Sunday School Lesson

March 16. Lesson XI—Parables of the Kingdom—Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52. Golden Text—The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.—Romans 14: 17.

ANALYSIS

I. THE MUSTARD AND THE LEAVEN, 31-33.
II. THE TREASURE AND THE PEARL SEEKER, 44-46.
III. THE NET, 47-50.
IV. THE NEW SCRIBE, 51, 52.

INTRODUCTION—These parables of Matthew, chap. 13, deal with the kingdom. It is as if Jesus could not rest satisfied with one or two illustrations; but he gives one after another of these exquisite similitudes, all setting forth the growth of the kingdom.

I. THE MUSTARD AND THE LEAVEN, 31-33.

These are two parables, and represent two different aspects of the growth of the kingdom. They do not deal with the future kingdom coming in glory, but with the slow progress of the kingdom on earth.

V. 31. The mustard seed "is not a perennial shrub, but an annual sown among and comparable with other herbs." Travelers say that the black mustard has been known to grow ten feet high.

V. 32. We are not to understand that literally this was the very smallest of seeds. It was probably a proverbial saying more or less familiar, and Jesus uses it to show how wonderful would be the growth of his cause. The point is the contrast between the small seed and the great shrub. He assures them that his message must be carried everywhere. It is a missionary parable on the extensive growth of the kingdom. It must be preached to all nations.

V. 33. The figure of leaven is used in two different ways in the gospel. Sometimes it is found in a bad sense as a corrupt influence spreading everywhere; as when he warns them against the "leaven of the Pharisees," that is, their corrupt and corrupting teaching. But here the figure is used in a good sense to show how the truth of the kingdom is to penetrate and permeate every part of life. This represents the intensive action of Christ's words. Slowly but certainly the moral principles of Jesus will mould every department of social and individual life. When all the world and all departments of human life are thoroughly Christian, then will these parables be fulfilled. Now the kingdom is in the process of growth; then it will be realized.

II. THE TREASURE AND THE PEARL SEEKER, 44-46.

V. 44. Again we have two parables meant to illustrate the different ways by which men may enter into the kingdom. In the first parable we are told that converts are often made suddenly, without preparation, as it were, without any desire on their part. It is like a man walking in a field where he suddenly turns over a stone and sees a pot with gold coins, which some person has concealed. He hastens away to buy the field till he may become the possessor of its treasure. In this we note (1) that the kingdom is represented as a valuable treasure, something which cannot lose its value like the riches of earth, and (2) that a person must be prepared to make sacrifices in order to gain the treasure. The man is ready to sell all that he had. Jesus was constantly teaching his disciples that they must not have divided hearts. They must seek first the kingdom of God, and be prepared to forget everything else.

Vs. 45, 46. Another type of convert is here represented. This is the eager seeker who has gone out in search of the truth, and who finds it only after much earnest pursuit. Like a merchant who deals in pearls, and who travels through all the pearl markets, looking for the most beautiful gems, when at last he sees the pearl of great price, he readily surrenders all others for it. Again we see the kingdom set forth as something of exquisite beauty which involves the sacrifice of things that are less lovely. The difference of the parables lies in the manner of discovery.

III. THE NET, 47-50.

V. 47. This parable should be read along with the parable of the tares in Matt. 13: 24-30. These two deal with the same general situation; and depend upon the problem of the preaching of the kingdom. These disciples have already noticed that there were some coming to their Master, whom they did not regard as very desirable, and they would find this even more acutely in after years of church work. Jesus says that they must not be too much distressed because they are unable to draw the line of cleavage. The parable of the Sower has shown why the word has a varied fate. There will always be the evil with the good, just as in a drag net which the fishermen draw in and find all kinds of fishes. The time is coming when the distinction will be drawn. God will see to it, and they must work on, believing that their heavenly Father will purify and purge his own kingdom. These parables have often been applied to the disciplinary function of the church, but it is doubtful if this is correct. The purpose of Jesus is to prepare his disciples for all possible difficulties in their mission work.

IV. THE NEW SCRIBE, 51, 52.

V. 52. Since the kingdom is a new force in the world, there arises the need of a new kind of scribe, more furnished with insight and ability than the old scribe. He must know all about the old truths, but he must also know what is the glory of this new truth in Christ.

Shanghai Grows

25,554 Buildings Erected in '29 as Trade Increases

Shanghai — Shanghai, commercial capital of Asia, continues to trade, prosper and expand despite the deluge of revolutions and famines which have inflicted China for four years.

The city carries on with the same "what-of-it" attitude that characterized the place decades ago when it was little better than a mud flat.

Even the bogie of abolition of extraterritoriality has failed to scare away foreign capital. Money continues to pour into the city, new buildings are erected and new enterprises are launched.

