SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VIII.
THE WEAKNESS OF ESAU
(Genesis 25: 19—34; 26: 34, 35; 27: 1—46.)

Golden Text—Every man that striveth in the games exerciseth self-control in all things. 1 Corinthians 9:25.

The Lesson in its Setting

Time—The generally accepted date for the birth of the twins, Esau and Jacob, is B.C. 1844. The selling of the birthright took place 18 years later, and Esau was married about B.C. 1805. Facts given about Jacob's years of service (Gen. 31: 41) and his age and his children's would place his flight from home about B.C. 1784.

Place—The twins were born probably at Beer-lahai-roi (Gen. 24: 62; 25: 11), about 50 miles south of Beersheba. Later events in the lives of these two men took place near either one or the other of these two cities.

Gen. 25: 27—34. "And the boys grew: and Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.'— He was full of the manliest interests, occupations, and pursuits. He was a very proverb of endurance and success in the chase. His hand was always full of skill, and strength, and success. He was the pride of all the encampment, as he came home at night with his traps, and his snares, and his bows, and his arrows, and laden to the earth with venison for his father's supper.

"Now Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: and Rebekah loved Jacob."—Persons of quiet and retiring disposition like Isaac are often fascinated by those of more sparkling and energetic temperament such as Esau. Mothers, on the other hand, are mostly drawn towards children that are gentle in disposition and home-keeping in habit. We are probably not wrong in discovering in these words an indication that there were some jealousies and prejudices in the home of Isaac and Rebekah.

"And Jacob boiled pottage: and Esau came in from the field, and he was faint. And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage, for I am faint." Pottage was a kind of thick broth made by boiling lentils or other vegetables with meat or suet, usually in water, but sometimes in milk. "Therefore was his name called Edom." The word for red is the word "adom," quite similar to the word "adam." The propriety of a particular name may be marked by two or more totally different circumstances, and its application renewed on each of these occasions. It is pretty certain that Esau did receive the secondary name of Edom from the red complexion of skin even from his birth, but the exclamation "that red," uttered on the occasion of a very important crisis in his history, renewed the name, and perhaps tended to make it take the place of Esau in the history of his race.

"And Jacob said, Sell me first thy birthright." —The birthright seems to have included temporal and spiritual blessings. It carried with it a double portion of paternal inheritance (Duet. 21: 17; 1 Chron. 5: 1, 2); it gave the holder precedence as head of the family or tribe. Above all, it constituted the possessor priest and spiritual head of his people.

"And Esau said, Behold, I am about to die: and what profit shall the birthright do to me?"—Of course he was not about to die. No man would die simply because he had not had food for perhaps 12 or 14 hours; moreover, supper would normally be prepared for Esau within less than an hour. He simply exaggerated the importance of the demands of his body. Oblivious of everything but his hunger and his food, so it is always with the man who has fallen under the power of sensual appetite.

"And Jacob said, Swear to me first; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went away: so Esau despised his birthright."—In Hebrews 12: 16, Esau is spoken of as "a profane person." Profane is a Latin word which means "before the temple," and "refers to that plot of ground just in front of the temple which was common to everyone as being outside the sacred enclosure. Gradually the name came to mean that which was purely earthly and common, as opposed to that which was sacred, consecrated and dedicated to God." Esau's life was entirely earth-bound. He was intent only on present gratification and set no value on the divine gifts. To him future blessings were intangible and unreal. Everything about the present was real to him, while everything about the future was unreal, vague and misty. To him this world was everything and God nothing.

"And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob."—Of all the parties in this transaction, none is more to blame than Esau. While he so furiously and bitterly blamed Jacob for supplanting him, it might surely have occurred to him that it was really he who was supplanting Jacob. Inconstant as he was, he could scarcely have forgot the bargain by which he had sold to his younger brother all title to his father's blessings. Many that care very little for God's love, will seek his favors; and every wicked wretch who has, in his prosperity, spurned God's offers, will, when he sees how he has cheated himself, turn to God's gifts, though not to God, with a cry. Like many another sinner he wanted to eat his cake and have it.

"And the words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah; and she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said unto him Behold thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban, my brother to Haran. And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away. Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from hence: why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?"— It was from Haran that Rebekah herself had come at the request of Abraham's servant to be married to Isaac. She intended her son to be absent only "a few days," but they proved to be 20 years (see 31: 38). It is not probable that Rebekah ever again beheld her favorite son, which was a sinful chastisement for her sinful ambition for and partiality towards Jacob. — Rebekah seems not to have been aware that she herself was the cause of much of the evil and of much of the misery that flowed from it. All the parties of this affair are pursued by a retributive chastisement.

The Ice Water Influence

A London despatch describes the Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, as hawk-nosed, dark-eyed, saber-toothed, straggle-moustached. Of him also, it is said that there is considerable ice water in his veins and that he smiles as if he feared he would crack his face.

