SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON II.—JAN. 10, 1909.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit.—Acts 2: 1-21.

COMMENTARY.—I. The coming of the Holy Spirit (vs. 1-4). 1. day of Pentecost—The meaning of Pentecost is "fiftieth." It was celebrated fifty days after the second day of the Feast of the Passover (Lev. 23: 11, 15, 16) and was the second of the three great yearly feasts held by the Jews. The first, the Passover, commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage, and pointed to Christ as the sacrifice for sin. The second, the Pentecost, continued only one day and was a day of thanksgiving for the grain harvest, and the "firstfruits" were offered to the Lord. Special bloody sacrifices were also prescribed. It also commemorated the giving of the law at Mount Sinai, fifty days after leaving Egypt. The Pentecost was sometimes called the feast of the harvest (Exod. 23: 16), the wheat harvest (Exod. 34: 22), and also the feast of weeks (Deut. 16: 10), because a week of weeks came between it and the Passover. The resurrection was on Sunday, and the Pentecost was on the fiftieth day afterward, therefore it was also on Sunday. The third great feast was the Tabernacles, held on the fifteenth of the seventh month (Tisri), and commemorated the wilderness life. Was fully come—The disciples knew they were to receive a great blessing, but they did not know how or when, thus they wer led to seek the Lord with all their hearts, trusting him for the fulfilment of the promise. All—The 120 spoken of in chapter 1: 15. With one accord—There was no person uninterested. There was an earnest, united prayer being offered by the entire company when the Holy Spirit fell upon them. In one place—The upper room (Acts 1: 13). It is God's plan that his people should meet together in his name (Heb. 10: 25; Matt. 18: 19, 20), and those who absent themselves from the company of the saints will suffer spiritual loss.

2. Suddenly—Unexpectedly, in a moment, not gradually as winds generally rise.—Com. Com. A sound—The suddenness, strength and diffusiveness of the sound strike with deepest awe the whole company, and thus complete their preparation for the heavenly gift. Wind was a familiar emblem of the Spirit (Ezek. 37: 9; John 3: 8; 20: 22). But this was not a rush of actual wind. It was only a sound "as of" it. It filled all the house—The sound was heard by all. To an upper room the Spirit came, a plain, unfurnished room where there was not ritual, no priest, no burnt-offerings, no smell of incense.—Sanderson. 3. There appeared—A visable sign follows the audible sign. Cloven tongues—Instead of "cloven" tongues read "distributed" tongues. The tongues were separated among the disciples (see R. V.). Like as of fire—The tongues were not fire any more than the sound was wind. They had a fiery appearance. Fire is an appropriate emblem of the Holy Spirit, and the tongues were an emblem of the languages they were to speak. The fire indicated the penetrating, purifying power of the Spirit, the zeal, enthusiasm, comfort and blessing which the Holy Spirit imparts. Sat upon each of them—Upon the women and laymen as well as the apostles. The term used here suggests permanency. This was more than a momentary blessing but "the Spirit henceforth was to abide in the church, and hold his throne and seat there, as the Shekinah in the Holy of Holies of old, and as the spirit of life abides in our bodies, the organizing, controlling, life-giving power."

4. Filled—Were entirely under his sacred influence and power. To be filled with anything is a phrase denoting that all the faculties are pervaded by it, engaged in it, or under its influence.—Barnes. With the Holy Spirit—At this time their hearts were purified by faith and they were endued with miraculous powers for the furtherance of the gospel. Other tongues—In other languages which they had not known before this time. Utterance—Furnished them with the matter as well as the language.

In a true and important sense the Holy spirit was in the world before this time. In the Old Testament repeated mention is made of the influence of the Spirit on the prophets and others (see Gen. 6: 3; Psa. 51: 11; 2 Pet. 1: 21). Zacharias and John the Baptist were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1: 15, 67), and the apostles had received the Holy Spirit (John 20: 22). But never before had the Holy Spirit been given in such an abundant measure. All were now filled and purified and endued with power for service. The experience of perfect holiness and spiritual power is within the easy reach of all. There is no scripture to show, however, that the special gift of tongues was permanent. To quickly reach the masses God performed this remarkable miracle.

