

## Sunday School Lesson

February 12. Lesson VII.—Jesus Pictures the Kingdom of God. Mark 4: 26-34. Golden Text—Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven.—Matt. 6: 10.

**ANALYSIS.**  
I. THE CERTAINTY OF THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM, 26-29.  
II. THE VAST SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESENT BEGINNINGS, 30-34.

**INTRODUCTION.**—How are we to understand the phrase "kingdom of God," which was so often on the lips of Jesus, and which, as we have seen, marked the central theme of his teaching? The Jewish people, as we know, looked forward to a coming age when God would institute his righteous reign on earth; indeed, all their hopes of God and all their thoughts of religion were bound up with the realization of this dream. Nevertheless, they conceived this reign of God for the most part after a very worldly and materialistic fashion. It signifies for them the overthrow of their enemies, and the triumph of the chosen nation over the people of the world.

Now Jesus, while sharing with his people the same thought of the kingdom of God as the goal of history, gave it an entirely other character. He did not mean the coming glorification of Israel, but God's immediate will to establish his blessed reign upon condition of human faith and repentance. The dark clouds which came between men and the face of the Father in heaven did not exist for Jesus. He had seen the heavens open, and knew that blessed life of communion with himself which God desired for all men. In all his teaching he sought to make men partakers of the same knowledge.

So, in speaking of the kingdom, Jesus emphasized, first of all, the realization in human hearts of God's presence and his holy will. He called men to quit selfishness and sin, and to give themselves to God. But, as we have seen, he encountered opposition and misunderstanding in his quarters. This is the situation in which he speaks the parables which form our present lesson. The hope of the coming of God's kingdom seems retarded by the unbelief and indifference of many. Nevertheless, it will yet be an accomplished fact. Jesus says that the kingdom will come with the same certainty with which the harvest follows upon the seedtime. He preached the message, like seed cast into the ground. The rest is in the hands of God. Thus, Jesus sought to encourage a brave and active faith on the part of his believing followers. They were not to be discouraged by present opposition, or by present seeming failure. God's will would yet be done on earth, even as in heaven.

**I. THE CERTAINTY OF THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM, 26-29.**  
Vs. 26-28. Jesus, using an illustration which would appeal to all who knew country life in Galilee, compares the preaching of the message of the kingdom with the sowing of seed by a farmer. The farmer sows in hope. When he has put the seed in the field he has done all that, humanly speaking, can be done. The event must be left to the mysterious operations of nature and to time. So he sleeps in hope, and meantime, as the days pass, the seed sprouts and grows. The farmer does not understand the process of growth. He only knows that, as he sows, so he shall reap.

Vs. 29. The harvest day arrives, and then the farmer realizes the reward of his toil and of his long patience. He now knows that his sowing and his waiting were not in vain. Thus, Jesus illustrates the mystery of his own fortunes as the Preacher of the kingdom. He reaches the World, and in spite of opposition and unbelief, the word will prove its divine character as a sower sowing human life to God, and reaping as the harvest of the world when they speak of God's kingdom.

In other words, Jesus notes that in his teaching about God he has the divine solution for the problems of human life, and he can await the result with confidence.

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**II. THE VAST SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESENT BEGINNINGS, 30-34.**

Vs. 30. In the similitude or parable which now follows, Jesus draws attention not so much to the final issues of his teaching as to the tremendous significance of the results which had been already achieved. Think of those whom Jesus had already brought from a life of sin to a life clean, upright, and renewed in every part. Such

effects of his preaching are as yet few, but they are prophetic of vast results to follow.

Vs. 31, 32. Jesus takes the illustration of the tiny seed of mustard which grows into strong and vigorous plant, almost a tree, large enough to provide a resting-place for the hedgehog birds. The wonderful thought of so great a plant from so small a seed should give the disciples heart as they consider what results have already been achieved since Jesus began to proclaim his message.

Vs. 33, 34. These verses make it plain that Jesus chose pictures or illustrations from nature in order to impart to his hearers a livelier sense of spiritual things. Jesus found God in nature as well as in the soul of man; and basing his teaching on natural processes, he says that if men receive into their hearts one simple thought of what God is like, or of what he wills, it will, if really believed and loved and acted upon, fill the whole soul with the divine goodness and in the end bring everlasting life.

### Accounted For

A Canadian visitor, who appeared in a black tie and dinner jacket at a dinner party where all the other guests were in more formal attire, turned the tables on them successfully. "I asked a friend whether a black tie would be all right for this dinner party," he remarked in his speech. "But when I said the dinner was being given by our host, I was told I would have to wear a white tie. Having pointed out that I had only a dinner jacket with me and that there was not enough time to have dress clothes made for me," the man continued, "I was advised to try a firm of ready-made clothiers who specialize in hiring out garments for the evening. I took his advice. I went there. I asked a friend whether a 'Dress clothes' said the salesman. 'We have everything else—riding breeches, fancy dress, morning coats, but we are completely out of dress clothes.' 'How is that?' I asked. 'Oh,' said the salesman, 'Lord Blank (the host) is giving a dinner party to-night.'"