All this may not sound very complimentary, but Mr. Chamberlain will probably care little. At 68 he is about to achieve his ambition—the prime ministership of Great Britain, succeeding Mr. Baldwin when the latter retires.

Incidentally, it may not be a bad idea to have government carried on by a man with "considerable ice water in his veins." In these days of political extremes, the ice water influence has its points. It sometimes keeps governments from making too many mistakes.—The Windsor Daily Star.

Real Estate Sales Improve

Demand Is Not Great For New Mortgage Loans However

TORONTO. — Companies dealing in mortgages see definite signs of improvement in their business, according to reports obtained from a number of loan and trust companies executives by The Financial Post. However, it was emphasized that they had a long way still to go before recovery would reach a satisfactory level.

Greatest point of weakness in the situation appears to be a lack of demand for new mortgage loans from sources which provide a satisfactory risk. Competition for such loans as are offered is keen and borrowers are being offered favorable terms. As a result some companies feel that even the business which can be obtained is not very profitable. Possible explanation for lack of demand for new mortgages may be found in the belief of some mortgage company officials that the apparent shortage of housing has been overemphasized.

Sales of real estate are increasing and companies have been able to dispose of properties which have been held for some time. No particular district or type of property has benefitted by tendency toward a freer demand for real estate.

"Conservation will continue to be of transcendent concern to the human race so long as we have to depend upon this earth for our food, clothing, shelter and our pleasures."
—Harold L. Ickes.

"If I lived a thousand years I would still be a Virginian."
—Lady Astor.

Is John Lewis slipping? He permits President Roosevelt to fraternize with nonunion fish. — Chicago Daily News.

Movie Star Dust Radio

By VIRGINIA DALE

Even better than having the circus come to town is to find "Elephant Boy" playing at your local motion picture theatre one of these spring days. It is a picture that defies description for volumes would be necessary to describe the thrilling scenes of vast herds of elephants, the gruesome terror of discontent brewing among the natives of India, the sturdy charm of little Sabu, the twelve-year-old Indian boy who shares stardom with the king of the elephants, the magnificent blending of music with the haunting shrieks of wild animals.

But with all of its other merits, it is the heart-warming friendship of the boy and his elephant that makes one want to go back to see this picture again and again. Robert Flaherty, the explorer-director who has not had a picture on our screens since the unforgettable "Man of Aran" made off the coast of Ireland, went to India two years ago and is responsible for "Elephant Boy."

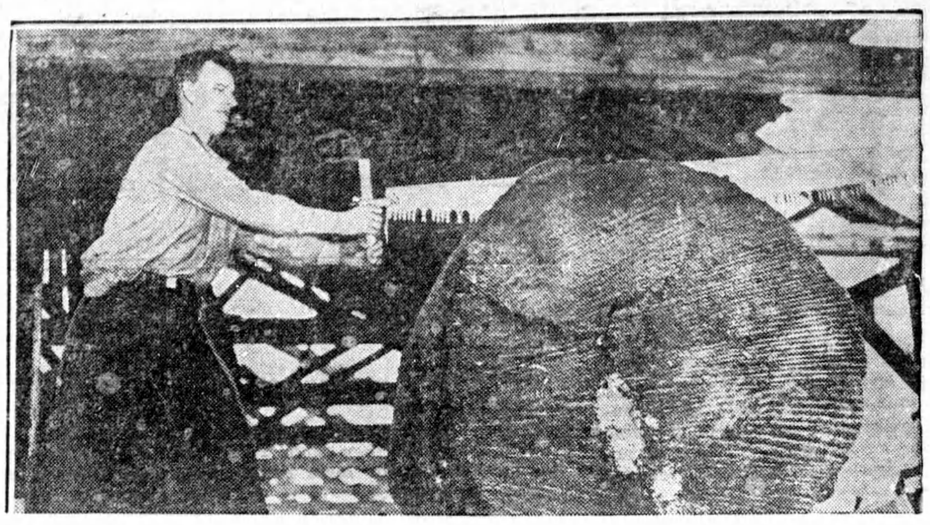
Back to roles that are hot and low down go Bette Davis and George Bancroft in their new films. When Warner Brothers and Bette Davis ended their long court wrangle, they told her all was forgiven and certainly they must have meant it, for they have given her the best role of her career in "The Marked Woman." George Bancroft also comes back in a Columbia picture called "Racketeers in Exile," which is a powerful answer to those reformers who said that they just wouldn't have any more gangster pictures.

Bette Davis

For months Sol Lesser has been conducting a search for a Tarzan, and at last he found one. Glenn Morris, Olympic champion, will play the role that Johnny Weismuller made famous. Johnny will stay with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, hoping for more civilized parts.