II. An amazed people (vs. 5-13). 5. Dwelling at Jerusalem—Many foreign-born Hebrews had come to Jerusalem to reside. There were also at this time many visitors. Devout—Devoted men—men truly religious. Every nation—At this time the Jews were scattered throughout the nations of the earth. 6. When this sound was heard (R. V.)—The sound that came from the upper room. Confounded—Perplexed, failing to understand what it all meant (see v. 12). Own language—Or dialect; they heard even the different dialects (see v. 8). 7. Galilaeans—Uneducated persons, and consequently ignorant to the languages which they were speaking so fluently. 8. Own tongue—Language, dialect. "The sentence is broken off in order to give the following list, and is virtually resumed in verse 11. The topographical arrangement of the fifteen regions named is somewhat irregular, but in general the regions east of Palestine are named first, then Judea, then countries toward the west."—Riddle. 9. Parthians—For an explanation of the names in this and the following verses see dictionary. 10. Proselytes—Heathen who had accepted the Jewish religion 11. Wonderful works—Concerning Jesus; his death, resurrection and ascension, and his power to save men from sin. 12, 13. Those who came into the upper room and saw the wonderful manifestations of God could not understand the operations of the Spirit. There were some who mocked and said they were intoxicated. "There has seldom been a remarkable manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit, that has not given occasion for profane mockery and merriment. The Saviour himself was mocked, and the efforts of Christians to save others have been the subject of derision."

III. Peter's address (vs. 14-21.) The whole address includes verses 14-36. This address, or sermon, was clear and practical. It was founded on facts and was endorsed by the Holy Spirit. Peter began by refuting the charge of drunkenness and called attention to the fact that it was only nine o'clock in the morning, too early to be affected with strong drink. This was also the hour of morning worship and devout Jews were not accustomed to take food or drink before that time; even drunkards did not usually become drunk in the daytime. He told them that this was the fulfilment of the predictions of one of their own prophets (Joel 2; 28-32).

17.—In the last days—This expression in the New Testament, and has reference to "the age of the Messiah," "the Christian dispensation," which the Scriptures represent as the last great moral epoch. That time had now come and the great Spirit was given, not sparingly as under the old covenant, but in copious streams which were being poured upon "all flesh"—all races, ranks and classes. Shall prophesy—This word denotes in general, to speak under a divine influence, whether in foretelling future events, in celebrating the praises of God, or in instructing others in the duties of religion. See Paul's definition in 1 Cor. 14; 3.

There are a great variety of opinions as to the meaning of verses 19 and 20. "By the figurative language of these verses the prophet teaches that even when the kingdom of Christ shall have come into the world, mighty troubles shall still prevail."—Cam. Bib. Whedon gives this a peculiar turn: "Wonders in heaven (see Luke 2; 13; Matt. 3; 16; John 12; 28; Acts 2; 2.) In the earth—the birth and miracles of Christ and his resurrection; the blood at the Saviour's crucifixion; the fire at Pentecost; the darkness at the Saviour's death; the optical effect of the miracle of darkness on the moon." Severay think there is a direct reference here to the "calamities that fell upon the Jews at the destruction of Jerusalem, and the fearful signs that preceded these calamities." Blood is an emblem of battle. Fire is also an image of war. Vapor of smoke has reference to the columns of smoke rising from burning towns. When the atmosphere is filled with smoke and vapor the sun is darkened and the moon has the appearance of blood. The sun being turned into darkness and the moon into blood may be figurative expressions intended to point out the downfall of both the civil and ecclesiastical power of the Jewish nation. 20. Day of the Lord—"This will apply to any day in which God manifests himself, but particularly to a day when he comes forth to punish men, as at the destruction of Jerusalem, or at the day of judgment. These wonders were to take place before God was to come forth in judgment."

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

The Promise Fulfilled.

I. The prayer of Pentecost. "These all ..... continued steadfastly in prayer" (Acts 1: 14, R. V.) The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus while he was praying at his baptism (Luke 3. 21, 22, Matt. 3: 16). The Spirit manifested his glory while Jesus was praying at his transfiguration (Luke 9: 28, 29). The Spirit was sent to Pentecost in answer to the prayer of Jesus (John 14: 16), and the united prayer of the disciples in the name of Jesus (John 16: 23). Another time, after "they had prayed the place was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 4: 31). God gives "the Holy Spirit to them that ask him" (Luke 11: 13). S. A. Keen, in Pentecostal Papers, suggests that this asking should be:

1. Definite. Ask for him. The prayer must correspond with the promise. God promised not a thing, but a person; not it, but himself.

2. Expectant. A true man has a regard for his word. A father had been six months on the Pacific coast. Returning home by way of Chicago, he met a friend, who said: "Stay with me a week; we may never meet again." The father answered: "I should enjoy your hospitality, but I have sent word home that I shall be there Saturday night. Wife will be expecting me; I must go. I cannot disappoint the hopes I have awakened in that loving heart." The Holy Spirit will never disappoint any hope awakened by any promise of God.

3. Urgent. Not loud and vehement asking, but a cordial, pressing invitation for him to come. When we say with intensity of "supplication" (Acts 1: 14): "Father, baptise with thy Spirit now," then he will come.

