

At Home

Come in & Chat Awhile
—Ruth Raeburn.

In 1906 the Rev. R. Walter Wright had his book of poems, "Among the Immortals," published by William Briggs, Toronto. These are songs and sonnets from the Hebrew and there is one of these on each book in the Bible. The sonnet entitled "Genesis" begins with reference to the Only One.

"God! and God alone; and naught beside—no height
Nor depth; no time in hours or days or years;"

and continues enumerating the things that are not and ending with a tribute that rings with beauty as does the Hallelujah Chorus—

"Fullness of all Majesty
And Power, Sum of Universal Force!
Jehovah; Being Absolute and Source
Of Thine Eternal Self; Not the Unknown.

For there were none to know—God,
God alone—
"In the beginning," one supernal "Me."

In the song on the book of Exodus the author pays a beautiful tribute to the nation "that entwines its mystic influence round all years of time; whose God is God of all, whose great Messiah is the fact sublime on which doth lean the hopes of all the world."

Leviticus summary in song tells 'tis of the "One mighty woe through all the years has lain with untold burden on the human heart—sin's agony and insufferable smart." Even though all things "failed to impart a regnant holiness to lives profane" yet there were "Simeons true peered through the dark the coming Christ to see."

In the sonnet, "Numbers," the author compares the story of the nation with our own lives and how true a picture he depicts.

"And so the land of promise, looming night with rest and fruitfulness, we enter not."
Our Creator has provided for everyone so many places of rest and fruitfulness and we enter not.

Deuteronomy's song is one we might often sing, it is so applicable to our everyday life. We are so prone to glance backward and not always are we giving thanks for deliverance from the portion that might have been ours.

The author tells us that the only use the past can be is "The thought of thankfulness and warning. That we win new sense of God and self, and so begin a fiercer fight than we have fought."

Joshua's summary is a delightful tribute to a man whose work was well done. "A patriot true he sought to raise, by faith in God and man, his nation higher." He was "a man of deeds and daring," and "he never learned the coward's guileful arts."

"The Book of Judges is the Great Rapids of Israelitish history, torn and turbulent, yet ever flowing onward in its providential way." The author compares the history of the Israelites as recorded in the Book of Judges to one of Nature's great wonders, "The Rapids." The chosen people of God did just as those who know the rapids see them do:

"Rising like incense
Of prayer to Jehovah;
Rushing in torrents,
Free and resistless."

Ruth
"A heroine, not of the sword or spear,
But of the sweet simplicities of home."
This synopsis in this sonnet of that beautiful small biography in the Bible is very true and brings to the readers the beauty of character found in Ruth and in all maidens of pure heart.

"She loved those higher, nobler thoughts that come
To souls with questful eyes, asking large room,
Where God and Truth may find their perfect sphere."

Samuel
Look at the author's biography of Samuel in youthful days; brief and so descriptive:
"His youth a crown of morning glories
Of consecration to his God."

How true it is in life, if we are ready to fill a big place God always opens the door of opportunity.

"'Twas a dark day curst
With hopelessness, in Israel's history worst.
When Samuel rose, a nation to restore."

Then he closes the song with this thought of humility that one finds in all lives that are big and loving.

"Yet his face
Is toward the future, as his great heart warms
To younger men and things—he giveth place."

The poem whose foundation is founded on the first book of Kings is so beautiful we give it in full.

The Temple of God
Upon Moriah's holy height,
With lavish gold and sculptures rare
The temple stood, a crown of light—
Earth's greatest wonder flaming there.

For David's wealth and Tyrannic skill,
And Solomon's artistic pride,
With nature's sweep of towering hill,
Conspired in heaven's very bride.

Far Sheba's queen its cloisters graced
With gifts of sapphire and of gold;
Though every tongue its beauties praised,
Yet still the half was never told.

More beauteous than all ancient art,
Than all earth's wonders, more sublime,
Is God's great temple in the heart
Of man in every age and clime.

Then molten sea with lilies rife,
Than altar, ark and cherubim,
The consecrated soul and life
Are more acceptable to Him.

For as on Christ the Rock we build
And make His cross our only boast,
Our souls with the Shekinah filled
Are temples of the Holy Ghost.

Lord, in these bodies of Thy word
Wilt Thou Thy glorious temples rear:
No human axe or hammer heard,
Yet shall Thy every grace appear.

War reached Jerusalem's famous pile,
And enemies its treasure stole;
Then temples grow more beauteous while
The great eternal aeons roll.

—R. Walter Wright.
(Continued next week)

"The American spirit bids him flout
The laws he makes and bids him make
The laws he flouts."—Rudyard Kipling.

The owner of a midget car drove to a filling station and asked for a pint of gas and two ounces of oil. "Okay," said the attendant. "Now, would you like to have me sneeze in the tires?"

