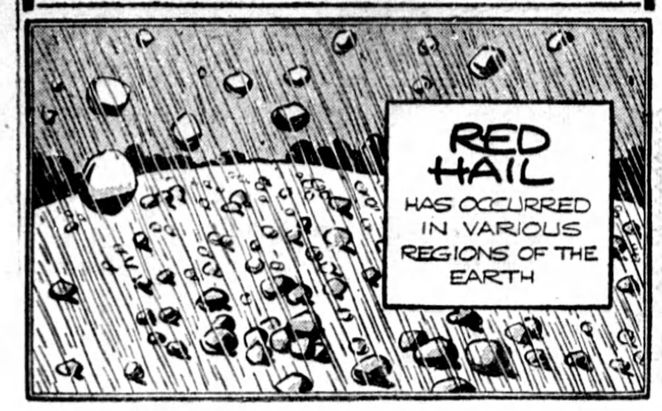
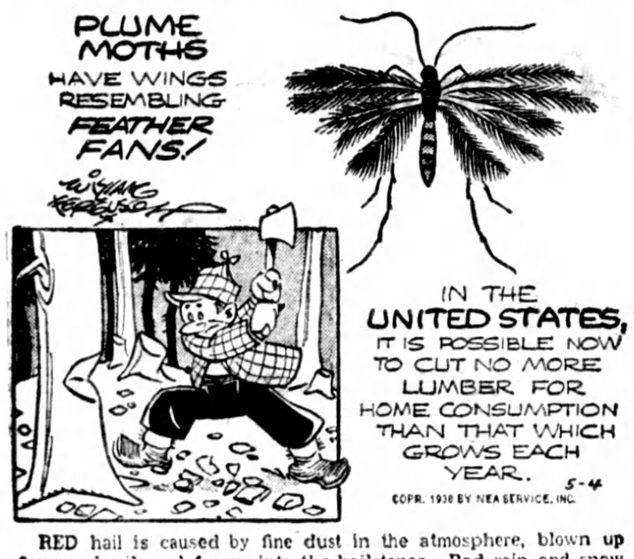
THIS CURIOUS WORLD By William Ferguson





RED hail is caused by fine dust in the atmosphere, blown up from red soil, and frozen into the hailstones. Red rain and snow have been quite common occurrences in the past few years, when red soil from the Oklahoma dust bowl was carried into the atmosphere by high winds.

NEXT: Are the most skillful automobile drivers the safest?

RADIO REPORTER By REX FROST

Do you like detective stories, the kind which are full of underground intrigue, mystery and thrills? A new series, "Inspector Hawkes," will commence next Tuesday over CFRB Toronto, 7.45 p.m., and thereafter will be on the air every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This programme, which advance publicity promises will prove as exciting as any detective stories ever heard over the radio, replaces the popular favourite "Easy Aces" which recently was turned into a half hour show heard over American stations only.

On January 12th, one of Canada's most popular programmes, Treasure Trail, celebrated its 7th birthday. The announcement was made that this big audience feature will continue throughout 1944. During the time it has been on the air, Treasure Trail has played to studio audiences of 125,000 and has given away in cash as telephone prizes a total of $30,000. The only original member of the cast is jovial Master of Ceremonies Alan Savage. Treasure Trail will continue to be heard Wednesday nights at 8.30 over CFRB and a network of Ontario stations.

Another opportunity for housewives to make "Easy Pickin's" continues every Wednesday afternoon 2.30, CFRB Toronto in 1944. Since this programme has been on the air it has given away $3,800 to studio and air audiences, as well as providing the answers to many household mysteries and problems and a great deal of fun, plus in recent programmes the music of Marjorie Daines.

That radio is helping to balance the family budget in many Canadian homes is to be seen also in the case of money-making "Spin to Win," the 8.30 to 9 p.m. Ontario network feature which originates from CFRB every Monday. The cash distribution to the studio and air audience averaged $250 to $300 a week throughout 1943. The first cash prize to the air audience of "Spin to Win" in 1944 went to an Allardale resident, the mother of ten children, who earned the wherewithal to make certain she got away to a good start for the New Year. The show will continue to provide fun, interest and cash along the Midway of 1944.