The annual report of the combined city governments—the French municipality, the International Settlement and the Chinese city—show that 25,554 new buildings were constructed in 1929. Most of these were modern Chinese houses but in the International Settlement there were eight new apartment buildings, four new banks and thirty-three new business blocks.

The settlement list also includes fifty-eight factories of varying sizes and types, three large cotton mills and 380 new foreign residences.

The U.S. Farmer and the Tariff

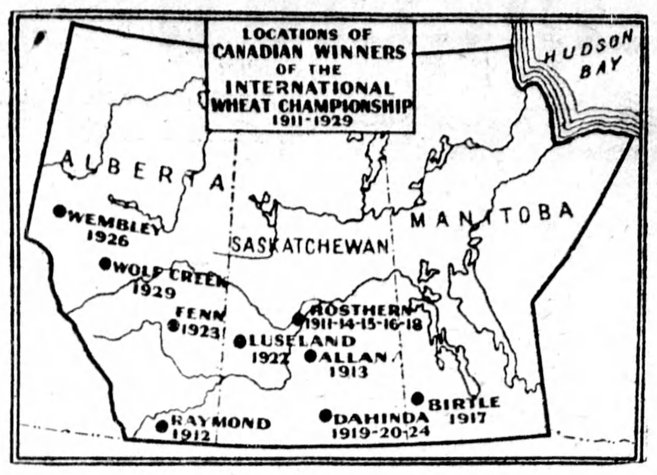
W. G. Stuart in the Atlantic Monthly (Boston): The farmer has seen the tariff used to enrich the merchant and the manufacturer until millionaires in this country are as plentiful as tabby cats. He has seen the lobbyist, he has seen corruption and bribery and every form of governmental favoritism flourish like the green bay tree in the soil of the tariff. He has seen the hours of work decrease and the rate of pay increase year after year until now many forms of union labor are receiving from 400 to 2000 per cent. more per hour than they did twenty-five years ago. He remembers how President Harrison, while extolling "Republican" prosperity and the "Republican" tariff, made the wonderful discovery that "a cheap coat makes a cheap man." He has listened to false prophets extolling high tariff and high wages with such wearisonme iteration that now, as he looks over his unpaid bills, his overdue taxes, and his duplicate copy of mortgage deeds, he comes to the conclusion that with all due respect to Henry Ford and Arthur Brisbane and President Hoover, and the Grand Old Republican Party, he would like to try a change to low tariff and low wages.

First Pop—"Do you think a college education pays?"

Second Pop (whose son is at college)—"Well, I think it pays the college pretty well."

Five Mexicans were slain in a fight over the division of some land. Now they all have some.—American Lumberman.

Canada's International Successes in Wheat



The successes of Western Canadian farmers in international wheat competitions, within a period of nineteen years since the institution of the award in 1911, constitute one of the most impressive features in the records of Canadian agriculture. On fifteen occasions, the Dominion's representatives won against all North America with exhibits of hard red spring wheat and in addition in two other years they carried off the prize for the best hard red spring wheat, although in two years just referred to they lost the grand championship to hard red winter wheat by a narrow margin. The work of these master farmers' has brought them high personal distinction, for the winning of such competitions is, first and foremost, a tribute to the talent of the exhibitor. But their work has done more than that—it has brought renown to the West, and to the Dominion. And it is a matter of gratification that this notable series of successes has not been monopolized within any restricted area. As the accompanying map indicates, the locations of the Canadian winners of the highest honors in North American wheat competitions are remarkably well and widely distributed throughout the vast area of wheat-growing territory in the Canadian West. The Prairie Provinces furnish a far-flung habitat for wheat of premier quality.

Farm Notes

Brooding Early Chicks

Raising pulletst o start laying early in the winter is one ideal the poultryman has always with him. The most effective way of doing this is through the early hatched chicks and not the least important angle of the problem is the provision of comfortable quarters and artificial heating.

At the Kapuskasing Experimental Station of the Canadian Department of Agriculture it is found that it takes on an average of 13.5 pounds of coal per day to operate a brooder stove sutiable for use in a house ten by twelve feet in size, which would adequately care for 600 chicks until they are three or four week of age.

While the actual number that can be housed is around 500 chicks, best results are obtained when not more than 300 are accommodated in this space. On this basis the cost of brooding during the early part of the season runs about $1.35 per hundred chicks.

Cost of Raising Horses

The report of the Department of Agriculture's Experimental Station at Cap Rouge, Quebec, provides some interesting information as to the cost of rearing horses.

The cost of feeding fifteen French Canadian colts and fillies during the growing period until they were ready to go to work at a weight of 1240 pounds was found to be $254.94 per horse.