TO OUR MOTHERS

(From the Chicago Referee)

(When Bert E. Collyer, founder and head of Collyer Publications, penned the following tribute, "To Our Mothers," the person foremost in his thoughts, of course, was Mrs. Elizabeth Collyer, Mr. Collyer's mother, who presides with queenly grace at the Guelph, Ontario, home.)

Tomorrow is Mother's Day. For too many of us it is the only day of the year on which we pay tribute to that kindly, loving soul who never forgets, even though we do. If your mother is still spared to you, she will be looking for a visit from you, or at least a word of greeting from you tomorrow. Don't forget her.

Remember, it was she who first gave you life, who mothered you, fed you when you were helpless, who comforted and counselled and led you when you were young, who aided and watched over you as you grew older and who rejoiced in your triumphs and grieved over your disappointments.

No doubt, her hair has grown silvery, her step faltering and her eyes dimmed, but she keeps alight the flame of mother love, ever unquenchable, ever pure. Money cannot buy it, disgrace cannot tarnish it, poverty cannot strangle it—it lives and breathes as long as there is life, and to many of us it carries on and watches over us from the Great Beyond.

No matter to what heights you may have attained, no matter to what depths you may have fallen, to her you are still "my boy" or "my girl." Thousands of miles may separate her from you, or she may live next door to you. No matter, you can never repay the debt you owe her, you never can fully reward her for the hours and days of suffering, sacrifices and heartaches you exacted of her—and she doesn't expect it—but there are many ways you can lighten the burdens of her declining years and warm anew the cockles of her heart, and tomorrow offers one of those opportunities.

Lay your humble tribute at her feet—whatever it may be—let her know that there is at least one day of the year when you REMEMBER that you are "her boy." You'll be a better man for it and she'll be a happier woman. May God bless her and grant to yours and mine many more such glorious days.

WHAT FARMING COSTS

Any farmer who will succeed in his business must give consideration to cost of production. An interesting guide as to the more important factors which must be considered in this connection is supplied by the Field Husbandman of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, who says:

"In calculating the cost of producing farm crops it is necessary to estimate the value of all the various items which enter into the cost. Some of these items, such as those relating to the cost of manual and horse labor, are very easily figured because in these instances it is possible to record exactly the number of hours worked on the various crops and then multiply this by the cost per hour of this labor. With other items, however, such as the cost of manure, it is necessary to make an assumption regarding what percentages of the total cost should be charged against each particular crop in the rotation."

Miss Macphail's Letter

Little has happened this week, at any rate in the Commons. The House did not sit on Thursday, Ascension Day, nor on Wednesday evening, so it was a short week. The Beauharnois investigation with a subsequent condemnation of the three Senators involved seems to have been brought to a head by the resignation of Senator McDougald. Senator Haydon is acknowledged to be a seriously ill man and Senator Raymond was to be treated gently since the Government has no desire to get in wrong with Quebec, so that's that.

The House of Commons passed a resolution and then a bill giving power to the Governor-in-Council to authorize a guarantee of securities of the Canadian National Railway Company made or issued from time to time under the Canadian National Railways Financing Act, 1932, to an aggregate principal amount at any time outstanding of \$61½ millions. The whole Canadian National business is under very severe criticism before a special committee of the House. The investigation into the amount of money spent by the C.N.R. for a home occupied by Sir Henry Thornton, provided the fireworks of the week. It appears that Mr. Decary, one time a director of the Canadian National Railways, now a real estate man in Montreal, put through the purchase of the residence for Sir Henry Thornton, upon which the Company pays an annual rental of \$15,000 as well as taxes. The total purchase price was \$185,000 and on this it seems that Mr. Decary paid six and a half per cent. interest, but that he charged the C.N.R. Company eight and a half per cent., having, his accusers say, 2 per cent. "velvet." Decary says that this additional percentage was to provide a fund for amortization; he claimed, if at the end of ten years the property has appreciated in value, he will be better off by \$50,000, but if it depreciates in value, he will be out of luck. Through a gruelling cross-examination, he stuck to his story.

Mr. Dunning, former Minister of Finance, testified before the Committee. It was he who signed the contract for the renewal of the services of Sir Henry Thornton as President of the Canadian National Railways at a salary of \$75,000 a year plus reasonable expenses. There had been some discussion, Mr. Dunning said, of giving Sir Henry a bonus of \$100,000 in 1928. Mr. Dunning had then expressed the view that the board had no power to give the bonus. At this point, Mr. Chaplin, a member of the Committee said: "In other words the matter came to your attention and was rejected." "Yes," Mr. Dunning said, "I think that is a fair statement, but in fairness to Sir Henry Thornton I may say that he also rejected it."