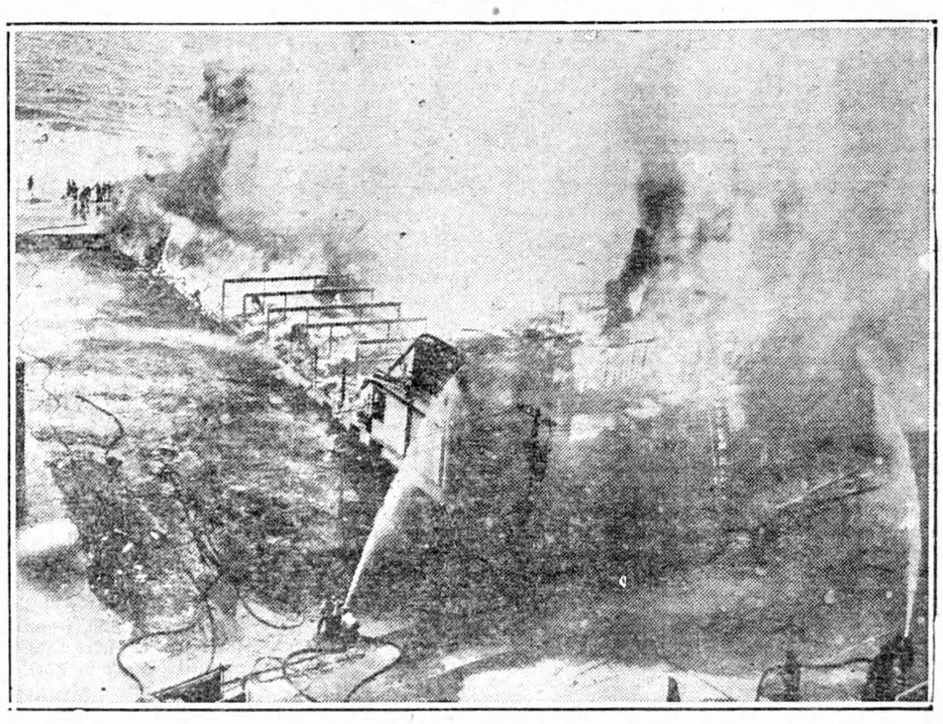
"Busy" beavers have to keep busy. If not kept short by gnawing, the teeth would grow so long that the animals could not close their mouths.

Just Sawing Wood



Paul Searles, champion sawyer, gives himself a real workout on a huge log as he sharpens up his arms for the contest in which lucky lumbermen will be selected for the honor of sawing giant redwood at opening of Golden Gate Bridge.

Famed Baths azed



The blazing ruins of the famous Castle Baths on the boardwalk at Long Beach, N.Y., as firemen raise a wall of water to prevent spread of flames to adjoining building. Ballroom where Irene Castle once danced and rows of both-houses were a total loss.

