The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1948

A GOOD WORKMAN

Golden Text — Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. Eccl. 9: 10.
Chron. 1: 5.

Lesson Text—Ex. 31: 1-11; 2
Exposition—I God's Call of Bezalel, 31: 1-5.

Building the tabernacle required highly skilled workmen. The plan of its construction had been revealed to Moses (ch. 25 to 31). Even the minute details as to materials they were to work on and the finished work was provided. It was a type of work for which Moses had not been trained. Neither had any of the Israelites. They were laborers in brick and keepers of herds and flocks. The slave character of the Israelites did not fit them to work in fine linen, choice wood, precious metals and valuable jewels. When they left Europe, the terror stricken Egyptians loaded them with gifts and jewels evidently to placate what would be to them the anger of Israel's God (Ex. 12: 35-36). But these were valuables with which they had no skill in the making. Consequently, the building of the tabernacle required specially endowed workmen.

The first of these is Bezalel. It is signifigant that this workman was called by NAME (Ex. 35: 30). It shows God's knowledge of the man. Although he was a workman, he was such as to be worthy of God's election for a specific task. In this way God calls men and women for special duties. He called Abram (Gen. 12: 1), Moses Ex. 3: 4), Gideon (Jud. 6: 11-13) Samuel (1 Sam. 3: 1-4) by name, as Jesus called his disciples (Matt. 9: 9; Jno 1: 39, 43) Jesus knows His creatures, reads our hearts, knows our way (Heb. 4: 13; Jno 2: 23-25). God was able to know the nature of Bezalel's inner life. He knew that there was an artistic talent in him, which divinely endowed, could do the work needed to be done. How many were passed by in the election of Belazel, we do not know, but there would be many (Matt. 13: 58). He was chosen because he was pliable in the hand and under the power of God to be such a workman as would be pleasing unto Him. He became the superintendent of the construction. The idea of the tabernacle was transmitted from God through Moses to him. All the capacities resident in him to do excellent work requiring choice capacities for the finest art were laid hold of by God. Under the enriching enduement of God's spirit he became a true master workman. This is the divine plan. Workmen are also servants of God; in fact, they are first of all His servants (2 Tim. 2:21; Matt. 6: 33; Eph. 6: 5-9; Jas. 5: 9).

Belazel was the grandson of Uri. A Jewish tradition says that Uri was the husband of Miriam, Moses' sister and the same one that assisted Aaron in holding up the arms of Moses (Ex. 17: 10-12). If so, it would illustrate the power of spiritual example and training in children and grandchildren. Good, conscientious workmen are usually goodly parents who instil reverence and obedience to God in their children. What great talents the Lord can sanctify in children which come out of godly homes (Eph. 6: 1-4)!

II Aholiab is Called, 6-11.

Aholiab was of the tribe of Dan, an obscure people, but not so much so that God could not call one of their number. There is no respect of persons with God (Ac. 10: 34; 1 Cor. 1: 26, 27). He was, however of such character and faith that God could call him for a special task. In Aholiab, also, God put wisdom. That is, there being talent in the man and the heart of the man being wholly devoted to God he is made the recipient of special wisdom for the work unto which God would call him (Ac. 13:1, 2). Aholiab had a capacity for construction. Both he and Bezalel were given ability to select workmen and to give them direction in the special work God wanted done (v. 6; Ex. 35: 30-35).

In all of this, note that God is revealed as the sovereign commander and employer of mankind (Gen. 2: 8). Skill in the common arts and employments is the gift of God. Not only is He the bestower of the original gift, but He is the only One who can show us the best improvement of our faculties. When men take their natural aptitudes and devote them to unholy ambition, to purely secular vocations without thoughts of God and maybe so employ them that they serve Satan more than God, they are sinners in their work and for such will invite the judgment of God.