The noon hour audience of CFRB is now brightened by the inclusion of a new Monday-Wednesday-Friday series of programmes, 1 to 1.15, featuring Roland Todd at the Novachord, Marjorie Daines at the piano and Gurney Tidmarsh at the bass viol with Gordon Calder singing and announcing. Features of the programme, extra to the novel instrumental group, are musical weather reports and a top tune for each day. A memory tune presented on each programme provided the opportunity for the radio audience of this feature to earn cash prizes.

A highlight for Saturday afternoon radio listeners is the series of broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera House. Throughout its current season, John Charles Thomas will be the featured singer.

SEA COMMANDER

Admiral Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham, above, Britain's first sea lord, will have an important role in supervising landing of Allied armies invading Europe from the west. As sea commander under General Eisenhower in North Africa, he directed landings in Morocco, Algeria, Sicily and Italy and is considered a likely choice as naval chief for the new "second front" command.

British And U. S. Farmers Compared

A good harvest of comments was reaped recently by British newspaper men who interviewed three American farmers who had travelled 5,000 miles in Britain.

Oscar Henline of Marcus, Iowa, said: "The British farmer is fonder of work than we are. He will walk behind a machine. We won't."

Robert J. Howard of Sherburne, N.Y., said: "I take off my hat to your land girls; they are wonderful."

Earl Robinson of Mondovi, Wis., said a Scottish farmer had financed part of their trip when they ran out of cash.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS TEACHES IN PARABLES

Mark 4:1-34
January 23
PRINTED TEXT, Mark 4:1-9, 26-32.

GOLDEN TEXT.—If any man hath ears to hear, let him hear. Mark 4:23.

Memory Verse: God . . . careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—All of the discourses of our lesson were uttered in the autumn of AD. 28.

Place.—The discourses were all delivered around the shores of the sea of Galilee.

Parable of the Sower

"And again he began to teach by the sea side. And there is gathered unto him a very great multitude, so that he entered into a boat, and sat in the sea; and all the multitude were by the sea on the land. And he taught them many things in parables, and said unto them in his teaching."

A parable is a short moral or religious story of which the moral lesson is the substance. Parables have always been popular in the East. The rabbis commonly began to teach the young disciple in parables. Our Lord reversed their method. He began by the simple words of the Sermon on the Mount, then a change came, and He spoke in parable when He found the hardheartedness of the people.

The Sower and The Seed

"Hearken: Behold, the sower went forth to sow." The seed is, as the account of this parable indicates, nothing less than the very Word of God. As we shall see later, the Word has life, as a seed has life, and therefore it is able to produce something living in the hearts where it is implanted.

By The Way Side

"And it came to pass, as he sowed, some seed fell by the way side, and the birds came and devoured it." The parable here presents nothing unusual. It is simply the picture of a man in Palestine with a bag of seed over his shoulder, casting the seed until the field is sown. Some of the seed naturally will fall by the way side, that is, on a beaten path where the ground is hard, and where the seed cannot grow. As the seed is only safe from fowl when buried in the soil, so is the Word of life only safe against evil when it has sunk deep down into our hearts.

On Rocky Ground

"And another fell on the rocky ground, where it had not much earth; and straightway it sprang up, because it had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away." Nearness to the warm surface induced rapid growth, but it also led to the shortening of the young plant's life. The shallowness of the soil did not permit the plant to develop its roots. So with men, the same shallowness of nature which made them susceptible to the gospel and quickly responsive, makes them susceptible to pain, suffering, hardship, and easily defeated. It is so in all departments of life.

Among The Thorns

"And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit." These thorns our Lord likens to the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things. The idea here is that whoever lets these worries fill his heart will surely smother the word he has heard, for this deals with higher interests.

Into Good Ground

"And others fell into the good ground, and yielded fruit, growing up and increasing; and brought forth, thirtyfold, and sixtyfold, and a hundredfold." When life is done some show a harvest. Some never let the word in, some never let it root, some never let it grow up. Like all the Scripture revelations of man's sinful state, this one too aims at the conscience and repentance, thus opening the soul for gospel. The more it is opened the more fruit will there be in the end.

The Warning

"And he said, Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." This is rather a call to attention than an appeal to spiritual discernment, and yet such an appeal is naturally implied.