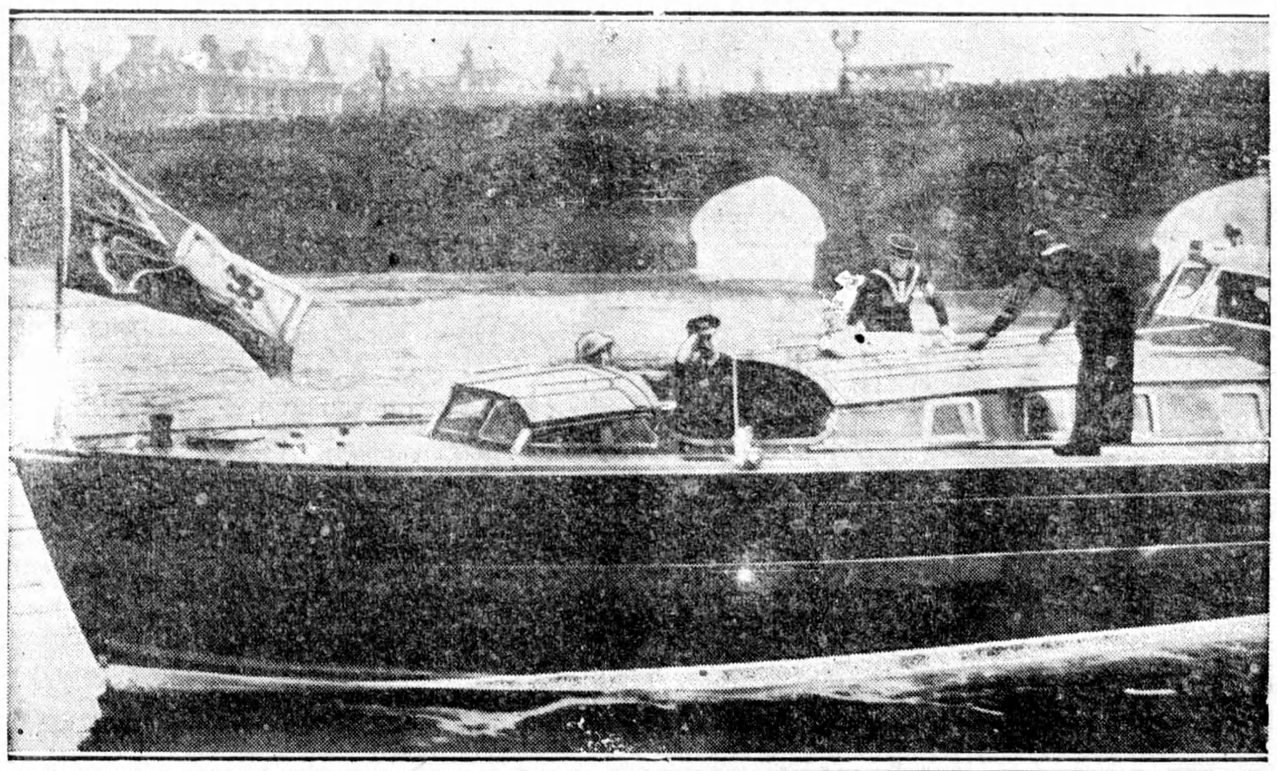
Short of Typists

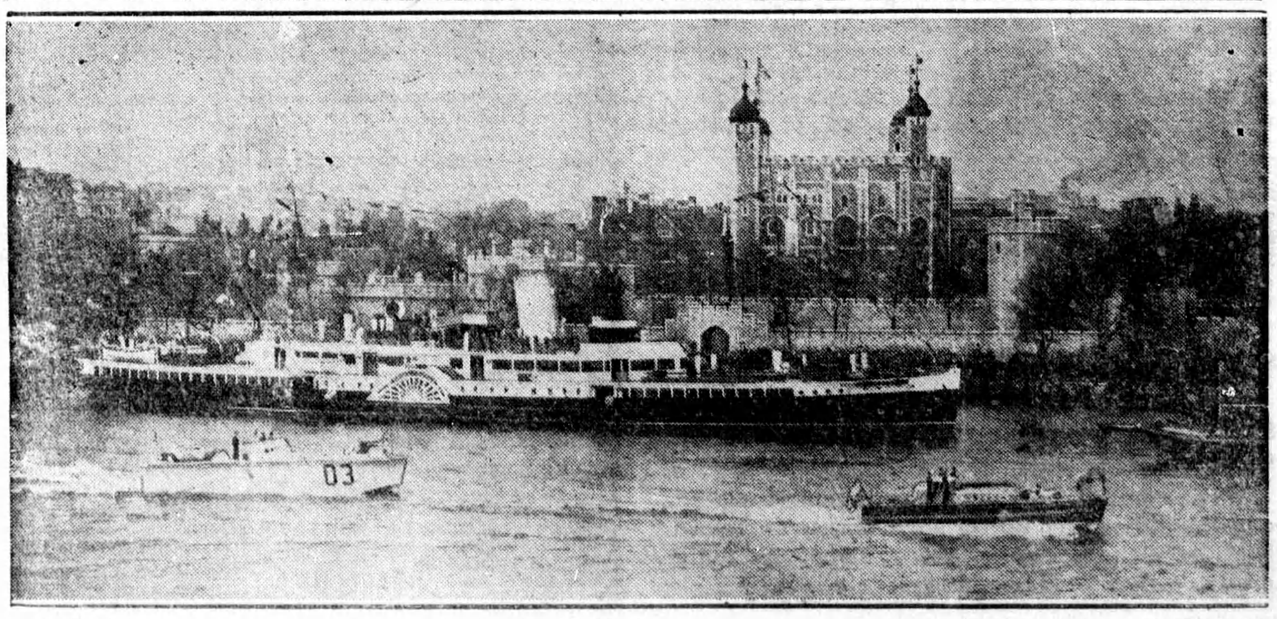
Cape Town is suffering from a serious shortage of typists, and juniors are offered $50 per month and seniors $75 a month.

"We cannot meet the demand for trained office workers," an official of a business college said in an interview. "Not only are our South-African taught girls snapped up as soon as they achieve a fair speed at shorthand and typing, but girls arriving from Britain secure jobs almost instantly.

"Some senior typists in Cape Town are receiving up to $125 a month now. Naturally they are as much secretaries to their employers as they are so-called typists — but any girl who cannot act as a capable private ecretary naturally is no more than a junior typist."

His Majesty's First Journey on the Thames as King





King George is shown in the upper picture as the Admiral's Barge carrying the Royal Party passed the Tower of London. In the lower picture His Majesty salutes as the Barge leaves Westminster pier for Greenwich. The red and gold Standard, afloat for the first time since His Majesty assumed the Throne, is seen at the bow of the craft.