1722

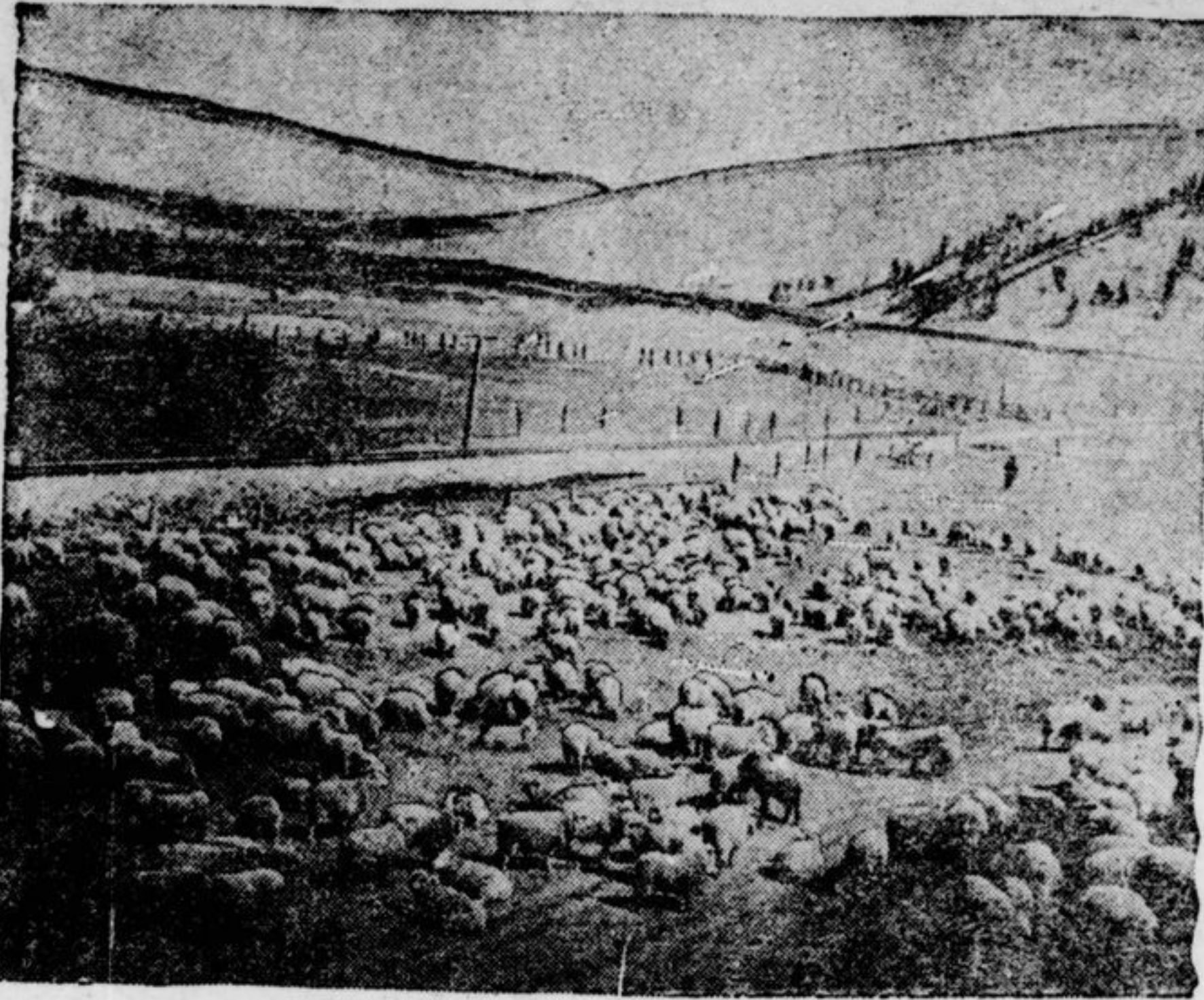
### AN ATTRACTIVE NEW FROCK

This dainty frock for the Junior Miss will be found quite simple for the home modiste to fashion. There are two gathered ruffles attached to a straight yoke foundation, and the square neck and short kimono sleeves may be bound with matching or contrasting material. No. 1722 is in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires 2 1/2 yards 36-inch, or 1 1/2 yards 44-inch material. Price 20c the pattern.

Our Fashion Book, illustrating the newest and most practical style, will be of interest to every home dress-maker. Price of the book 10c the copy.

