

### NEWS and VIEWS

Of Halton Farm Interest

#### Spring Hog Production Up

Half a million more hogs were marketed in the first five and a half months of this year than last. The increase is general in all provinces.

Apparently the gloom prophets were wrong again! Remember the walls last fall that the hog business was shot and everyone was selling sows and going out of business?

What really did happen? Even the most optimistic estimates were exceeded. Prices went up and the volume of hogs marketed fooled farmers, packers, and government authorities. As a matter of fact, more hogs were marketed by June 5th than were expected by July 1st.

Elgin Swann, Supervising Grade of Live Stock Products, Federal Dept. of Agriculture recently stated that big increases are expected for July, August and September, over the same three months of last year. The West is expected to market 23% more hogs than last year, and the East about 5% less. The estimated increase for the first nine months for the West is 35%, and for the East 20%, making an all-over production for Canada over the same period of nearly 50%.

#### The British Bacon Situation—What Will We Do

What a change from the war years! Maybe we've raised more bacon for Britain this year than she can buy. 195 million pounds was the bacon quota bargained for 1948 by Britain and Canada. In the first five months of 1948, Canada had already shipped 136 million pounds of bacon and had early in June another 10 million pounds ready for shipment. That leaves approximately 48 million pounds to be shipped in the remaining 7 months. It is however, much too early to get unduly excited. Our good Canadian bacon isn't going to be dumped into the ocean. Too many factors point the other way. A very serious food shortage still exists in the world. Our beef quota to Britain isn't being filled. Part of the money Britain allocated for our beef may be switched to purchase additional bacon. The Marshall plan, for feeding Europe will likely effect our bacon situation. It seems quite probable that Canadian beef will soon go to the United States at increased prices. If this occurs beef prices will rise and pork prices will be in greater demand by Canadian housewives to replace higher priced beef cuts.

#### Good Progress With Haying—Last Week

Favoured by good weather the latter part of last week, good progress has been made with the hay. Some of the earlier cut hay was pretty badly weathered and as a matter of fact some of it isn't very much better than bedding. The later cut, however has been brought in in good condition but is rather too mature to make the best quality. By the time this appears in print some of the winter wheat will be in stock. In general the wheat is a bulky crop and will take a lot of handling. It is always dangerous to estimate yields before the crop is in the barn; but some fields we have been in look like 45 or 50 bu. crops; others are on the thin side, but the average for the County should beat 30 bushels. Farm labor is still in strong demand. The Agricultural Office at Milton report placing a total of 25 farm workers in recent weeks. Some 32 of these were Western Farm Hands, with the balance made up of British immigrants. It is quite probable that Canadian beef will soon go to the United States at increased prices. If this occurs beef prices will rise and pork prices will be in greater demand by Canadian housewives to replace higher priced beef cuts.

#### SUBSTITUTE FOR JUTE

To provide South African agriculture with a steady supply of native fibre for bags, Deccan hemp or "wild hollyhock" is being grown experimentally. The first crop of 500 acres has been harvested and a factory for extracting the fibre is already under construction.

### The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 1948

#### WHEN FAITH CONSIDERS

Golden Text—Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Ruth 1:16.

Lesson Text—Ruth 1: 16-18; 2: 20; 4: 14-17.

Exposition—1. Ruth's love for Naomi, 1: 16-18.

Ruth, the heroine of the story and one of the most beautiful women of the Old Testament, was a Moabitess by birth (ch. 2: 26). The Moabites were not only hated but under a special ban (Deut. 23: 3). Yet Ruth was excited to God through faith to become the ancestress of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1: 5, 6). The man she married was the son of a woman who had been a harlot. The purpose of this story in the history of Israel is to show how God even under the old dispensation was "no respecter of persons" (Ac. 10: 34, 35). In some respects Ruth was very like Mary the mother of Jesus (Luke 1: 26-30). This story belongs to the time of the Judges (v. 1). From it we get a more pleasant view of the time of the Judges than that which we get from the Book of Judges.

Naomi is returning to her people and they have reached the dividing line between Moab and Judah. Three times did Naomi urge her daughters-in-law to return to their homes (vs. 8, 11, 12). It was not that she did not desire their company, but she sought their gain. There seemed to be nothing for them to gain by going on with her (v. 12). The one daughter-in-law reluctantly forsook her, the other clung to her (v. 11). It illustrates that place in our experience when we have to decide whether to leave home and friends and everything and go on with Christ, or to turn our backs on the world and loved ones. Ruth's attitude of love that left all to go with Naomi illustrates what our attitude toward Jesus should be. From the worldly standpoint Orpah seemed to make the wiser choice. But Ruth gained the most. When we become Christians we may suffer the loss of all things, but we gain more than we lose (Phil. 3: 9; Rom. 8: 18). Ruth had no more chance to go back. Naomi based her final