III. An Enduring Work for God, 2 Chron. 1: 15.

This verse shows the lasting value of work done as unto the Lord and not to men. Hundreds of years after Bezalel and Aholiah had finished their work, the fruit of their labors is still a service to God and to the people of another day. It was still a guide unto men to seek and find the Lord. Let us so live and labor (Prov. 17: 6; Isa. 63: 8).

We are beset on all sides with troubles emanating from lack of agreement between employers and workers, capital and labor. We need some of the advice given in our Golden Text, "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might (Eccl 9: 10). If the workman has the right spirit he will love his work and have pride in his accomplshment because he is given the opportunity to express himself through his task. If the employer has the proper consideration for his employees and is actuated by the desire to see the workmen in his shop, the clerks in his office receive fair treatment as to working conditions and salary, "for the laborer is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10: 7). If mutual trust and honest relations are sought we shall have gone far toward solving these thorny problems (Matt. 7: 12)

WAR PLANTS NOW HELP AGRICULTURE

Thanks to the development of the three ammonium nitrate plants in Canada for the manufacture of explosives during the war, some 250,000 tons of this material is now being made annually at these plants for fertilizer purposes, says G. S. Peart, Plant Products Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture. It is granular in form and each granule is coated with a moisture-resisting substance so that the product will remain dry and of satisfactory mechanical condition for fertilizer use.

It has virtually replaced nitrate of soda in Canada for two principal reasons. First, it contains about 33 per cent of nitrogen as compared with 16 per cent in nitrate of soda. One half of the 33 per cent is in nitrate form, so that there is actually as much nitrate nitrogen in ammonium nitrate as in nitrate of soda. In addition, the ammonium nitrate supplies 16 per cent of ammonia nitrogen which further enhances its value. Second, the cost per unit of nitrogen is usually much lower which from the farmers standpoint is very important indeed.

During the fertilizer year ended June 30, 1947, some 28,000 tons of ammonium nitrate was used in Canada for fertilizer purposes. About 22,000 tons was used as an ingredient of mixed fertilizers, and about 6,000 tons for single application on orchards and for side dressing vegetable crops. During the same year, only about 300 tons of nitrate of soda was used in Canada, as against several thousand tons per year before the war.

JUDGES IN LABOR DISPUTES

Should Canadian judges serve on conciliation boards in labor disputes? If they do so, does it tend to bring the judiciary into disrepute? The question has been discussed frankly in Parliament; and answers to a Financial Post questionnnaire reveal a fairly even division of public opinion on the subject. Some hold that judges, by reason of their training and their impartial office, are ideally qualified to serve on such boards. Others argue that such duties leave judges open to criticism from those whom their awards do not please; and thus may tend to impair the reputation of the Bench in general. Some suggested that retired judges might be eligible for conciliation tasks; others suggested lawyers, as possessing many of the same qualifications as judges.

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NEWS and VIEWS

Of Halton Farm Interest

Passing of E. J. Meagher Shocks Halton Holstein Fraternity

The announcement of the passing of E. J. Meagher, of Graymar Farm, Trafalgar Twp., on Thursday July 1st, shocked his wide circle of friends in Halton. Comparatively few of his fellow Holstein breeders had known of his recent illness. His herd of Graymar Holsteins, under his personal supervision, had in recent years won international recognition as one of the top Holstein herds on the continent. Animals bred at Graymar Farm by Eddie Meagher have not only won championship awards at the Halton County Holstein Show, but also have established Canadian Championship records of production.

His quiet unassuming manner and his generous and active cooperation with all Halton Holstein Club activities had won for him a host of friends in Halton to whom his passing marks a tragic loss.

Ceiling on Winter Wheat Removed

In case some of our readers missed the announcement in the daily press by the Canadian Wheat Bd. on or around June 18, here is a quotation from such announcement.

"In considering Ontario Winter Wheat policy for the crop year commencing July 1st, 1948, the Government has decided that the price ceiling on Ontario Winter Wheat can be removed and this action will be effective as of today the eighteenth of June. The present Treasury payment of eight cents per bushel is discontinued with the removal of the price ceiling. This means that the price of Ontario Winter Wheat will be free to find its own level after prevailing conditions".

