SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XIII.

JOHN'S RECOLLECTIONS OF THE —RISEN LORD—John 20: 19-29; 21: 20-24.

GOLDEN TEXT—**I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore. Revelation 1: 17, 18.**

THE PLAN OF LESSON

TIME. — The resurrection itself occurred on Sunday, April 9, A.D. 30. The appearance to Thomas occurred the Sunday following, April 16, A.D. 30. The appearance at the Sea of Galilee occurred within thirty days after this, but we do not know exactly when.

PLACE. — The resurrection of Christ and his appearance to Mary Magdalene took place just outside the city wall in the garden near the tomb of Joseph of Arimataea; the two appearances to the disciples occurred in an upper room in Jerusalem. All the events recorded in chapter 21 took place on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias.

"When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week." Between the Lord's appearance to Mary Magdalene early in the morning and his appearance to the ten disciples that evening, two other appearances must be placed, though they are not given in John's Gospel, the appearance to Simon Peter (Luke 24: 34; I. Cor. 15: 5), and the memorable journey with two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24) "And when the doors were shut where the disciples were." It is not said how many were present. Judas was dead and Thomas was absent. Probably the other ten were present. "For fear of the Jews." (Cf. John 7:13.) Rumors of the resurrection had been spread and it was as yet uncertain what policy the popular leaders would adopt. "Jesus came and stood in the midst". How the Lord entered the room John does not tell us; the record assumes that his entrance was miraculous, and that it was not necessary for the doors to be unlocked and opened to admit him into their presence. Jesus came among them in such a way as to prove that new laws now ruled his body that the earthly no longer was a limitation to it. "And said unto them, Peace be unto you." This was the ordinary greeting of one Jew to another; it was Christ's last word to his disciples in their sorrow before his Passion (John 16: 33). Now they had a new peace, in the confidence that many's greatest enemy, death, had been defeated, and that the one who had the keys of life and death was none other than their friend, servant and master.

"And when he had said this, he showed unto them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord." Our Lord did this to convince his disciples that he was the very same person who had been crucified and that he had risen with the same body in which he had died, as the parallel account in Luke (24: 39 indicates, It is I myself.

"Jesus therefore said to them again, Peace be unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (See John 17: 3, 23.) Christ had finished the work which the Father had given him to do on earth in his own person; henceforth he would work through others. The new commission is wider than the earlier one. (Matt. 10: 1-42, etc.), for it is not limited to the apostolate; the other disciples who were present are included and, with the eleven, they represent the whole church.

"And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit." Christ's breathing upon the disciples would be an emblem of the Holy Spirit. This is, of course, a prophetic breathing, symbolic and suggestive They did not receive the Holy Spirit then. In the course of these days, he told them to wait until they received the Spirit (Acts 1:4). He was indicating to them their responsibility in view of the resources at their disposal, telling them that they could not go except in one power, that of the Holy Spirit.

"Whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.' Has the church them the power to remit or retain? The answer is unquestionably, Yes. To any man, to any woman, to any youth, or maiden who, conscious of sin, repents towards God, and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ.

"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus,, was not with them when Jesus came." Thomas was absent because his was the nature that preferred to bury disappointment and desolation in solitude and silence.

"The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Thomas certainly was not afraid of being convinced that his Lord had arisen; on the contrary, he sought to be convinced that his Lord had arisen; on the contrary, he sought to be convinced of this and put himself in the way of conviction. He had doubted because he wished to believe. It is this which distinguishes Thomas and all right-minded doubters from thorough-going and depraved unbelievers.

"And after eight days." That is, the following Sunday night, April 16. "Again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst and said, Peace be unto you." The fact that Thomas was present with the disciples indicates that he did not deliberately shun fellowship with those who were confident that Christ had come forth from the dead.

"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and see my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and put it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing." The Lord is always willing to convince doubters of the reality of divine truth by every legitimate means.

"Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God." Most commentators believe that Thomas never accepted the invitation of Christ to reach forth his hand and put it into his side. He believed at once. The confession that came from the lips of Thomas was the most advanced ever made by any of the twelve during the time they were with Jesus.

"Jesus saith unto him, Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. Such conditions as Thomas required are unnecessary in order to have true and intelligent faith. Thomas himself ought to have believed in the testimony of the rest, convinced by all he had known and experienced of Christ in past days. Our Lord does not mean that faith has not its solid reasons, for faith is not blind acceptance of truth, nor the opposite of reason, but faith is the opposite of sight because it asserts what is not seen.

"Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; who also leaned back on his breast at the supper, and said, Lord, who is he that betrayeth thee? Peter therefore seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? The same irrepressible Peter was not sobered into silence by the suggestion of his own end. The question indicates the natural wish to know the future of a friend, all the more natural after having been told something about his own future.

"Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. This saying therefore went forth among the brethren, that that disciple should not die; yet Jesus said not unto him, that he should not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" Jesus speaks as one who is Lord of life and death, whose will is supreme in earth and heaven. He also asserts the fact of his Second Coming.

"This is the disciple that beareth witness of these things, and wrote these things." The phrase may refer to the whole contents of the Gospel. "And we know that his witness is true." We probably refers to the Christians who surrounded John at Ephesus, who, having lived personally with John, know his sincerity and declare him incapable of relating anything false. The Gospel closes with a simple statement reminding us that its contents cover only a small portion of all the many things which Jesus did.

Shells For Britain Made in Hamilton

Ottawa.—Manufacture of 50,000 shells for the new universal gun being adopted by the British Army, and involving an expenditure of approximately $1,000,000 will be undertaken by the National Steel Car Company of Hamilton, Ont., Major K. S. Mackenzie, of the Royal Artillery, Woolwich, said here recently.

