

THE BEATITUDES OF NATURE

Blest be our woods of hemlock, maple, pine, balsam, birch, dear Lord our blest be their bubbling springs, their rippling lakes, their ponds and every laughing brook that makes Rainbows and foam and crystal homes for trout. Blest be the trails that wander in and out Among ivy boulders drowned in soft green seas Of velvet moss! Oh, blest be all of these!

A Question Of Prestige

By Joseph Lister Rutledge Many people have argued the relative merits and limitations of the British and American systems of government. The situation at the moment seems to give point to these differences, and not to the disadvantages of our system. As Mr. Arthur Kroek has pointed out in the New York Times, there is always a tendency for a president's prestige to wane as the end of his term approaches. More especially must this be true of one whose appointment was by succession rather than by election, and who, due to disaffection within his party, has no definite assurance of election for a further term. This situation is becoming a serious menace to U.S. presidential influence at a time when such influence is of first importance to the world.

ENGLAND TO MAKE "STEEL" TIRES

A factory is now being built at Stoke-on-Trent, England, for the manufacture of new steel tyre tires. The body will be of metal and rubber bonded together. The cover, thoroughly pliable, will be less than half the normal thickness. Many advantages are claimed for these "metal" tires. They will be nail-proof—a thick pad of rubber between the tire and the air-filled inner tube will absorb the points of nails and fillets. They will enable motorists to reach very high speeds with the knowledge that the heat thus generated will not affect the "metal" walls. A softer more resilient ride will be provided and it will be possible to carry heavier loads. Finally, the new tire will be a "dollar saver" since the American carbon black used in the rubber tire wearing qualities will be needed.

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The Sunday School Lesson

FOR SUNDAY, MAY 2

WHAT MAKES A REAL LEADER?

Golden Text: So we built the wall for the people had a mind to work. Neh. 4:3.

Lesson Text: Neh. 4: 1-6, 13, 14, 21-23; 6: 15-16

Exposition I. Riddle: met by Prayer, 4: 1-6.

Nehemiah's great work became the envy of the enemies of the Lord. They fell back on arrogant abuse of the Jews. With their mockery they sought to discourage God's people. But Nehemiah sets a great example of praying through to victory. "So we built the wall," he says. "For the people had a mind to work." God's work gets done when God's people are determined to do it. Nothing so angers the enemies of God as the activity and progress of His people. As long as the enemies of the captivity were in great affliction and reproach, and the walls of Jerusalem broken down (ch. 1: 3), Sanballat and the whole host of Israel's ancient enemies were quite content; but as soon as they heard that a man was come to seek the welfare of the children of Israel, "It grieved them exceedingly" (ch. 2: 10). And now that success attended his efforts, they were "very wrath."

We notice that Sanballat and his colleagues showed their anger in a very practical way: "they conspired all of them together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion therein." They were not so much at one among themselves; indeed, they had grave differences; but they were one in their hate of God and His people, so they "conspired all of them together." The same thing was seen in Christ's day when those bitter enemies, the Pharisees and Sadducees, conspired together against Him. And so today the most antagonistic classes make common cause against Christ and His church (Ps. 2: 1-5; Isa. 8: 9, 10).

A wonderful "nevertheless" that in v. 9. It looked dark and stormy but Nehemiah knew to whom to look in such an hour, so it all came out right. There can never be an emergency arise in Christian life and service where prayer is not the key to the situation (1S. 30: 15; Ac. 4: 23-31). Again and again has God delivered His people in answer to their prayers, when deliverance has seemed absolutely impossible (2 Chron. 32: 20, 21; 20: 1-4, 17, 22-24). Often the people of God in their extremity cry, "What shall we do, what shall we do?" "Pray," is God's answer. If Nehemiah and the people had taken themselves to their own resources the work would have come to nothing, but they took themselves to God, and so they escaped all the devices of their enemies. But they did not pray and sit down and do nothing. "They set a watch against them day and night." Watching and praying should go hand in hand (Matt. 26: 41; Luke 21: 36). Casting all our care upon Him is not inconsistent with being vigilant ourselves (1 Pet. 5: 7, 8). "And Judah said, 'we are not able to build the wall,' this was more serious trouble than the former, for it was trouble from within. Opposition from without is never as serious a matter as discouragement within. The people in Nehemiah's day really had no just cause for their discouragement. It is true there was "much rubbish," but it was quite within their power to clear it away. While Judah was thus talking within, the "adversaries" were also talking without. They said, "they shall not know," etc., but they did know. Their adversaries had forgotten that God was on their side. That is what the adversaries of God's people constantly forget. Nehemiah acted with great prudence (v. 13). He saw to it that the people were fully armed (cf. Eph. 6: 11-18) and especially guarded the weak places. If, Trust in Jehovah and Watchfulness Triumphed, 13, 14, 21-23; 6: 15, 16.