II. The power of Pentecost. 1. "Wind" (v. 2). Breath and spirit are identical in the Greek. Spirit is breath. Wind is air in motion. Breath is a synonym for life. The breath of God is the source of man's natural life (Gen. 2: 7, Acts 17: 25), and also of his spiritual life (John 3: 5). The wind is a symbol of the first work of the Spirit, the imparting of a new and supernatural life. Its work is (1) rapid. It was a rushing wind (v. 2, Psa. 18: 10). The Spirit's work was like a torrent. Within fifty years the gospel was preached in every country of the known world. (2) "Mighty" (v. 2; Ezek. 37: 9, 10). Nothing can control the Spirit of God, nothing can withstand him. When we are strengthened with might by his Spirit (Eph. 3: 16) the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but "mighty" (2 Cor. 10: 4). (3) Free. The wind bloweth where it listeth (John 3: 8). It is a gentle zephyr or a rushing tempest. The Spirit comes softly with promises of comfort, or sternly with threatenings to alarm. The prayer of the psalmist is, "Uphold me with thy free spirit" (Psa. 51: 12). (4) Invisible. Perceptible only in its effects. Cannot be seen, but may be felt. Love, joy, peace all come from the Spirit. A physician, who was an infidel, once argued with a minister that he had no soul. He said to the minister, "Did you ever see a soul?" "No." "Then how do you know you have a soul?" The minister replied, "Did you ever see a pain?" "No." "How do you know there is a pain?" (5) Quickening. "It is the spirit that quickeneth" (John 6: 63). He awakens the conscience. He makes the dead sinner a living saint (Eph. 2: 5); he quickens this mortal body (Rom. 8: 11).

2. Fire. "Tongues like as of fire" (v. 3). Fire is associated with holiness (Matt. 3: 11). Fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 4: 4). The fire on the altar that consumed the sacrifice was sacred fire (Lev. 9: 24, 10: 1; 2 Chron. 7: 1).

A. C. M.

OUR AGENTS.

Changes in the Staff of Government Trade Commission.

Ottawa, Jan. 4.— There have been some changes in the Trade Commission staff. W. A. McKinnon, who has for some years been trade commissioner at Bristol, has been transferred to Birmingham to take the place of Peter B. Ball, deceased. E. B. Arnaud, who has been trade commissioner at St. John's, Newfoundland, is transferred to Bristol. J. E. Ray, who has for some years been connected with the commissioner's office in Birmingham, is appointed trade commissioner at St. John's.

RUINED CITY 2,700 YEARS OLD.

MESSINA HAS HAD MANY MASTERS AND CATASTROPHIES.

Situated on Low Ground Close by the Sea and in the Sicilian Earthquake Belt—It Was Once a Great Commercial Centre and is Still a Busy Port.

The spread of the earthquake in Sicily and southern Italy, according to the cable despatches, was through very much the same area as that of the earthquake of 1783, which was the most destructive in the history of Italy. Then, as now, the earthquake caused enormous damage on both sides of the Strait of Messina, which separates the toe of the so-called "boot" of Italy from Sicily. The historic disaster completely wrecked the populous seaport of Messina in Sicily near the northern end of the strait and destroyed many smaller cities and towns in southern Italy and Sicily.

The loss of life in this disaster of 1783 was estimated at 60,000, Messina, a city which is for the most part built little above the level of the sea, suffering terribly—then, as yesterday, from a tidal wave. The region to the south of Messina has also been often overwhelmed by eruptions from Mount Etna. The southeastern and eastern portion of the island has been damaged time and again by eruptions of Etna and very little by earthquakes, while the northeastern portion has sustained heavy loss of life and property from earthquakes and very little from volcanic eruption.

Messina, which as in 1783 suffered the greatest loss of life and property from the earthquake yesterday, is a city and seaport of upward of 80,000 inhabitants, while in the commune embracing the city, suburbs and adjacent country, the population is upward of 152,000. Next to Palermo, it is the chief commercial town of Sicily and its harbor, which is formed by a peninsula, is the busiest in Italy from the standpoint of steamboat traffic.

Among all the Italian cities the town ranks fourth in the volume of its commerce. The total tonnage entered and cleared in a recent year was 3,300,000, with imports valued at $4,000,000 and exports at $10,000,000. Silk, oil, wine, coral, fruit essences, argol, oranges and lemons are the principal articles of commerce. The fish and mamertine wines of the district find a ready sale and in manufacturing the town is noted for its satins and damasks. Apart from these the manufacturing interests are not important, the chief products being hardware, silk, muslin and linen.

The city is the seat of an appeal court, an archbishop and a university. The university was opened in 1538 and is attended by some 600 students. There is also a technical institute in the city, and there is a municipal hospital which is a vast structure built prior to 1600 A. D.