An accurate record of all feed given was kept, each animal received 9992 pounds of hay, 4632 pounds of oats, 4178 pounds of bran and spent an average of 216 days at pasture. The horses had reached an average age of thirty-two months and twenty-six days when the feeding period was completed.

Superintendent Langelier observes in his report published by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, that by stinting feed, and raising undersize colts the cost could have been much lower. He cites these figures to emphasize the importance of using only the very best stock to breed from since it entails no extra work and only slight extra cost to give the best results.

Germinating Asparagus Seeds

Asparagus is a garden crop rapidly gaining in popular favor. Its cultivation, however, has peculiar problems, one of which is the length of time it takes for seedlings to sprout. It may take anywhere from two to six weeks from the time asparagus seed is planted until the plants appear above the ground.

At the Summerland Experimental Station of the Canadian Department of Agriculture good results were obtained where the seed-bed was worked early in the spring to germinate as many weed seeds as possible; these being killed in the final preparation of the plot for seeding.

The length of time the seed takes to germinate depends very largely on the temperature of the soil, best results being obtained when the temperature is between 75 and 85 degrees F.

Before planting the asparagus seed should be soaked in water for 3½ or 4 days at a temperature around 86 to 95 degrees F. They should then be taken from the water, spread thinly on a canvas until the surface is dry and then planted immediately in moist soil.

In planting asparagus seed a special effort should be made to drop the seeds one in a place. The reason for this being that otherwise the fleshy roots become interwoven and it is difficult to separate the plants at sorting time. It is also suggested that the planting of radish seed at the same time assists in marking the rows and in controlling weeds.

Shipping Bees

With spring just around the corner the beekeeper's busy season is soon to start. In a pamphlet just issued by the Department of Agriculture, C. G. Gooderham, B.S.A., the Dominion Apiarist, discusses the important problem of bee shipment, both how to package bees and how to handle them. Apiaries are being built up rapidly all over Canada and the demand for live bees is increasing. Mr. Gooderham finds that the package and shipment of bees presents no substantial difficulty, successful shipments having been made across Canada and from Alabama to Ottawa.

The bee package, including a queen, weighs about two pounds and contains some 10,000 bees. Some reasonable safeguards are necessary to insure good results and Mr. Gooderham deals with these in his pamphlet.—Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dom. Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Subdivide New Area for Settlement

In order to meet the demands for new homesteads in the Peace River district, two survey parties under instructions from the Surveyor General, Topographical Survey, Department of the Interior, this year subdivided a large area of new land in those localities where settlement is proceeding most rapidly.

The Government now has free bulletins explaining how to do almost everything except save public money. —New York Telegram.

Mussolini's "Battle For Grain"

E. V. Wilcox

Italy is determined to produce more wheat in order to keep pace with its expanding population. "The state takes precedence over the individual," Alberto di Stefani, head of the Italian Association for Reclamation and Irrigation, told me. "The proprietor who for any reason fails to carry out the government program must give way to those who are in a position to increase land productivity. Landowners must realize that henceforth private ownership depends on capacity and good conduct from the point of view of agriculture."

The governor of each province has been given full authority to decide whether a farmer is up to standard. If not, his farm is taken from him and given to another man, who has 30 years to pay for it. The farmer is ordered to stay on the land and raise more wheat and more children. The government program involves making every acre produce more, under penalty of expropriation, and increasing the number of Italians by 20,000,000 within six years. The present population of Italy is 40,000,000. A 50 per cent. increase is therefore contemplated. The government's slogan is "In numbers there is force."

To stimulate the birth rate, bonuses and medals are bestowed on fathers of families of 7 to 12 or more children. Italian newspapers carry long lists of men who have received prizes for their contribution to the population. There are nearly 600,000 such families in Italy. And there is a graduated tax on bachelors.

Italy's population is growing at the rate of 400,000 a year, and the farmer has been peremptorily ordered to raise all the wheat required by the present and future expanding population of Italy. There is little new wheat land in sight. Yet to meet the situation the wheat area must be increased 70,000 acres every year, and the average yield must be increased from the present 16 bushels per acre to 25.

The government program is "to bring under cultivation every acre of arable land, forcibly and immediately." Farmers are forbidden to move to town except under permission of the perfect of the province. Even if a farmer is given permission, he is admitted only on probation for 120 days. If he does not make good during that period he is sent back to the country. If a farmer sneaks into town without permission, city employers are forbidden to hire him.

Nothing is left to the discretion of the farmer. Every landowner is ordered "immediately" to submit plans for operating his farm. But he is told in advance what the plans must be and he must carry them out promptly or forfeit his farm. . . . Will the farmer voluntarily grow wheat when grapes, olives, citrus fruits, or a dozen other products pay better? While I was in Italy Canadian wheat was underselling Italian wheat on the Italian markets 25 to 40 lire per quintal, and Italian farmers were feeding much of their wheat to livestock. Italians, like other races, have a few ideas of their own about marriage, size of family, place of abode and method of farming. Can all these natural tendencies be changed by edicts? Time will tell.—The Country Gentleman.