Why should God's children ever be afraid of God's enemies (Rom. 8: 31). How constantly that refrain occurs in the Bible, "fear not," be not afraid." Note Nehemiah's cure for fright before our enemies: "Remember the Lord"; that is it, "remember the Lord" (cf. Job. 14: 1). We might well be frightened if we thought of ourselves, but don't think of yourself, think of Him. And when they had remembered the Lord what were they to do? "And fight." Our remembrance of the mighty God should not lead us to sit down, but should give us courage to "fight." It is to a warrior life that God calls us (2 Tim. 2: 3), and we are to get strength and courage for the fight, not by thinking upon ourselves but upon Him. Nehemiah's words had their intended effect and their enemies rightly divined that it was not Nehemiah but God who "had brought their counsel to naught" (cf. Ps. 33: 10, 11). They found for themselves that "there is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord" (Prov. 21: 30). When the enemy was foiled

"everyone" returned "unto his work, not to someone else's work but to "his work." Half fought and half wrought. We need to-day fighting Christians and working Christians, warriors and builders. The rulers backed up the workers. Too often the rulers are on the backs of the people instead of at the backs of the people. They worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other. That is what the Christian often has to do. Nehemiah watched and controlled all, and the man to sound the trumpet was right by his side. He was ready at every moment for the battle. So ought the Christian to be. He had no fear of the issue, for he could say, "Our God shall fight for us." The believer can always say the same and so victory is always sure.

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NEWS and VIEWS

Of Halton Farm Interest

Halton Crop Improvement Association Conducts Liming Tests Lime in various forms has been used for soil improvement purposes ever since the history of agriculture has been recorded. Early English records report "the sinking of pits to obtain lime for the chalking of the fields" and the first experienced farmers agreed that "chalking the lands was the best mode of culture they are capable of receiving." The durative and productive results obtained from such applications gave rise to the lime-honest truth "A limestone country is a rich country."

A limestone country is rich because normally it will produce bumper crops of legumes which means the accumulation of atmospheric nitrogen in the soil maintaining the organic matter supply and the stand of legumes, which provide a cheap source of high protein feed. On a soil well supplied with lime, fertilizers are more efficient and quicker returns are obtained from farm-yard or green manure plowed down.

There are two principal effects produced by applying lime to soils, one of these is to furnish a base for neutralizing the acids that may exist in the soils and to aid the processes of storing nitrogen in the soil and the other is a more active decomposition in the soil, especially the organic matter content, thus releasing for immediate use the native plant nutrients such as the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potassium compounds locked up in the soil.

The Soils Dept. of the Ontario Agricultural College gave a good deal of study to the subject on Soil Fertility Plots near Welland between 1922 and 1931. Application of two tons per acre of agricultural limestone were made in 1921 and again in 1931. The legume hay gave the largest return from the lime, followed by oats, corn and wheat. Apparently the residual effect of the legumes, through increased nitrogen gathered into the soil, was beneficial to the grain and corn crops. A study of the results secured over the ten year period certainly presents an excellent case from an economic standpoint for the use of lime and phosphate on the heavy clay soils of Welland County. Halton Crop leaders hope to find out if similar results can be secured on the acid soils of Halton. With this thought in mind, liming demonstrations have been laid down with 19 Halton farmers during the past few weeks. Co-operators include Vernon McArthur, Brock Harris, Mark Alton and Son, Walker Gurney and Son, M. T. Watson and Sons, J. H. Taylor, Wm. Lucas and Son, Ross Segsworth, George Brecken and Son, W. E. Brecken, H. Burkholder & Son, and R. E. Abbott of Nelson Township; V. J. Lawrence, L. B. Marchment and Son, E. McMillan and Son, Wm. Alderson and Son, Leitch Bros., of Trafalgar Township; Cedric Harrop and A. M. Brain and Son of Exeter Township.