The principal object of interest to tourists, apart from the scenic attractions of the place, is the cathedral which was begun in 1098, at the time of Norman occupation of the island, and parts of which are still standing as originally constructed with the exception of the evidences of damage wrought by the frequent earthquakes. The cathedral, like the town, has had many vicissitudes and bears the marks of most of them. In 1254 it was damaged by fire which broke out in the course of the funeral of Conrad IV. In 1559 the spire of the campanile was burned down. In 1783 the campanile and the transept were overthrown by an earthquake.

The city vies with Palermo in grandeur of scenery. A chain of abrupt peaks rises behind it on the west to the height of 3,700 feet and the view of the oddly shaped harbor is most attractive. The climate is very even with a mean temperature of 66 degrees Fahrenheit.

The town is one of great antiquity, and derived its first known name, Zancle (a sickle), from the shape of the harbor. It was founded by Cumaean pirates and Chalcidians in 732 B. C., and was governed by the laws of Charondas. At the end of the fifth centuryp B. C. the town was seized by fugitives from Samos and Miletus, and soon after fell under the dominion of Anaxilas, the tyrant of Rhegium, who introduced Messenians from the Peloponnesus, by whom the name was changed to Messana. The tyrant's sons were expelled a few years after his death and the constitution was re-established. In the great Athenian war with Syracuse the city remained neutral.

In 296 B. C. the town was destroyed by the Carthaginians, but was rebuilt a few years later by Dionysius of Syracuse, only to fall again into the hands of the Carthaginians under Hannibal in 269. The first Punic war, however, left the place in the hands of the Romans and the place was of importance second only to that of Syracuse and Lilybaeum in Sicily during a period of Roman occupation lasting for several centuries.

In 831 A. D. the town was taken by the Saracens, but in 1061 it was taken from them by the Normans. The city prospered greatly during the Crusades, being a favorite rendezvous for soldiers from the continent en route to the Holy Land. In the Middle Ages also it became a flourishing commercial city.

Its commercial importance disappeared after a bitter struggle between the aristocratic faction, or Merli, and the democratic faction, of Mavizzi, in 1674. The democratic faction appealed to the French and the other to the Spaniards. The former faction were at first victorious, but eventually were deserted by the French, the city was taken by the Spaniards, and when the struggle was over the population was reduced from 120,000 to about a tenth of that number.

The town never fully recovered from this disaster. Whatever recovery was made was neutralized in the eighteenth century by a series of disasters. In 1740 about 40,000 persons died of the plague and in 1783 the town was almost entirely overthrown by the great earthquake of that year. Great damage was caused by the bombardment in September, 1848. The cholera carried off no fewer than 16,000 victims in 1854, and earthquakes in 1894 and 1906 also caused loss of life and property. In 1860 the town was occupied by Giribaldi. It became a part of united Italy the following year.

In respect to the feature apparently resulting in the greatest loss of life the Messina disaster bears a close resemblance to the great earthquake of Lisbon which on Nov. 1, 1755, laid half the city in ruins and caused the death of approximately 40,000 persons. A large portion of Lisbon, like Messina, was built on low ground, but little above the level of the Bay and River Tagus. It was the tidal wave following the earthquake that caused by far the greatest damage.

The Lisbon earthquake is one of the most memorable recorded in history and there is no record of damage from a tidal wave in Europe or America exceeding it. According to accounts accepted as reliable, the sea retired almost as soon as the shock of the earthquake was felt, leaving the bar dry, and returned in a few minutes as a great wave or breaker fifty feet or more in height. In six minutes it had engulfed the entire lower portion of the city, and in this time at least 40,000 people perished. Some of the estimates place the number drowned as high as 60,000.

A portion of the city was permanently engulfed beneath the waters of the bay. The waves caused great damage in many portions of Africa, and as far away as Scotland made a tide several feet above all previous high water marks.

ASSASSIN'S PROTEST.

Banker's Assailant Sentenced to Death at Sheffield, England.

Sheffield, Jan. 4.—A dramatic recital from the dock marked the closing scenes of the trial of John Murphy for the murder of Mr. Friedrich Schlitte, a foreign banker, at his office in Shaftesbury avenue. He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

It was pleaded that Murphy was insane at the time of the crime, and many stories were related of his violent behavior towards his sisters and others, but the medical officer at Brixton Prison said he found no traces of insanity in him.

Asked if he had anything to say, prisoner, in a firm voice, addressed the Judge in the following terms:

I still deny that I am guilty, my Lord. I recollect nothing bar the revolver. I recollect a noise, and that must have been when I fired the revolver. A brutal, dastardly assassination is alien to my nature—as my past nature will show. I have taken a life, but how many have I saved? If you go back two years, on the 29th of May, 1906, I saved two lives, and was instrumental in saving a third at the risk of my own knowing the dangers. And yet I committed this dastardly, brutal assassination! Can you connect that? I am not afraid of death. There it is. From my heart I recollect nothing bar what I have said so far. It is not for myself I feel sorry——

Turning to the back of the court, he was about to continue when, for the first time, his voice faltered, and he concluded with the ejaculation, "Oh, heaven!"

