SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS. Acts 25: 1-12; 28: 16-31; Romans 5:1-11; Philippians 1: 12-14; 4: 22.

GOLDEN TEXT. — I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time. — Paul's first Roman imprisonment was about A.D. 61,62; his final one, A.D. 66.

Place. — The city of Rome.

THE PLAN OF THE LESSON

SUBJECT: How It Happened That the Apostle Paul Went to Rome and His Labors in That City for the Gospel of Christ.

16. And when we entered into Rome. Rome was the center of the world as no other city was before or ever has been since.

17. And it came to pass, that after three days he called together those that were the chief of the Jews: and when they were come together he said unto them, I, brethren though I had done nothing against the people, or the customs of our fathers, yet was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans: 18. Who, when they had examined me, desired to set me at liberty because there was no cause of death in me. 19. But when the Jews spake against it I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had aught where of to accuse my nation. The decree by which all the Jews had been banished from Rome (Acts 18: 2) during the reign of Claudius was evidently now no longer in force.

20. For this cause therefore did I entreat you to see and to speak with me: for because of the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain. "The hope for which Paul suffered was twofold: (1) the expectation of the Messiah as bringing in a kingdom of heaven which was cherished by every Israelite; (2) the hope of a resurrection from the dead, which he proclaimed as attested by the resurrection, which proved that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God."

21. And they said unto him We neither receive letters from Judaea concerning thee nor did any of the brethren come hither and report or speak any harm of thee. The Jews do not say that they had never heard of Paul, but simply that they had had no report from other Jews outside the city of Rome, nor had any of his fellow-countrymen spoken evil of him.

22. But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, it is known to us that everywhere it is spoken against. "It is quite conceivable that in the capital with its two million inhabitants, the Jews who had only recently returned to the city should know nothing beyond what is here indicated in such general terms of a poor and obscure sect who dwelt no longer in the Jewish quarter."

23. And when they had appointed him a day, they came to him into his lodging in great number. From the phrase "his lodging," it would appear that for the earlier part of Paul's confinement in the city of Rome he "was allowed to accept the hospitality of the Christian body, and, though chained to a guard, yet to be resident in a house which his friends had provided for him and where he was as far as he could be under the circumstances, treated as their guest." To whom he expounded the matter. The word here translated "expounded" means "to set out," "to expose," "to set forth," "to declare," and is found in the New Testament only in the book of Acts (11: 4 18: 26, and 7: 21 of the exposure of Moses). Testifying the kingdom of God and persuading them concerning Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets, from morning till evening. What a wonderful privilege it would have been to listen to the great apostle unfolding the glories of the Lord Jesus as revealed in the Old Testament!

24. And some believed the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. Even the great apostle with all of his learning and power of persuasion with a blameless life, and an overwhelming love for men, was not able to persuade all who heard him that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

30. And he abode two whole years in his own hired dwelling. It is believed that Paul was tried before Caesar, acquitted, and release and that he made another intensive missionary journey, was brought back to Rome was tried the second time and executed by the command of Nero. During this second imprisonment, Paul wrote the two epistles to Timothy and his epistle to Titus. And received all that went in unto him, 31. preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. This is one of the few places in Acts where the full title "the Lord Jesus Christ" is given. With all boldness. The apostles early in the days of their persecution, asked God that they might have boldness in proclaiming the message he had given them (Acts 4: 29, 31 see Phil. 1: 20; Eph. 6:19). None forbidding him. "The issue is that the witness is unhindered; in spite of emperors, enemies, prison and chains.

6. For while we were yet weak. Every sinner is utterly impotent to deliver himself from the power of sin, to wash himself clean from the stain of sin. In due season Christ died for the ungodly. The time here referred to is the perfect time in God's eternal purpose (Gal. 4: 4; Mark 1: 15).

7. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die. "The word righteous is applied to a man who does all that the law or justice can demand of him.

8. But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. For a good man some would die; for a merely righteous man hardly any one would die; but for us, sinners, rebellious, vile unworthy, ungrateful dead in our sins Christ, God's only Son would die.

9. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. The argument here is that if Christ so loved us as to pour out his own blood that we might be acceptable to God, we may be fully persuaded that we are forever delivered from the wrath to come.

10. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son. The word enemies is applied to men not only as descriptive of their moral character, but also of the relation in which they stand to God as the objects of his displeasure. "To be reconciled to God does not mean to have our enmity to God removed, but his enmity to us taken out of the way, to have his righteous justice satisfied. Much more being reconciled, shall we be safer by his life. Literally we might read, "kept safe in his life."

11. And not only so but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have now received the reconciliation. The benefits of our redemption are by no means all in the future. The fact that the future for us is one of security and peace gives us a sense of peace now, and the fact that God so loved us as to give his Son causes us to continually rejoice in God now. No matter what our circumstances, no matter how disappointed we are with ourselves, even if we have been tempted into sin nothing can disturb or take away from us these marvelous gifts of God's grace.

One-Eyed Sheep Dog Champion of World

LONDON—Seven-year-old Roy is the most valuable sheep dog in the world, yet he has been blind in one eye since he was a pup.

He proved his superiority over the sheep dog stars of Britain by winning the international championship at Ayr.

This is the second time Roy has won the supreme championship.

J. M. Wilson, of Innerleithen, Peeblesshire, his former owner, has lost count of his victories.

And his successes have been gained without much interference with the normal life of his dogs. "I do not believe in special treatment," he says.

"My dogs work, eat and sleep like all other shepherds' dogs.

"I believe absolutely in heredity. Blood and brains always win.

"It all depends on the dog. All the teaching in the world will not change a stupid dog into a champion.

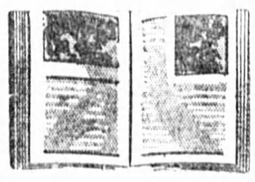
"There is one rule I have never broken. I have never hit a dog.

"I believe that a well-bred sheepdog understands a reproachful look or word."

Douglas Fairbanks Jr. is negotiating with Joan Bennett for his London production of "Jump to Glory."

A New Venture Gets Off to a Flying Start

Douglas Fairbanks, his wife (left) and Benita Hume, Britis's actress, boarding plane at Los Angeles for flight to New York, where Fairbanks conferred with Gary Cooper, who will star in first film of Fairbanks' new venture as a movie producer.



The Book Shelf

BY MAIR M. MORGAN

"Letters To Susan" by Margaret Culkin Banning (The Musson Book Company Ltd., Toronto) $1.75, is a handbook all mothers who have daughters of college age will welcome.

These letters are the outgrowth of a discussion begun in Harper's Magazine on the subject "What a Young Girl Should Know." Mrs. Banning attempted there to set down from a personal and individual point of view the different kinds of knowledge and the abilities which she thought should be developed in the education of the modern young woman, and the reasons for them.

This discussion proved highly provocative and led to widespread correspondence, with requests for reprints and extra copies. So many demands reached Mrs. Banning for an expansion of her ideas to include all phases of the modern problem that the volume came into being.

Written in the form of letters, Mrs. Banning discusses such problems as: Early Marriage; A Job of Her Own; Petting; Drinking; Other People's Houses; Loyalty; Mental Security.

Here are a few things Mrs. Banning expects her seventeen-year-old daughter to do:

Meet strangers pleasantly; handle her own personal expenses on a small allowance and not ask for additional money; dance well; face stag lines at parties; read intelligently; order food for simple but formal meals.

Select many of her own clothes and have suitable ones ready for all her sports and activities; keep these clothes reasonably clean and fresh; refrain from drinking without being priggish; prevent boys who "took her out" from indulging in necking, drive a car without accidents, wash it, change a tire if necessary; swim; ride; play golf; take part in sports generally.

FARM NOTES

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL

With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

1. Question: "What is the cause of water core in turnips? What is the remedy? Would the application of some particular analysis of fertilizer prevent the trouble?"— G. W. M., Wellington.

Answer: As yet the cause of water core in turnips has not been satisfactorily explained. From observation, it has been noted that water core occurs in largest quantity in a crop that has suffered a definite setback such as drought early in its growth, followed by a generous supply of moisture later in the season. Indications are that water core is more likely to appear on knolls which are short of organic matter and which are dried out early in the season. Water core has appeared in largest quantity on gravelly or sandy loam soils especially on those which contain considerable limestone. During the past two or three years, we have made a number of tests of fertilizers on turnips, and while profitable increases have been obtained, still there is no indication from our tests that water core can be eliminated by variation in fertilizer analysis.