appeal to Ruth to go back upon Ruth's love for Orpah. One of the strongest motives for loving nature is forsaking the Lord is love for those who are in the world. But while Ruth loved Orpah, she loved Naomi more (cf. Matt. 10: 37). No love of any human being will draw away from Jesus the one who really loves Him (2 Cor. 5: 14). Orpah was not "far from the kingdom" (cf. Mk. 12: 34), but she did not enter it. Naomi would not have them go with her without fully counting the cost (Luke 14: 28-33). Ruth's reply to Naomi was one of the most beautiful that ever fell from human lips (vs. 16, 17). It shows what pure love existed in those rude days. It illustrates wonderfully what our attitude should be toward Him whom we love supremely. Ruth meant every word of it and lived up to it. Do we, when we say it to Jesus? If we live as we ought and miss the life of our God we will draw men from the love of Him. Ruth was really making a choice of Jehovah (ch. 2: 12). Quite likely the life of Mahlon her husband had had something to do with it. More real heroism of faith was shown in the action of Ruth than in the daring exploits recorded in Judges. The truest heroism today is displayed by the self-sacrificing acts of tender women in home life and not by the warriors. Ruth did not stop to ask where Naomi was going, whithersoever it might be.

she would go, also. So should we go with Jesus (Jno. 12: 26). It paid Ruth, and it will pay us. The blood but in Bethlehem would be sweeter to Ruth than the finest palace in Moab because Naomi was there (cf. Phil. 1: 23). Christ's people should be our people, Christ's God our God. Where Christ dies, we should die (Gal. 2: 20). We should be buried too, with Him we love (v. 17; cf. Rom. 6: 4). But we can go beyond Ruth in her words to Naomi; for we not only die and are buried in Him, but also rise with Him (Eph. 2: 6; Col. 3: 1). Ruth would think of nothing as separating them but death; even death will not separate us from Christ (Rom. 8: 38, 39; 2 Cor. 5: 8; R. V., Phil. 1: 23). Naomi saw the whole-heartedness of Ruth's love and accepted it. Christ will accept such love from us and no other.

II. A Redeemer Kinsman for Ruth, 2: 20; 4: 14-17.

In the providence of God Ruth is brought to know Boaz. Naomi's husband's kinsman (ch. 2: 1). Finding favour in the sight of Boaz, Ruth's future is assured (v. 20). It being the law of Israel that the nearest kinsman should continue the family line and Boaz being the next in order but one, he is willing should this nearest kinsman be unwilling to assume the responsibility. The test is made at the gate (ch. 4: 1-10) and Boaz takes Ruth to be his wife. A son is born named Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David (1: 17). The interesting domestic episode traces the genealogy of David, in whose ancestry Jew and Gentile are inseparably joined.

See the tender and generous regard for the honor of the dead and the gracious care bestowed on a widow and a stranger, neither of which is able to return the kindness (Luke 14: 14). But the spiritual and all important lesson is that the Lord Jesus is our God, our everliving Redeemer (Mk. 10: 45). He is the Boaz of the Church, which is His bride, purchased with His own blood (Eph. 5: 26-32; 1 Pet. 1: 17, 18; Rev. 19: 7-9). As Ruth must have owed her obligations to Boaz, so we who are the Lord's redeemed ones need to recognize our debt to Him. As Boaz called witnesses to what he did, so Christ has appointed us His witnesses (Ac. 1: 8). Further, the whole incident of Ruth and Boaz is filled with prayer and praise. So is the relationship of the Christian to His Redeemer (Jno. 14: 13-15; Eph. 6: 18; Rev. 5: 8-10).

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#### BRITAIN BUILDS 200,000 HOUSES NEXT YEAR

A revised housing program for the coming year has just been announced by the Minister of Health. At the time of last year's cuts in capital expenditure it was estimated that the annual rate of construction would fall to 140,000 houses after the present month. It is now intended to maintain the present rate of 200,000 houses a month until the end of the year. The provisional program of 200,000 houses for 1949 has been decided upon in relation to the probable supplies of soft timber.

#### QUEST FINN

Only four, Jimmy has already discovered that being a man has a certain market-value if you happen to be situated among a lot of females. It was, he found, good business, to go up to one of the over-numerous little girls on his street and ask wistfully, "Did your mother give you that apple?" and then followed up this tact introduction by the gracious suggestion, "If you'll give it to me, I'll play with you."

Just how or when, this commercial transaction entered on some darker phase is not explained, but five-year-old Marion coming in from play one afternoon, had a very serious expression. "Mother," she said, "Our teacher says that if we can't say something nice about a person, we shouldn't say anything at all. Is that right mother?"

Mother agreed. "Well," said Marion, "in that case you will not hear me making any reference in the future to young Jimmy-down-the-street."

A farm wife spends as many as 12 hours a day in the kitchen. No wonder she is insisting on good kitchen facilities.

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