After the sentence of death had been pronounced, prisoner said in a calm voice: "I want no mercy, my Lord, but I want justice."

The carman Carter and the policeman Howe were warmly commended by the Judge for their efforts to capture Murphy after the tragedy, and the Judge said he would reward Carter.

FOUGHT FOUR HOURS

A Lively Battle on the Coast of Venezuela.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan. 4.—There has been fighting at Macuro, on the Venezuelan coast, between adherents of former President Castro and the crew of a gunboat working in the interests of the new President, Juan Vicente Gomez. About twenty men were killed and some fifty were wounded. The Gomez party was obliged to withdraw temporarily, but later it returned to resume the engagement. This news was brought in here by the Miranda, the gunboat in question.

The Miranda left La Guaira for Macuro with a number of officials on board who were to take the places of the officials there who had been serving under Castro. The Miranda arrived off Macuro yesterday morning. It was at once discovered that General Torres had gotten together about 500 men, and that he was prepared to resist a landing. The Miranda cleared and went into action. She made use of her battery, and the men on board tried to effect a landing. In this they were not successful. The men under Torres succeeded in keeping them off. The fighting lasted about four hours.

WANT CLEAN BOXING

Not Slugging Such as Burns and Johnson Indulged in.

Sydney, N. S. W., Jan. 4.—Henry W. Wood, Chief Secretary of New South Wales, in an interview to-day, said that the prize fight situation in Sydney was being given serious consideration by the Government authorities, as the Burns-Johnson contest last Saturday savored of being more brutal and repulsive than scientific. He declared that unless infighting was eliminated boxing here would have to be regarded as an illegitimate sport. Mr. Wood said that an attempt would be made to amend the laws so as to make New South Wales less of a happy hunting ground for securing big stakes, as in the last contest, as it was not desired that Sydney should correspond with the Pacific slope regarding pugilistic undertakings. However, the police will prevent any further contest here between Burns and Johnson.

WHO WINS?

English M. P.'s Make an Interesting Wager.

London, Jan. 4.— An interesting wager has been made by two English politicians, F. D. Acland, M. P., and Sir Walter Palmer, the former Tory member for Salisbury. The question at issue is whether the difference in wheat prices between Berlin and London is almost wholly caused by the duty.

Mr. Acland says it is, and that this proves that the consumer is mulcted to the extent of the duty. Sir Walter Palmer denies the assertion and declares that the difference in price is only half the duty, and that this proves that the consumer is not mulcted to the extent of the whole duty. The stake is £50 a side, the sum in any case to be given to a benevolent institution. Bonar Law has been made referee.

Members of the Patternmakers' and Molders' Unions have returned from Panama, with a complaint that contractors there are violating their contracts with the men. The unions have appointed a committee to investigate the charges and to lay the matter before President Roosevelt.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The offerings of grain to-day were small, owing partly to unfavorable weather, and prices were nominal in most cases. A few loads of oats sold at 42c per bushel.

Hay quiet and steady, with sales of a few loads at $12 to $13.50 a ton for No. 1, and at $8 to $12 a ton for mixed. Straw is unchanged at $12 to $14 a ton.

Dressed hogs are firmer at $8.50 for heavy, and at $8.75 to $9 for light.

Wheat, fall, bushel ...	0 93	0 00
Do., goose, bushel ...	0 90	0 00
Oats, bushel ...	0 42	0 00
Barley, bushel ...	0 48	0 53
Rye, bushel ...	0 70	0 72
Peas, bushel ...	0 87	0 00
Hay, per ton ...	13 00	13 50
Do., No. 2 ...	8 00	12 00
Straw, per ton ...	12 00	14 00
Dressed hogs ...	8 50	9 00
Butter, dairy ...	0 28	0 30
Do., creamery ...	0 30	0 33
Eggs, new laid ...	0 45	0 50
Do., fresh ...	0 28	0 33
Chickens, dressed, lb. ...	0 12	0 14
Ducks, spring, lb. ...	0 12	0 15
Geese, lb. ...	0 11	0 13
Turkeys, lb. ...	0 18	0 22
Cabbage, per dozen ...	0 40	0 50
Celery, dozen ...	0 40	0 50
Onions, bag ...	0 80	0 90
Potatoes, bag ...	0 75	0 60
Apples, barrel ...	2 50	3 50
Beef, hindquarters ...	8 00	8 50
Do., forequarters ...	4 50	6 00
Do., choice, carcase ...	7 50	7 75
Do., medium, carcase ...	5 00	6 50
Mutton, per cwt. ...	6 50	8 00
Veal, prime, per cwt. ...	8 50	10 00
Lamb, per cwt. ...	8 50	9 50

PROVISIONS.