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed upon the earth; and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring up and grow, he knoweth not how." The earth is only the medium in which the seed grows. It has no life and can produce no life; all the life is in the seed. The seed must be brought to the earth by the will of someone. So is the human heart. The word must be cast into it by another, must lodge there and grow; then that heart has spiritual life in it, the living Word.

The Harvest

The earth beareth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the fruit is ripe, straightway he putteth forth the sickle, because the harvest is come." This teaches that when all that the Word of God is intended to accomplish on earth in this age has been accomplished, the harvest time will come when the Saints of God will be taken home.

Christ's Kingdom

"And he said, How shall we liken the kingdom of God? or in what parable shall we set it forth? It is like a grain of mustard seed which, when is is sown upon the earth, though it be less than all the seeds that are upon the earth, yet when it is sown, groweth up, and becometh greater than all the herbs, and putteth out great branches; so that the birds of the heaven can lodge under the shadow thereof." Christ's kingdom shall attract multitudes by the shelter and protection which it offers, shelter from worldly oppression and the great power of the devil.

CANADIANS SPEND CHRISTMAS IN ITALY

Shown here are hosts and guests at a Christmas party held in Italy by Canadian troops for children of an Italian kindergarten.

SCOUTING . . .

Nearly 14,000 proficiency badges were earned by the Wolf Cubs of Canada last year.

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Brigadier Alfred Keith, Young People's secretary of the Salvation Army, reports that every Boy Scout Leader in the Salvation Army has enlisted except one who is medically unfit. Every one has been replaced and Scout membership has been increased by 18 per cent.

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Toronto's 51st Boy Scout Troop has a unique record of enlistments in the armed forces. In the Sea Scout section, every eligible Scout, together with Scoutmaster William Fowler has joined the Canadian Navy as he became old enough. The land Scouts have an equally good record with two Scoutmasters, 11 assistant Scoutmasters, and 24 Scouts joining the army or air force. In all 76 boys have gone into the forces from this Troop, every one enlisting without being called up.

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Ralph Moses, McLeod, Alberta, Wolf Cub is the first Wolf Cub in Canada to be awarded the Cornwell Decoration, the Victoria Cross of Scouting. Confined to the Shriners' Hospital in Winnipeg for several years, and undergoing several painful operations he has continued his Cub training and has gained Two Star rank.

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Surrounded by hundreds of trophies and souvenirs of the late Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement, Canadian Scouts in the armed forces in Britain have formed a Canadian Overseas Rover Scout Crew. They met in Baden-Powell's room at Imperial Headquarters in London. In a body they attended Westminster Abbey where they were welcomed by the Dean. Later they visited the R.S.S. Discovery, in which Capt. Scott sailed to the South Pole. The Discovery is now owned by the Boy Scout Association and is used as a training ship for Sea Scouts.

Britain Still Finds Room For Refugees

Britain seems to be doing its part in finding homes for refugees, says the Sault Star. Sixty thousand non-British refugees have been admitted to various parts of the United Kingdom since May, 1940, and they still are arriving at the rate of 800 a month, the Foreign Office has disclosed. The announcement said 40,000 Polish refugees were being removed from Iran to East and South Africa, India, Palestine and Mexico through efforts of the governments concerned.

