SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VI.—FEB. 7.
JESUS THE LIGHT of the WORLD
JOHN 7: 1—9: 41.

Golden Text:—I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8: 12.

The Lesson In Its Setting

Time.—All the events in this lesson occurred during the week of October 11—18, A.D. 29.

Place.—All the events in this lesson took place in the city of Jerusalem.

Again therefore Jesus spake unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life. In these nine verses we have a declarative statement by Christ, a repudiation of that statement by the Pharisees who heard Him, and a defense of the truthfulness of His words by the Lord Himself.

Jesus therefore said to those Jews that had believed Him, If ye abide in My word, then are ye truly my disciples. "Surrender of mind, heart, and will to the power of Christ's doctrine must be complete and enduring. There must be more than a mere recognition of the striking personality of Jesus. There must be the reception of His word into conscience and heart."

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free:—Later on, the night before His death, Jesus, in praying to the Father, again refers to the word of God as truth (John 17: 17—19). If men accept the truth which Christ teaches, that is, the truth about God, about sin, about Satan, about eternal life, about holiness, about love, men will be free from the power of Satan who deceives, from the bondage of fear, which is due to ignorance, from the power of darkness, from sin itself.

And as he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. Blindness from birth is a condition which no man could change, especially no man could ever open his own eyes. All the beauty of life is shut out from the world of a man born blind.

And His disciples asked him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he should be born blind?— That the man's blindness was due to sin the disciples assumed: the question was, Was the sin committed by the man so afflicted, or by his parents? In one way the question seems foolish, for the man was born blind, before he ever could have sinned. Furthermore, the question is based on a false assumption. Not all suffering or physical handicaps are the consequences of sin in some immediate ancestor. Parents of most devout faith have been known to have children of imbecilic tendencies, while there are parents who have given birth to children while living in scandalous sin, whose children have lived for years without any physical suffering. Ultimately, of course, all suffering results from the fallen condition of the human race.

Jesus answered, Neither did this man sin, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. "The Lord deals only with the special case; and that only so far as it is an occasion for action and not a subject for speculation.

We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work:—"We cannot think it strange that Jesus should connect the man's blindness with his own appearance on earth, born blind in order that Jesus might give him sight."

When I am in the world, I am the light of the world.—"There is special reference here to Christ's giving light both to the man's eyes and to his soul."

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and anointed his eyes with the clay.—"A medicinal value was attributed to saliva, above all, for disorders of the eyes. (See also Mark 7: 33; 8: 23). Neither are we without examples of a medicinal of clay. Still we must not suppose that, besides his divine power, the Lord also used natural remedies, or that these were more than conductors, not in themselves needful; for other blind eyes he opened without employing any such means (Matt. 20: 30—34).

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went away therefore, and washed, and came seeing.—The pool of Siloam was 50 feet long, 20 feet deep, and 20 feet wide, lying in the mouth of the Tyropean Valley. Water was drawn from it for the temple, and it was supplied by the Fountain of the Virgin. "The obedience was that of faith, feeble as yet, but real; and the reward that which is always promised to faith, even feeble, if real."

The neighbors therefore, and they that saw him aforetime, that he was a beggar, said: Is not this he that sat and begged? Others said: It is he: Others said: No, but he is like him. He said: I am he. — Here we have the first words from the man who was blind, "I am he." His testimony must be received. He knew who he was.

They said therefore unto him, How then were thine eyes opened? The question is perfectly natural. It does not intimate any unbelief or skepticism, but a natural inquisitiveness. Anyone would ask this question.

He answered, The man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me: Go to Siloam, and wash: so I went away and washed, and I received sight. — The report of the blind man is vivid, accurate, clear, and ought to be convincing. There are no adornments here. It is a simple statement of fact. He relates what happened, but actually how Christ opened his eyes, he does not know, and no one else does. We do not understand miracles: we believe them.

FARM NOTES

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL
With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

1. Question:—"A farmer has just taken over a greenhouse which contains 25 tons earth prepared for tomato plant growing five years ago, but never used. This soil has been tested, is natural in reaction, contains a fair amount of nitrate, but is low in phosphoric acid and potash. Would an application of 0-12-10 or 0-12-15 at the rate of 25 lbs. per 1000 square ft. put this soil in suitable condition for growing tomato plants this Spring?"—R.W., Northumberland Co.

Answer:—The addition of 0-12-10 or 0-12-15 fertilizer at the rate of 25 lbs. per 1000 square feet would be equivalent to a little over 1000 lbs. per acre. This is a fair application for outdoor use, but I would be of the opinion that this could be almost doubled for indoor purposes such as you recommend. You do not say whether or not the 25 tons of earth have been kept in a dry place and rain and snow have been prevented from falling on them. Of course, if this soil has been kept absolutely dry and no moisture has been added to it, microscopic life will be at a low ebb in it on account of lack of moisture. In this case, it might take the soil a short time to come back to its normal form. I believe the treatments you suggest would put it in fair shape for tomato plant growing.