Pork—Short cut, $22.50 to $23 per barrel; mess, $19 to $19.50.

Lard—Tierces, 12c; tubs, 12 1-4c; pails, 12 1-2c.

Smoked and Dry Salted Meats—Long clear bacon, 10 3-4 to 11c, tons and cases; hams, large, 12 1-2 to 13c, small, 13 1-2 to 14c; backs, 16 to 16 1-2c; shoulders, 10 to 10 1-2c; rolls, 10 3-4 to 11c; breakfast bacon, 14 1-2 to 15c; green meats out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

Toronto dealers are paying for city butchers' stock:

Hides—No. 1 green inspected steer hides, 60 lbs and up, 10c per lb; No. 2, 9c per lb; No. 1 inspected cows, 9½c per lb; No. 2, 8½c per lb.

Calfskins—Nos. 1 and 2, green, 12c per lb.

Sheepskins—Present kill, 80 to 90c.

Horse Hair—Farmer or peddler stock, 30c per lb.

Toronto dealers are paying for country stock laid down here: Hides, cured, all weights, 9½ to 9¾c.

The prices for stock being paid by dealers at country points, 9 to 9½c; calfskins, cured, 13 to 14c; sheepskins, present take-off, 60 to 85c; horse hides, No. 1, $3.

Tallow—Solid, in barrels, No. 1 stock, 3c per lb; cake, No. 1 stock, 6½c.

SEEDS.

Prices at country points:

Alsike—Extra fancy lots, $7.50; No. 1, $7 to $7.20; No. 2, $6.50 to $6.75; No. 3, $6 to $6.25 per bushel.

Timothy—Prices are from $1.50 to $2.10 per bushel, according to quality.

Red Clover—$4.25 to $5.25 per bushel. Fancy lots a little higher.

BALED HAY AND STRAW.

Prices in car lots on track, Toronto, are:

Hay—No. 1 timothy, $11; inferior $8 to $10.

Straw—Range is from $7 to $7.50, according to quality.

OTHER MARKETS.

LIVE STOCK.

Montreal.—About 550 head of butchers' cattle, 30 milch cows and springers, 50 calves, 320 sheep and lambs, and 430 fat hogs were offered for sale at the east end abattoir to-day. There were also a number of superior Northwest steers in the pens, which are to be shipped to Britain. Trade was slow, but the prices are better than on last week's markets. A few of the best cattle were sold at from 4½ to 4¾c per lb, but they were scarcely prime. Pretty good animals sold at 3½ to 4½c; common stock at 2½ to 3½c per lb. Milch cows sold at from $30 to $65 each. Calves sold at from 3½ to 5c per lb. Sheep sold at about 4c per lb; lambs at 5¾c per lb. Good lots of fat hogs sold at 6¾c per lb.

WINNIPEG WHEAT MARKETS.

Wheat—January 99c bid, December $1 bid, May $1.02⅞.

Oats—December 36½c bid, May 40⅞c bid.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.

London.—London cables for cattle are steady at 13 to 14c per lb., dressed weight; refrigerator beef is quoted at 10¾ to 10½c per lb.

WALL STREET NEWS.

American Ice expected to reorganize and to provide new working capital.

National Lead surplus for 1908 equals 6 per cent. on common and earnings compare well with last year.

Copper production still large, but consumption demand still fails to develop.

No real stiffening of money rates over end of year in any important financial centres.

Union Pacific traffic is now running well ahead of that of a year ago, while S. P. is catching up.

Thirty-one roads for third week in December show average gross increase of 8.88 per cent.

The regular quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent. was to-day declared on Great Northern, payable Feb. 1, to shareholders of record Jan. 12.

N. Y. banks gained $293,000 through sub-treasury operations since Friday.

BLIZZARD IN BRITAIN

Has Been Raging For Forty-Eight Hours.

London, Jan. 4.—The whole of the United Kingdom is in the grip of a violent blizzard, which has raged for forty-eight hours. Northern railway service and street car traffic has been demoralized. Many towns are isolated and numerous accidents and death from exposure have been reported, as well as several shipping casualties, but unfortunately unattended by serious loss of life.

London is covered with a mantle of snow several inches in depth, while in Scotland and the north of Wales snowdrifts have blocked roads and railways. The cross channel services and telegraph and telephone lines in all directions have suspended, and all outdoor labor has ceased. Farmers are suffering severely in the loss of cattle and sheep.

The Scotch express bound for London is snowed up eighteen miles from Aberdeen and the passengers were forced to spend the night there on board. The London express for Aberdeen also had a similar experience.

