord Lymington also suggested establishment of an agricultural development fund of 50,000,000 pounds sterling to stabilize prices through formation of a selling and storage organization throughout the British Empire, for beef, wheat, wool and mutton.

Such a plan he asserted would "lead to great extension of inter-Empire trade, and prove a boon both to producer and consumer.

Establishment of a statutory board to purchase all wheat grown by British farmers at a guaranteed price, and to buy abroad by bulk contracts all other wheat required in Great Britain was urged by E. F. Wise, Laborite, at an all-part conference at the House of Commons.

Several members of Parliament, chiefly Liberals criticized the scheme on the grounds that it would discriminate against some of the wheat producing dominions.

Minority Government

Prof. F. J. C. Hearnshaw in the Nineteenth Century (London): The three-party system, and a fortiori the multiple-group system, means minority government; it means a weak Executive; it means an irresponsible, divided, and ineffective Opposition; it means unstable and shortlived Ministries; it means perpetual temptation to log-rolling and corruption. So deadly a menace to the British system of government an to the spirit of the English Constitution is the three-party system that it is safe to say that the electorate will not reduce itself to futility by allowing it to continue. The electorate, moreover, if it is wisely led,, will refuse to permit itself to be cajoled into experimenting with proportional representation, or alternative votes, or second ballots, or any other of the devices by means of which minorities try to secure the advantages of majorities. For all these complicated and delusive devices merely increase the probability that the two great parties will be supplanted by numbers of ideological groups.

"A girl admires a man who can pull himself together after he flies to pieces in a rage."

The Crime Commission finds that there is much crime commission.

Farm Notes

Egg Yields in Cold Weather

Cold weather has proved no handicap to production in the egg laying contests at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The eleventh Canadian Egg Laying Contest, despite temperatures ranging to thirty degrees below zero showed an increased production for the fourteenth week. It was noted, however, that the heavy breeds made the best records under difficult conditions.

In the fourteenth week of the tenth Ontario Egg Laying Contest, while production increased during the cold spell there was also an increase in underweight eggs.

Pen Feeding Proves Best

Results of feeding tests at the Experimental Station at Lennoxville, Que., of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, show that steers wintered loose in a pen make larger and more economical gains than those tied up, and also that there is quite a saving in the time and labor required to care for them.

In this experimental test the lot wintered loose made a gain of 1.35 pounds per steer per day at a cost of 12.03 cents per pound of gain. The steers which were tied up gained 1.33 pounds each per day, at a cost of 12.31 cents per pound.

Congress to Stimulate Egg and Poultry Production

The main purpose of the World's Poultry Congress, which will be held in Old London in July this year, is to stimulate egg and poultry production throughout the world and to solve the outstanding problems of marketing the produce.

This Congress, the fourth to be held under the auspices of the World's Poultry Science Association, of which Mr. Elford, Dominion Poultry Husbandman, is President, is assured of the keen suport of upwards of forty-five countries. In a letter received in Ottawa from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who have the Congress in hand, it is stated that thirty of the countries have established national committees who are preparing exhibits and papers for the Congress.

The main floor of the great Crystal Palace, a glass house one-quarter mile in length, has been fully taken up and it is anticipated by the officials in charge that three months before the Congress opens the whole of the gallery space will also be allotted for international and trade exhibits.

The livestock exhibit, which will include pigeons and rabbits as well as the usual farm fowls, will reach and perhaps exceed ten thousand head.

New Seed Reports

The Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has developed a new service for the benefit of Canadian farmers. This service is an extension of the bi-monthly seed, feed and fertilizer market report of the past few years.

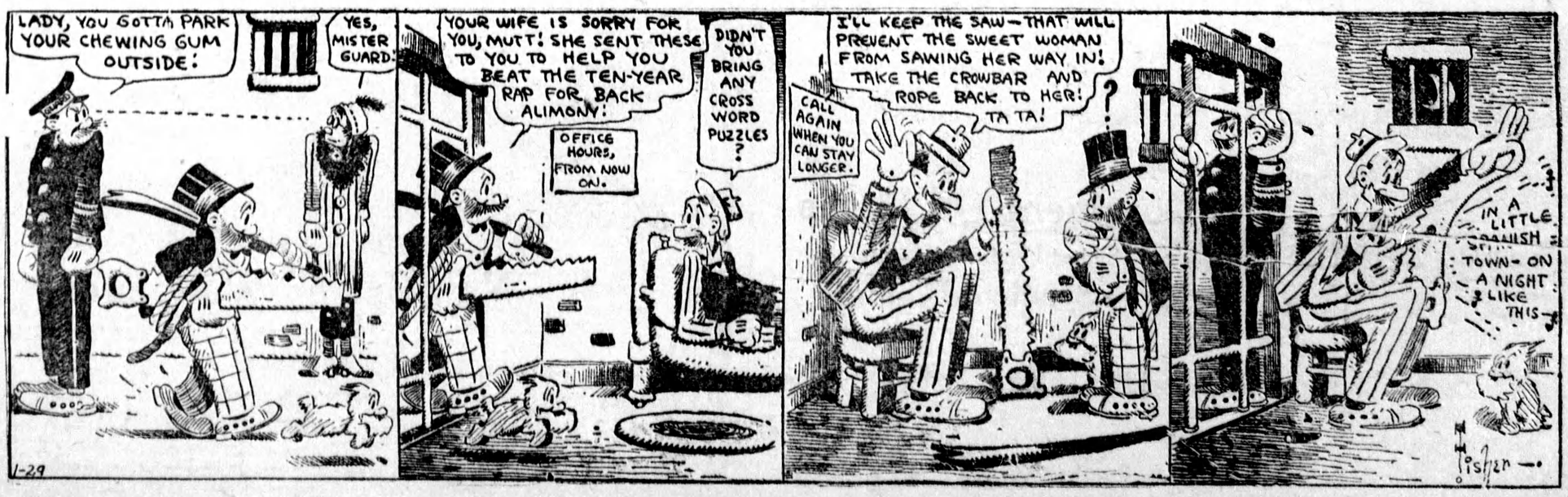
There are now available without charge on application to the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa periodical reports with respect to seeds, feed and fertilizers.

These reports are compiled from information supplied by a staff reporting service throughout Canada. They are intended to provide the farmer with reliable and up-to-date information with respect to the available supply, location and price of the commodities dealt with. This information is important to the farmer not only as an indication of available supply, but also as a guide to production possibilities.

A monthly summary is issued and this is supplemented by weekly reports on the clover and grass seed situation from November to April. Semi-monthly reports are issued with respect to fertilizers, feeding-stuffs, hay and straw.—Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dom. Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont.

A watch is that round, metal device, which the speaker of the evening places before him on the table as he arises, and does not consult thereafter.

Pain Relieved by Heat. Good idea. When somebody gives you a pain in the neck just get hot under the collar and the pain will melt away.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

I'm Please To Have Saw You.