"At that time were you aware of any payments being made to Sir Henry by any subsidiary companies of the C. N. R.?" asked Mr. Chaplin. Mr. Dunning said he had not been aware of any such payments but that he had presumed the expenses of the general officers would be distributed throughout the system. He had no knowledge of the Central Vermont and the Grand Trunk Western railways each paying \$5,000 a year to Sir Henry.

Mr. Dunning recalled some talk of the officials of the road regarding a residence for Sir Henry. The purchase of such property would have entailed capital expenditure, and as such, would have had to be shown on the estimates and discussed in the House. Mr. Dunning had disapproved of such action. Mr. Chaplin: "While you were Minister did the proposal to lease a house, free, for the manager of the road, come to your attention?" Mr. Dunning replied that the Board of Directors were not required to submit proposals of leasing to the Minister of Railways. He had been ill in the hospital in 1929; when he returned to his work the late J. A. Robb, who had been acting-Minister during his illness, informed him that some of the directors were still of the opinion that an official house should be provided and that they were investigating the possibility of leasing a house.

"I understand that you approved of it," said Mr. Chaplin.

"The approval of the Government and the Minister is given by Order-in-Council," said Mr. Dunning. "And I will stand by that."

It is becoming plain that publicly owned enterprises need, if they are to be successful, socially minded people to run them. The National Railways and Hydro system are experiments in state ownership in a wholly capitalistic society—a society in which the prevailing ideal is private gain, if need be at public expense.

It looks as though the Radio Committee would report in favor of the principle of public ownership, setting up a Commission of three with power to lease, purchase or expropriate broadcasting stations, arrange programs, make whatever agreements are necessary with privately owned stations, etc. Such action, I understand, not to be taken until financial condi-

tions are more promising, and not then at any additional cost to the Government or tax-payer. It is claimed that a license fee of \$3.00 a year would yield ample revenue for both operating and capital costs; that is, no one other than the owners of radio sets, will be taxed.

A new New Zealand treaty has been negotiated, very similar to the old. Again the treaty has been made for the benefit of the automobile manufacturing industry at the expense of agriculture. New Zealand butter, about which we heard so much in 1930, had then a tariff against it of 1 per cent. Under the new Act this has been raised to 5 per cent., but the difference in exchange between New Zealand and Canada will almost altogether overcome the tariff, so if a low tariff against New Zealand butter was a crime in 1930, it is still a crime. The Hon. James Malcolm, Minister of Trade and Commerce in the Mackenzie King Government, made a speech of approval of the treaty; his first speech in the House since his serious illness. He reviewed the butter situation for a number of years back and showed that we were importing butter in 1930 because we needed butter. Milk was flowing into the condenseries and ice-cream businesses and a great deal of cream was then being shipped to United States. The Hon. Mr. Malcolm continued: "I said in the House and on the hustings, and I say now to my Hon. friend, the Minister, that if he does have to import dairy produce and as a result of this import he can increase the volume of manufactured goods being sold to New Zealand, the workmen who will manufacture these goods in Canada will consume much of the condensed milk, butter and eggs imported, so on the whole the trade will be a good trade."

"I hope that never again in this country or in this House, will we have the exhibition of hypocrisy and insincerity that we had in connection with the criticism of our importation of butter from New Zealand." Mr. Malcolm went on to show that butter is on an export basis today, due in his opinion to lack of prosperity in Canada. The amount of butter consumed here has dropped in two years from 350 million to 217 million pounds.

On Sunday afternoon I addressed a men's forum in the United church in Port Hope. The minister, Rev. Mr. Sisco, has built up a very large class of men who meet every Sunday afternoon to discuss problems both temporal and spiritual. Occasionally they have a speaker from out of town. Mr. Vincent Massey, whose country home is only a few miles out of Port Hope, addressed them recently. Mr. Sisco gave my speech the high-sounding title of

"Some Aspects of the World Economic Condition and Some Remedies." The name of a speech matters little, but for nearly two hours we had a most enjoyable time, one hour of which was taken up with questions and answers. This depression is causing people to think harder than they have before.

A small group came to Mr. Sisco's house after the evening service and continued the discussion until midnight, among them Dr. Reynolds, who was for so many years the head of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. We discussed, among other things, whether or not it would be of use to send a carefully chosen delegation of farmers to Ottawa to point out to the Government how impossible it is for Canadian agriculture to try to compete with the Argentine, Australia, Denmark, etc., in the British market, when, due to their inflationary monetary policy they can undersell us and still have more in their own currency.

You may have noticed in the press that the House of Representatives in Washington D.C., passed a bill amending the Federal Reserve Act, enabling the Federal Reserve Board to put into the market four million dollars in Federal Reserve notes, for the purpose of raising the price level of commodities. If the interest charges against it are not too great, it ought to have the desired effect.

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