Paris, Dec. 29.—Western Europe is in the grip of an exceptional cold wave. France has experienced a veritable blizzard, accompanied by a heavy fall of snow. Traffic in the streets of Paris is paralyzed, but the lakes in the parks are gay with skaters.

A TYPHOID EPIDEMIC

Montreal Hospitals Have to Refuse Admission to Patients.

Montreal, Jan. 4.—That there is a serious epidemic of typhoid fever in the western districts of Montreal was the statement made this morning by several doctors. Westmount, the city suburb, which has long struggled with the problem of securing a pure water supply, according to an estimate made by several medical men, has nearly a hundred cases alone, while it is impossible to tell how many more there are throughout the city.

Three of the hospitals, the General, Royal Victoria and Western, are now caring for all the typhoid patients they have accommodation for, and this morning ten were refused entrance to the General, eight to the Royal Victoria, and several to the Western.

BARBERS CELEBRATE.

Sixth Hundred Anniversary of the Ancient Craft.

London, Jan. 4. — Yesterday the Barbers' Company celebrated the 600th anniversary of the admission of its first master. The Barbers possess some of the most beautiful plate in London.

Their Royal Oak cup, commemorating a romantic episode, celebrated annually as Oak Apple Day, was presented by Charles II. in 1676. It is a wonderful piece of workmanship, shaped like an oak tree, with four little bell acorns hanging from it.

Their chief treasure is the Holbein paintings of Henry VIII. granting a charter to the company, by which the barbers and the surgeons became one body corporate.

It was not until George II.'s time that the surgeons had sufficiently advanced in dignity and importance to sever the connection.

COURT HOUSE COLLAPSED.

Fifteen Persons Badly Injured in a Maryland Town.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 4.—The second floor of a two-storey building at Ellicott City, Md., fell through this afternoon during the hearing before Justice B. H. Wallenhorst of William Hapwood, a negro, charged with murderous assault. It is estimated that about fifteen persons have broken legs and arms. So far as could be learned at this time no deaths resulted, but a number of the injured are said to be in a serious condition.

The trial had only just begun when the floor weakened, and with no other warning than a slight creaking fell through. The people in the room were thrown into a struggling mass, those who were on the outskirts jumping through windows to the ground or clutching a remaining upright in an effort to support themselves.

Worth Knowing.

If there is but one electric light in the room place a mirror near it and get the double benefit of light.

Stains and discolorations on tinware can be removed by dipping a damp cloth in common soda and rubbing briskly. Then wash thoroughly and wipe dry.

To prevent noise round pads of leather, cut from old boots and nailed to the legs of kitchen chairs, prevent the grating noise upon a brick or tiled floor which is so distressing to the nerves of sensitive people.

To prevent frayed buttonholes—If buttonholes have to be made on a material that frays badly, proceed as follows: Mark the position of buttonhole with a thread, then run a line of machine stitching round the thread. Then cut the hole and buttonhole it in the usual manner. This will prevent any fraying.

Nothing is more provoking to the careful housewife than to have a perfectly clean tablecloth liberally bespattered with gravy the first time it is used. Get a large table napkin, one to match the tablecloth, if possible, and a piece of white oilcloth, cut an inch shorter and an inch narrower than the napkin. Place the oilcloth where the meat dish will stand, spread the napkin over it. The gravy cannot penetrate through the oilcloth, thus there is a considerable saving in the washing bill.

Carpets can be cleaned and colors restored by going over them occasionally with a broom diped in warm water to which turpentine is added.

To polish a piano, wring a cloth out of warm water as dry as you can, then sprinkle a little paraffin on it. Rub lightly on the case of the piano with cloth, only wetting a small piece at a time, then polish immediately with a soft, dry duster. This method produces a brilliant polish and is quite safe.

Why We Hang Up Stockings.

The custom of hanging up the stocking on Christmas eve arose from an incident in the life of the good St. Nicholas. One day, when he was overtaken by a severe storm, he took refuge in a convent, and the next day being Christmas, he preached a sermon to the nuns which they liked so much that they asked him to come the next year and preach to them again. On his second visit, which was also on a christmas eve, before going to bed, he stocking, and he filled the stocking with sugar plums in return for their hospitality.

In the making of mince pies—which form a part of a regular Christmas feast—mutton was the only meat formerly used, as a commemoration of the flocks that were watched on the holy night by the shepherds of Bethlehem. The spices were supposed to be suggestive of the Wise Men from the East—the land of Shem.—New York Herald.

How Willie Expressed It.

"Willie," said his mother, "baby is sick. Run over to grandma's and ask if she has a bit of catnip." And as Willie put on his cap and hurried away she called to him: "And, Willie, see if she has any horehound." A few moments later Master Willie rushed excitedly into the presence of his grandmother and cried: "Grandma, mother wants some horenip and cathound—baby's sick!"