Within the past few days, we have found turnips growing on medium silt loam soils where water core was entirely absent. On the other hand, turnip crops on gravelly loam soils not many miles distant, gave from 20 to 35 per cent. water core. Borax applications varying from five to ten pounds per acre were tried. On one farm, less water core was found where Borax was applied than where none had been used. On the other farms it had little effect.

2. Question: "I have a small patch of strawberries. I think the ground needs fertilizer of some kind. What would you advise? How would you advise using it and when? Do you put it on the plant foliage, or how? What quantity would you use? Of what value is Bone Meal as a fertilizer?" F. P. S., Algoma.

Answer: In setting out a patch of strawberries, greatest success will be obtained by giving a generous application of barnyard manure, probably in advance of planting out the strawberries. At sowing time use fertilizer such as a 4-8-10, at the rate of two bags per acre. This should give the plants a good start. In early fall, supplement this application by a top dressing of nitrate of soda at the rate of 200 pounds per acre (other nitrogen carriers can be used with good success). When applying this type of dressing, do so when the foliage is dry so that it will not stick to the plant. There is little danger of burning if the fertilizer is not allowed to contact the plants in large quantities.

Bone Meal is valuable as a carrier of phosphate, carrying 22 pounds tricalcic phosphate to the 100 pounds. Since this phosphate it largely in organic form, it has to wait decay or break down before it is available to the growing crop. This takes place very quickly when it is applied to the soil. It is not so readily available as super-phosphate, but Bone Meal has the advantage of carrying about two per cent. nitrogen in the tissues that adher to the bone.

3. Question: "A fruit grower in the Brighton district has a block of spy trees 20 years of age. These trees are in splendid physical condition and yield reasonably good quantities of apples, but the color each year is distinctly poor. These trees receive liberal supplies of farmyard manure and cover crops are cut and piled around the trees within a radius of the branches. The orchard is cultivated within eight feet of the trees each way. These trees have not been pruned very much in order that they make good growth. What can be done to secure better color in the apples?"—R. W., Northumberland.

Answer: "From the description of the treatment, we could conclude that the nitrogen supply has been increased a little beyond the desirable balance, with the result that ripening and color of fruit has been retarded. We would advise pruning at the proper time, and to cut out the nitrogen in fertilizer applied to this orchard in the next season or two. There is indication that phosphate and potash both have a bearing on the color of fruit, hence we would recommend fertilizing these trees with 10 to 15 pounds per tree of 0-12-15 fertilizer. Scatter this quantity around the trees approximately to the distance covered by the branches. Work the fertilizer fairly deeply into the soil if possible."

4. Question: "When is the best time to sow fertilizer on meadows, and the best analysis to use, also the same about old pastures—what kind to use, and when?"— N. E .B., Perth.

Answer: From tests conducted by the O.A.C., it is evident that on mixed meadows best results on meadows and pastures have been obtained from such fertilizers as 3-10-5 and 4-12-6. These fertilizers help early grass and give a constant, vigorous growth. On old pastures, excellent results have been obtained in our tests from application of the latter fertilizer, 4-12-6, at the rate of three bags per acre. In applying either to meadow or pasture, the fertilizer can be sown broadcast on the grasslands in the fall or in the spring. Our tests seem to indicate that spring application as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry, is probably the most practical in this province.

Strikes Smart Note

Blonde and winsome Betty Furness of the films in her attractive suit of deep marine blue skirt, topped with a lighter blue wool jacket with wide Persian lamb trimming. Fur trimmed felt hat with new high crown is of matching shades of blue.

Safety Guaranteed During a Gas Attack

London already has one office building equipped with a cellar stated to be proof against infiltration of poison gas. The place has air locks and is so devised that gas filled air is filtered through a special device armed against all known types of dangerous gas, the air eventually coming in purified. There is room for ten persons in the chamber. The fans are motor driven but should the power be cut off there is a contraption which will drive them by foot power. Radio and first aid apparatus are installed, and water. London also has a four-storey building fitted with a filtration plant and iron-shuttered windows so that the staff can carry on during a gas raid fully protected against explosions without.