EARTH-PIG

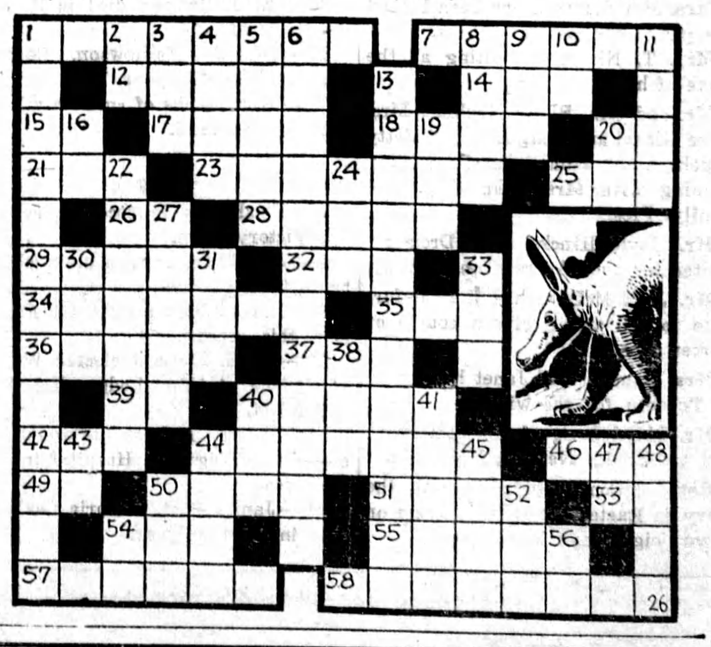
HORIZONTAL

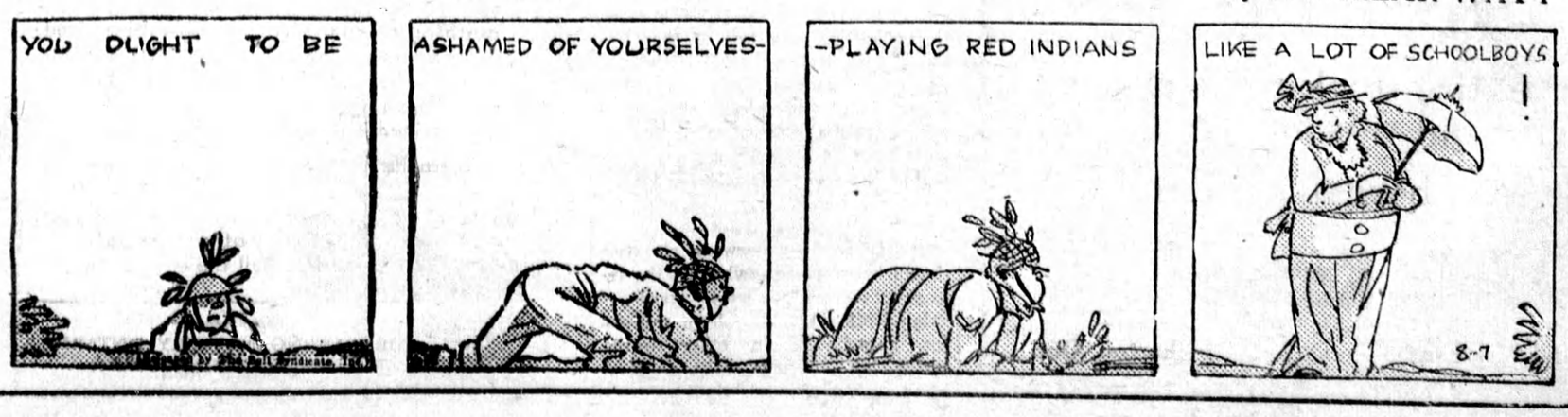
1 Pictured animal.
7 It is a ——.
12 Flock of animals.
14 Not good.
15 Symbol for cobalt.
17 Beverages.
18 Encounter.
20 Plural (abbr.)
21 Spherical body.
23 Musical instrument.
25 Babylonian deity.
26 Editor (abbr.)
28 Ordeal.
29 Attitudinizes.
32 Short-napped fabric.
34 Bordered (bot.).
35 Sorrowful.
36 Pertaining to the ileum.
37 Two hundred and one (Roman).
39 Arabic (abbr.)
40 Endured.
42 Pronoun.
44 Ladler.
46 Eccentric wheel.
49 Within.
50 Burn to a cinder.
51 At a distance.
53 Behold!
54 Life (comb. form).
55 Dogma.
57 Sorts.
58 Mockers.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

VERTICAL

1 Doing.
2 Royal Dragoons (abbr.).
3 Measure.
4 Unit of electromotive force.
5 Turn aside.
6 Reanimators.
8 Instigate.
9 Grow thick together.
10 Doctor of Medicine (abbr.).
11 Soothe.
13 Dispassionate.
16 Either.
19 Elongated fish.
20 Measure.
22 Bedaub.
24 My (Italian).
27 Preclude.
30 Lubricate.
31 Algonquian Indian.
33 Bustle.
38 Dove's cry.
40 Health resort.
41 Delay.
43 Half an em.
44 Foot covering.
45 Hindu queen.
47 Indian mulberry.
48 Swamp.
50 Chief.
52 Color.
54 The soul (Egypt.).
56 Symbol for tellurium.



POP—Then Why Is She Masquerading?

By J. MILLAR WATT