"Hortense, call up Mrs. De Billion and ask for Fido."

"Yes, melady."

"Carlo wishes to bark to him over the telephone."

"Home is the only place where there is any liberty, any individuality, any creative power, any possibilities of human personalities counting as such."—G. K. Chesterton.

Jacket Suit

In Tweed, Silk Crepe, Wool Crepe or Jersey

By ANNETTE

The model illustrated is decidedly chic to wearer with tuck-in blouse and becoming jabot collar.

The jacket and skirt with tight hip band ubttoned at side are of feather weight tweed in orangey-red tones. The tuck-in blouse of eggshell silk crepe printed in red polka-dots uses plain red crepe for bow tie and for piping of Vionnet neckline.

Horizontal tucks across centre front of the bodice are decorative.

This jaunty outfit Style No. 389 is designed in sizes 6, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.

You'll find it extremely easy to make. The straight jacket is merely closed at sides and shoulders. The fronts are underfaced and the collar is stitched at neckline. Only two major parts to blouse! The skirt is seamed and stitched to hip yoke.

For active sports, wool jersey is smart in soft brown shade with blouse in chartreuse green lacy weave jersey.

Printed crepe silk with plain crepe, and plain flat crepe with contrasting shade blouse are practical and smart for general wear.

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.

The Happy Hour

They were talking of old times.

"And do you remember the moonlight night six years ago when I proposed to you, dear?" he said romantically.

"Darling, will I ever forget?" she replied. "Those were heavenly days."

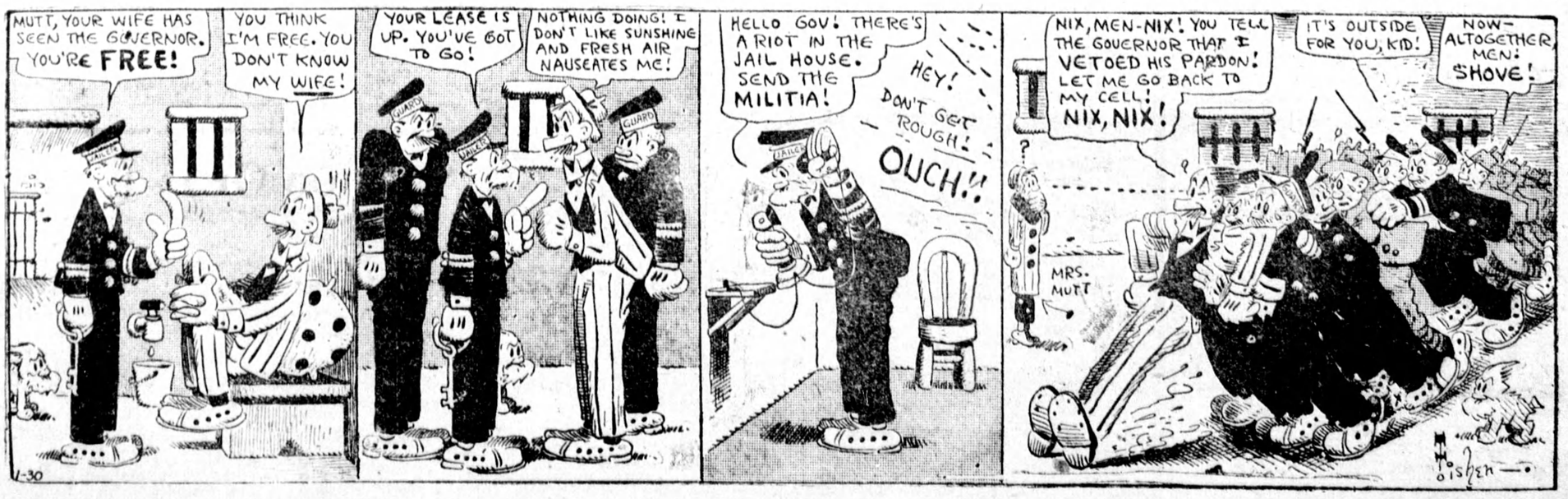
"We sat there for over an hour," he went on, "and during that hour you never once opened your lips."

"Yes, that is so, dear," she sighed.

"And that was the happiest hour of my whole life," he finished.

Collect Water-Power Data

The Dominion Water Power and Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, in co-operation with the various responsible provincial bodies, has effected a co-ordinated system of water-power analysis for the purpose of presenting the water-power resources of the Dominion upon a reliable and uniform basis.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Mutt Riots For Less Freedom.