Dollars With A Future

Equality of opportunity for young Canadians, this was one of the objectives of the Family Allowance Plan. Realizing the importance of an education in opening the doors of opportunity for their children, some parents are depositing all or part of their Family Allowance cheques in special savings accounts at the Bank of Montreal. "Parents are pleasantly surprised to find how quickly their savings fund mounts up when cheques are deposited regularly," said William Clayton, manager of the Bank of Montreal here. "If a baby's First Family Allowance cheque goes into a new bank account, and is saved regularly, the child will have over \$1,000 to his credit at the age of sixteen." "Such a cash reserve can be a tremendous help in making dreams for an education come true," Mr. Clayton added. "The money can be drawn out at any time, of course, to meet an emergency or some opportunity. But many parents prefer to consider it a special Education Fund. We'll be glad to open an account for any interested parent."

We understand that most of the limestone being applied in Halton this spring is being trucked from Dundas where it is loaded on trucks at \$1.25 per ton. In order to assist with the cost of transportation the Ontario Department of Agriculture will pay three cents per ton mile with a minimum grant of 50c per ton and a maximum grant of \$1.00 per ton. In order to secure this assistance, Halton farmers who are interested should contact the Agricultural Office, Milton and secure a permit previous to securing their requirements. Needless to add, the first step is to have your soil tested, and we would suggest that you contact Agric. Representative J. E. Whitlock to secure full information on the subject.

Palermo and Milton Junior Farmers Elect New Officers The annual meetings of the Palermo and Milton Junior Farmers were held recently. The new officers elected are as follows: Palermo Junior Farmers—Pres., Lloyd Vivian; Vice Pres., Jack Watson; Sec. Treas., Dave Pelletier; Directors, John Vanzickie, Arthur Spencer and Fred Bell. Milton Junior Institute—Pres., Eria Wendover; 1st Vice Pres., Betty Burkholder; 2nd Vice Pres.,

Anna Pelletier; Sec. Treas., Lorne Lawrence; Asst. Sec., Jean McPeckers; County Director, Helen Spencer; Club Directors, Violet Ingham, Evelyn Pelletier and Mildred Lucas. Milton Junior Farmers— Pres., Wm. Lawson; Vice Pres., Keith Merry; Sec. Treas., Roy Brownridge; Directors, John Richardson, Stanley Jay and Gordon Hurron. Milton Junior Institute— Pres., Vera May; Vice Pres., Wilma Thompson; Sec. Treas., Inez Chapman; Asst. Sec., Marjorie Cunningham; County Director, Evelyn Stokes; Club Director, Marjorie McCready, Evelyn Pickering, Betty Richardson.

Field Days Scheduled for June Spring seedling got under way in Halton on April 16 but early frosts have been rudely dashed by frequent April showers. On some of the higher, more leamy farms seedling is well advanced but in general the bulk of the spring crop still remains to be sown. On Thursday and Friday last tractors and drills were out in full force in many sections of south Halton but on the heavier soils in the Georgetown district the land was still too soggy. The unfavorable seedling condition has, however, been extremely favorable to the fall wheat and meadows. Ontario needs a full crop this year, so here's hoping the coming week will be more favorable. It has often been said that farm people are the most optimistic in the world and already a number of Halton organizations have plans under way for their annual field days.

Halton Juniors will start the ball rolling with their annual judging competitions and achievement day on Saturday, June 5th; this will be followed by the big annual gilgrimage of the Halton and Jersey folk to Guelph, on Saturday, June 12th; the Halton Federation of Agriculture is also making plans for their third annual field day. This popular event we understand, is likely to be held at the new recreational centre at Lawville on Saturday, June 19th, and during the same week, June 14 to 18, as annual farmers' week at the O.A.C. June is always the popular month for the family picnics and reunions so all in all it looks like a busy month but what season isn't for farm people? During the past year or so we've all read of the recent developments by science in making preservation perhaps some day they'll also learn how to turn it off!

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