2. Question:—"I wish some information regarding the building up of land which is in poor condition. I have 45 acres fall plowing on which I would like to sow oats and seed down with 5 lbs. of Timothy and 5 lb. of Red Clover, and was wondering if lime and salt would be a good thing to put on the land and if so, how much per acre? There is also 50 acres that I was thinking of summer fallowing and putting in Fall Wheat and the same mixture of grass seed. Would also like to know if lime and salt would be a good thing to put on for potatoes on land in good condition."—M. G., Oxford.

Answer:—Answering your question regarding treatment of 45 acres of fall plowed land on which you purpose sowing oats and which land I understand is in poor condition. I wish to say that use of lime and salt cannot be recommended. Without testing the soil, it is impossible for me to know whether the soil needs lime or not. If it is acid in reaction (or sour) lime will help. If it is alkaline or neutral, the addition of lime will do no good whatever. The addition of salt merely hastens the robbing of the soil of its fertility. The sodium of the salt displaces the potassium of the soil, hence benefit for a crop or two can be seen, but in general, the use of salt on the land corresponds to the use of the whip on the team. Most often more oats fed to the team give better results in labour which can be obtained from them, similarly, the addition of plant-food to the soil in the shape of manure or fertilizer, or both, will give much better and more lasting results than the use of salt.

With reference to the handling of the other 50 acres, I would strongly advise against putting on lime where you purpose growing potatoes, since lime produces a condition where the potato scab thrives. This fungus disease is common in most of our older soils.

Movie-radio gossip

By DOROTHY

There was a rather funny reaction to an interview that Edward G. Robinson gave a reporter for an Italian newspaper some time ago. He praised the work of Frank Capra, the director, who is Italian by birth, saying that Capra refused to direct gangster films.

He remarked that he thought it was because Capra did not want to make pictures which showed his own people in a bad light. When the storm burst it hit, not Capra, but Robinson. Seems the Italians thought gangsters were something like senators — an American institution of which the Americans were proud!

The long discussion over which actress would play the mother role in "Stella Dallas" has been settled at last. It goes to Barbara Stanwyck, who does seem a bit young for it, but of course, there's always the make-up. Anyway, the part is to be rewritten to fit her.

Barbara Stanwyck

At the moment the "Gone With the Wind" pursuit of a heroine is still raging, but no doubt that will be settled in the same way—some attractive, dependable actress whose screen work is known to the public everywhere will get it.

Phil Baker, who has long been one of radio's favorite comedians, has learned a lot from what has happened to other men like him when they consented to make a picture. And he is profiting by what he has learned. He knows, that, when the picture is released, the comedian's part may have been cut and cut until there is practically nothing left of it.

Both Samuel Goldwyn and Paramount want him to do his specialty in pictures, but he has held on, even to the extent of refusing $12,000 to do his stuff.

The very funny Ritz Brothers, who can be relied upon to send movie audiences into gales of laughter, encountered something that was not so very funny to them, when they had to learn to skate for "One in a Million," the Sonja Henie picture that's all about skating, with Miss Henie doing five big numbers.

The brothers simply could not learn to skate. They could not even stand up on skates. Finally the difficulty was solved by having special skates made for them.

Speaking of romantic stories, even the movies can't beat the one of Wallace Ford's long search for his mother and his finding her, just before the Christmas season. It's about 38 years since she had to put him in an English orphanage, and Ford found her living in an automobile trailer, and the wife of a blind match seller. Now he is going to do all the things for her that he has planned during the long years when he was trying to find her.

Probably nobody will ever be able to explain why certain radio programs succeed, any more than motion picture producers can tell why some pictures smash box-office records and others that seem just as good flop terribly.

There is a delightful radio program that has been going well for considerably more than a year. It's called "Dot and Will." And so far no sponsor has bought it. Yet the company has actual proof that thousands of people listen to it.

Apparently a lot of old stories are to be re-made during 1937. "Ben Hur" is up for discussion — maybe with both Clark Gable and Robert Taylor in it. There was a time, when, if three featured players were in a picture, it was advertised as having an all-star cast. Now the producing companies put several of their biggest stars into one picture and just take it as a matter of course, as do the audiences.

Clark Gable

ODDS AND ENDS—Hollywood is still regretting the death of Irene Fenwick, Lionel Barrymore's wife; their's as an exceptionally happy marriage, and Miss Fenwick was very popular — Now that Bette Davis is back at work they are working her so hard that she barely has a chance to breathe, to make up for the time lost when she was battling with the company—"After the Thin Man" is just as funny as "The Thin Man" was — so don't miss it. — And you'll surely want to see "Beloved Enemy," with Merle Oberon and Brian Aherne —And "That Girl From Paris"— Tilly Losch, who did a bit as a dancer in "Garden of Allah" may appear in re-makes of some of Greta Garbo's old pictures.

Head of Trust

L. P. Lord (above) recently was appointed manager of the $10,000,000 Nuffield Trust for the Special Areas, Lord, who is 40 and until recently the managing director of the Morris organization and Lord Nuffield's right hand man, is regarded as a production genius. It is believed that an important scheme for industrial developments in the distressed areas, for which Lord Nuffield gave the trust as a Christmas gift, is being prepared.