Since the above announcement was issued all export resetrictions have been removed and wheat is currently quoted around the $1.75 mark. It has been reported to us that under the Marshall plan experts from participating countries must not sell above the American price and at the present time American winter wheat flour is selling in the West Indies at the equivalent price of $1.75 per bushel in New York. We cannot vouch for the authenticity of the above statement but it was secured from a reliable source. If correct, it would appear to more or less establish a set price based on the price of American Winter Wheat which price does seem to be out of line with that of hard spring wheat which is selling across the line at $2.40 per bushel.

Showery Weather Delays Haying Operations

During the past two or three weeks little or no progress has been made in the handling of Halton's hay crop. The frequent showers while spoiling some hay and delaying the progress of farm work, have improved spring grain prospects materially. Winter wheat looks like a bumper crop although some fields are beginning to lodge.

In the fruit and vegetable sections of Halton prospects are also very promising. As usual the biggest headache is lack of experienced or even partially experienced farm labour. While the consumer is bemoaning the high cost of many farm products, farm revenue is still too low to compare with industry in the labour market. Halton is one of the very few counties in Ontario where the Federal Government has failed to establish an employment service. Consequently the job of attempting to cope with the demand for farm labour has as in former years been left on the door-step of the Agricultural office at Milton. In a brief interview with the Agricultural Representative we learned that while a few Westerner Harvesters, a few British immigrants, some Hollanders, a few more European D.P.'s and some holiday workers from Toronto, have been secured the demand far exceeds those secured, which totals around 50 from all sources.

High Yield Soybean Contest

The Ontario Crop Improvement Association in co-operation with Victory Mills Ltd., and Toronto Elevators Ltd., is sponsoring a High Yield Soy Bean contest. Entries close on July 12th. In order to qualify it is necessary for each contestant to have at least five acres. A total of $100 in 8 prizes is offered in this district. Those interested can secure further details and entry forms from the Agricultural office in Milton.

A British steamer afire was towed from Bologne to Dover, because the Dover fire department was better equipped to put out the fire.

FOR SERVICES RENDERED

It was rather in the manner of newly appointed subalterns appearing before the C.O. that E. B. Jolliffe and five of his elected CCF candidates were paraded before the Toronto Labour Council recently and told what was expected of them. Having accepted the organized support of the Ontario Federation of Labour, plus a $100,000 campaign fund, there was nothing else they could do.

And so the incumbents were bombarded with mandatory suggestions, out of which it became clear that Mr. Jolliffe has made sufficient room in his CCF driver's seat to accomodate senior union officials. Hence vanishes the CCF claim to be a representative party —a claim which the election result shows the farmers never really believed anyway. If the CCF ever obtain power in Ontario, Mr. Jolliffe might still the loudspeaker, but the records would be put on by the union bosses.

There is no report that the CCF leader complained at the presence of communist delegates to the meeting, despite his repudiation of communism and all its works. There they were; and they were his supporters. As communist A. A. MacLeod put it, in a post-election radio address: "Without our unity at the polls, the CCF would never have won eleven seats in the Legislature from the Toronto area." Mr. Jolliffe is now an honorary Comrade and he knows it.

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THE OLD AND THE NEW IN FLYING

ELEVEN YEARS IN AVIATION —It is a far cry from the planes used when Trans-Canada Air Lines first began operations in 1937 to the huge 40-passenger, pressurized North Star which officially entered transcontinental service on June 1. When TCA began transcontinental operations in April, 1939, the Lockheed 10-passenger, shown below, was sufficient to meet traffic demands. Air travel has grown to such an extent in the past 11 years that the Lockheeds have been replaced with the powerful four-engined North Star shown at top. It is Canada's largest and fastest plane and holds a transcontinental speed record. On June 1 the new TCA plane also entered inter-city and trans-Atlantic service