Alfalfa seed is so valuable, says the Kansas City Journal, that Kansas farmers are accused of carrying it in their belts, much as the old Forty-niners carried gold dust.

WIT AND HUMOR

Strictly Correct.

Teacher (of class in chemistry)—What is the composition of an egg shell?

Young Man With the Bad Eye—It's made of carefully selected chickenfeed.

Quite So.

"Lemuel," said Mrs. Finkenbinder, in an injured tone, "you said that all you wanted to read in that paper was the personal column."

"I said the personal columns, my dear," answered Mr. Finkenbinder, without looking up. "I am reading the president's latest message."

When Adam Delved.

"Did your ancestors have a family tree, Mr. Maguire?"

"Family tree, is it, ma'am? One of me ancestors controlled the entire privilege of the Garden of Eden."—Tit-Bits.

Real Water.

Visitor—Is this lake in your garden artificial?

Child of the House—No, sir-ee. It's real. I fell in and got as wet as anything.—St. Louis Republic.

Just Out of Cold Storage.

Customer—Have you any broken lots of eggs?"

Dealer—No; but we's got lots of broken eggs.

Simple.

Kind Parent—Now, darling, tell papa all the things you wish for Christmas.

Little Girl—All right, I will—but it'll be quicker if I just tell you the things I don't want.—Harper's Weekly.

Misplaced Sympathy.

Benevolent Old Gent—I am sorry, Johnny, to see you have a black eye.

Promising Youth—You go home and be sorry for your own little boy—he's got two.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Enigmas.

"How do the apples get into the dumplings?"

"I give it up. How do the peaches get into these tight gowns?"—Louisville Courier Journal.

Sensitive Audience.

"What started the riot at the performance of 'Hamlet' last night?"

"Why, Hamlet held the skull and said: 'Alas, poor Yorick! You are not the only deadhead in the house.'"—Tit Bits.

Splitting Hairs.

Mrs. Chinnon—Tell Marie I want her to come up and take my hair down.

Rose (the new maid)—Can't I take it down for her, ma'am?"—Harper's Bazar.

The Play's the Thing.

Parke—Do your children know you when you rig yourself up as Santa Claus?

Lane—Oh, yes, but they are very nice about it. They pretend they don't.—Life.

Not a Romance.

"Dear heart," she murmured.

"Only 20 cents a pound," explained the butcher.

"I think I'll take some liver."—Louisville Courier Journal.

A Measly Trick.

A Kansas City boy told the teacher that his sister had the measles. The teacher sent him home and told him to stay there until his sister got well. After he had skipped joyfully away another boy held up his hand and said: "Teacher, Jimmy Dolan's sister what's got the measles lives in Omaha."—Kansas City Star.

SORRY HE SPOKE.

Barber—Razor all right, sir?

Customer—My dear man, if you hadn't it, I'd never have known there was a razor on my face.

Barber—Thank you!

Customer—I thought you were using a file!

Left it to Uncle Sam.

American (abroad)—But if I purchase these carpets, will you furnish the tacks?

Dealer—Not neccessary. You vill find zat ze custom house in America he vill furnish ze tax.

And it was so.—Toledo Blade.

So Thoughtful.

Mr. Westend—You seem very happy to-night.

Mrs. Westend—Yes, indeed. That jewel of a maid is not going to leave me after all.

Mr. Wastend—Why, I thought you told me only the other day that she was going to Mrs. Murrayhill's?

Mrs. Westend—Yes, she was; but Mrs. Murrayhill died this morning. Was it not sweet of her?—Judge.

A Woman's Country.

The Frenchwoman may not be so classical in form or outline as many of our beautiful women, but she has undoubtedly the gift of charm, and by virtue of this elusive, tantalizing quality she has for centuries bewitched and enthralled all the men of her country. France today is the most woman-ridden country and also the most peaceful, prosperous and contented. The women rule by charm.—Stormy Petrel.

The Futility of Geography.

"G'ography! G'ography!" snorted the irate mother who had been called in consultation with her daughter's teacher. "What do I care if Gertie don't never know no g'ography! I don't know g'ography an' I got a man. Sally, she don't know g'ography an' she's got a man. You know g'ography an' you ain't got no man. G'ography! Don't talk no sech foolishness to me."—From the June Bohemian.

VERY NICELY TURNED.

Miss Passy—Oh, it's very good of you, captain, to invite me for the first waltz.

The Captain—Don't mention it, ma'am. This is a charity ball.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

As It Sounded to the Native.

'Your cockney friend is very plain spoken. He calls a spade a spade, doesn't he?"

"Naw! He calls it a spide!"

"Do you believe in the literal idea of future punislament?" "Not for myself," answered Mr. Sirius Barker. "But I favor it for a lot of people I know."—Washington Star.

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