Explorer's Wife To Continue Work

Mrs. Martin Johnson Is Determined to Carry On As Soon Possible

Los Angeles, Calif.—Martin Johnson's widow will carry on, alone, the movie explorations that earned them both renown.

Injured in the airliner crash which cost her husband's life, Mrs. Osa Johnson announced from a hospital bed the other day her determination to continue the career of jungle photographer they shared together.

"We must keep Martin's cameras," she told her mother, Mrs. Belle Leighty of Chanute, Kas., who hurried here after the air tragedy in which another man also was killed.

"I intend to go on with his work alone, to make further films in Borneo, and the South Seas."

Despite a fractured leg in a cast, Mrs. Johnson arranged to resume a lecture tour about March 1 in Cincinnati. Its itinerary brought her and her husband west.

Precautions now being taken to reduce the likelihood of blindness include the putting of nitrate of silver in a baby's eyes at birth, wearing of goggles in hazardous occupations, and use of non-shatterable glass for spectacles.

For the first time in its history the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, produced over 1,000,000 bales of cotton last year.

"There is only one way in which to give a person a real education: a teacher and pupils' sitting— the one teaching, the other learning."—Hendrik Willem van Loon.

Enjoys Holiday in Sun

Thomas O. M. Sopwith, noted British airplane designer and yachtsman, pictured with Mrs. Sopwith as they sit in the sun at Palm Beach. Sopwith, who has taken up the late Sir Thomas Lipton's mantle, will race two yachts against America's best at Newport, R. I., next summer.

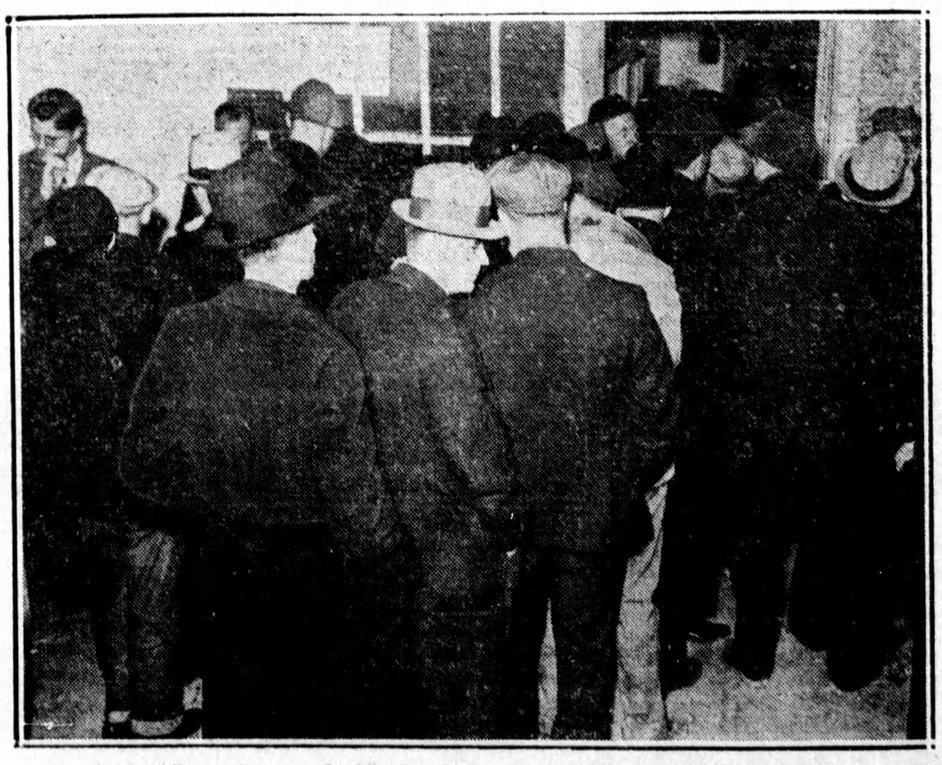
The Waterloo Railway Station in London covers 21½ acres.

Tsetse flies do not lay eggs; they bring forth living larvae.

You May Be Skeptical, But——

You've laughed at the idea of a hare chasing a hound, but here's irrefutable proof of an otter-hound paling up with his traditional enemy the otter. While hunting with the Bure Valley otter hounds near Aylesham, Norfolk, En.g,, Miss E. Townsend caught the young otter which she reared with the aid of a baby's feeding bottle. Named Perdita, it is now a household pet, and follows her about like a dog. Perdita's greatest pal is an old otter-hound—but the young otter is "boss," and chases the old dog sometimes. The strange pair are seen here taking a stroll on the beach with their mistress.

Strike Brings Want



Automobile workers, made idle by the sit-down strikes, crowd the Genessee County Welfare Commission's rooms in Flint, Mich., as they seek relief for themselves and their families. With salaries cut off by the strike, want has come to many