Major Mackenzie said he is in Canada to inspect the shells. Three civilians had been sent from England on the same mission and are now in Hamilton.

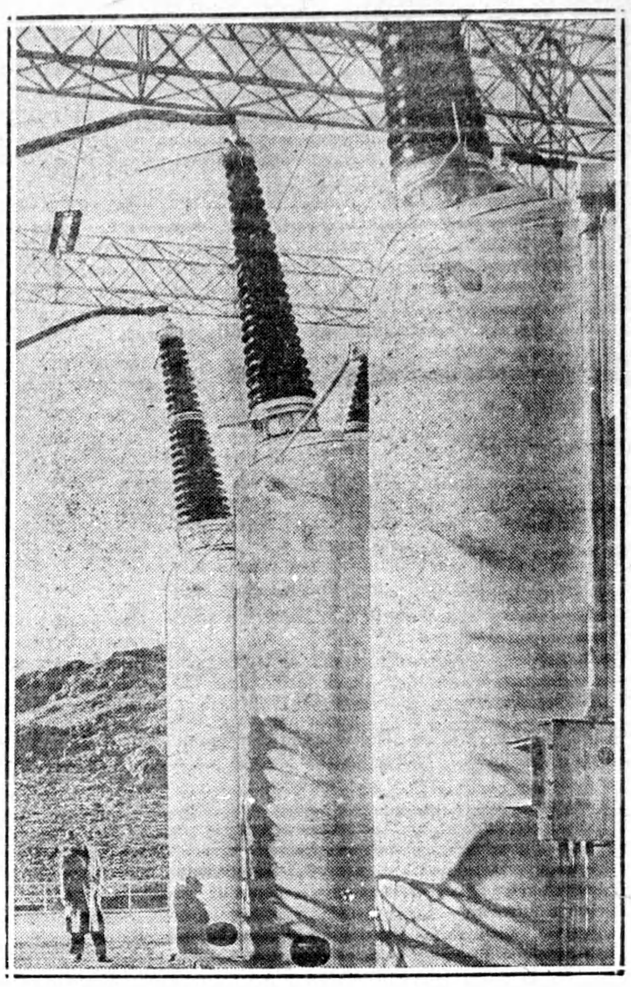
Still 8,399,000 U.S. Unemployed

NEW YORK, — Unemployed workers in the United States in December, 1936, totalled 8,399,000, a decrease of 77,000 or 5.4 per cent from November and a drop of 1,844,000 from December, 1935, the National Industrial Conference Board estimated last week.

Decorated By the King

King George held the first investiture of his reign at Buckingham Palace recently, conferring honors awarded in the New Year honors list. This picture shows, left to right, Squadron-Leader F. R. D. Swain, noted for his record-breaking altitude flight last year, who received the Royal Air Force Cross, arriving with Squadron-Leader Baul at the Palace.

Monument To Power



Circuit breakers for the world's highest voltage power line rise like the temples of some strange sect in the switchyard at Boulder Dam. When circuit on line that carries power to Los Angeles is broken, these oil breakers deaden flash of 287,500 volts.

Hooded Riders Unmask Horrors of Accidents

These macabre "Four Horsemen" helped drive home the dangers of reckless motoring as they rode in front of the "Horror Parade," staged at Atlanta, Ga., by Junior Chamber of Commerce to depict the frightful toll taken in automobile accidents.

Queen Mary Attends St. Daid's Day Parade

Accompanied by the Princess Royal (Countess of Harewood) and Lord Harewood, Queen Mary attended the annual St. David's Day Parade of the Welsh Guards at Wellington Barracks, London. She performed the ceremony of presenting a leek (the Welsh national emblem) to an officer of the Welsh Guards. The Princess Royal and Lord Harewood are seen behind Her Majesty.

There are 1,700 species of lizards in the world. Only two of these are poisonous and they are found only in Mexico and the United States.

Movie-radio gossip

By DOROTHY

Clark Gable, who thinks that Robert Taylor is a great romantic actor, and Robert Taylor who thinks that Clark Gable is tops, have persuaded Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to let them make a picture together. The story selected is "Spurs of Pride," a military story of Percival Wren.

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There is a serious shortage of beautiful chorus girls in Hollywood right now, because all the studios are making big musicals. Girls who could not even get a few days extra work while the studios were all busy on dramatic pictures, are now signing ten-week contracts calling for as much as $200 a week. Samuel Goldwyn's chief complaint about the beautiful girls who come to Hollywood seeking work is that they invariably try to look like some popular star instead of being beautiful in their own way. The one sure way not to get an engagement in one of his pictures is to have someone tell him that you look just like Virginia Bruce or Carole Lombard.

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When Kathryn Witwer, popular MBS prima donna, first came to Chicago, to win fame and fortune, she had exactly $5 in her purse and a little secretarial training which she traded for music lessons. First prize in a National Music Clubs Federation contest won her a chance to appear with Frederick Stock and also with Mary Garden at the Chicago Opera. After her successful opera debut her home town of Gary, Ind. sent her to Europe for further study.

Kathryn Witwer

ODDS and ENDS:—Marlene Dietrich has confided to a few close friends, who told several thousand other people, that Merle Oberon is going to marry Brian Aherne soon in London. Remember love scenes in "Beloved Enemy"? Evidently they weren't just acting. . . Ed Bergen, the ventriloquist who has made such an outstanding success on the Vallee hour, has been put under contract to make pictures for Warner Brothers. Barbara Stanwyck has a huge new ruby ring, a gift from Robert Taylor. Incidentally, when handed her check for $5,000 for a three-minute sketch on the radio recently, Barbara got the giggles. She suddenly recalled that just 12 years ago she was mightily pleased to get a night club job at $35 a week.