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Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Ade-

### Not Australia But Alberta



THE GOLDEN FLEECE IN WESTERN CANADA  
In the foothills of the Rockies the fostering of the breeding of Merino crossbred sheep for their wool production is one of the keen interests of the government of Alberta. This scene was taken on a ranch not far from Calgary.

### Farm Notes

#### Feeds of Fertility and Hatchability of Eggs.

In view of the fact that spring hatching of eggs has been somewhat poor throughout Canada during recent years experiments have been conducted at the Central Farm at Ottawa and at most of the branch farms in order to find out if better hatching results may be obtained by supplying certain minerals and vitamin feeds. The experiments have not been continued long enough to allow of definite calculations being drawn, but results from six branch farms indicate that both fertility and hatchability are increased by the feeding of vitamin feeds to breeding poultry. In every case but one the feeding of crude cod liver oil gave a higher percentage of fertility than where it was not given. In all cases but two, birds receiving raw liver also gave a greater percentage of fertility than those receiving only the basal ration, and the feeding of bone meal also gave noticeably favorable results. All this applied to a greater extent with regard to hatchability as indicated by percentage of fertile eggs hatched. At the same time, in considering the mortality of chicks to three weeks of age, there was no advantage for those from the pens receiving vitamin feeds. The experiments are detailed in the latest report of the Dominion Poultry Husbandman, available at the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

#### Planting Plum Trees.

The best time to plant plum trees is in the spring and the planting should be done as early as possible. The process of planting is described in detail in a bulletin on Plum Culture which may be obtained from the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. It is particularly stressed that great care should be taken to prevent the roots of the young trees from becoming dry before planting, for if this happens the trees are almost sure to die. As a rule it is necessary to make the hole somewhat larger than will accommodate the roots spread out to their full extent. It should be made about 18 inches deep, after which the subsoil should be loosened a few inches more, but not removed. In digging the hole, the surface soil should be kept separate from the subsoil or that of poorer quality. The roots should be well covered because if they become exposed the tree may die. Broken or bruised roots should be cut off before planting. After the tree is placed upright and the roots spread out the surface soil should be worked in among them, by hand, if necessary, as it is important to have the soil come in close contact with the root fibres. When the roots are well covered and the hole is about half full it should be well tramped, after which the hole should be filled level with the surface, continuing the tramping while it is

### Barn is No Place For Lighting Up

Smoking and the Carrying of Loose Matches Should Be Banned

Enormous losses to barns and contents are reported each year, according to the Ontario Fire Marshal, as the result of some careless person smoking or dropping a match. In the winter, when more time is spent about the barns and stables than usual, there is more danger of this sort of thing unless the suggestion of the Fire Marshal that all smoking be absolutely banned is heeded. Signs to this effect, he urges, should be put up prominently and the government is prepared to co-operate with the barn owner by supplying such signs for asking. All forms of smoking are almost equally dangerous in such inflammable buildings as barns, which are usually stored with easily ignited hay and straw. A pipe may be dumped out by an absent-minded man with the red hot ashes setting fire to loose straw or hay. Cigar and cigarette butts thrown away in the same place are almost certain to be followed by a blaze. In the summer, when the buildings are empty, the loss is serious enough, but just now, with roads impassable as far as fire fighting equipment is concerned, if this were available, and the mows stored with grain, seed and hay and the stables filled with stock, a conflagration of this sort is a major disaster to the farmer.

Matches, the Fire Marshal points out, should not be carried loosely in the pocket. Even if the no-smoking rule is rigidly enforced, a man may pull a match out of his pocket with a knife or handkerchief and the same falling on the floor will ignite if some one trips on it. Storing those useful friends but dangerous foes in a tin box and taking the double precaution only to use safety matches will eliminate any chance of a fire starting from this source.



Young Hopeful: "Can I charge my name to-day, ma?" Mother: "What in the world do you want to charge your name for?" Young Hopeful: "Cause pa said when he got home he'd wipe me as sure as my name's Robert."

A swell young man of no particular occupation had been "telling the tale" to his intended wife. His people, he said, had a lovely house, extensive grounds, two Rolls-Royces. Their furnishings and pictures were the envy of the county. They (his people) were the best people on earth. She would like them immensely. "Oh, George," she gushed, "how perfectly beautiful! How delightful! Then couldn't we live with your people?" "Oh, no, we couldn't," declared George, "for you see, my dear, my people are still living with their people!"

### Radio Warns Of Icebergs in North Atlantic

Experts Are Developing New Wireless Equipment for Coast Guard Cutters for Broadcasting Danger News

Washington.—To help maintain its record of not a life lost by ship collision with icebergs since starting its North Atlantic patrol, the United States Coast Guard is improving radio equipment for its cutters.

As radio is both traffic cop and life-guard in the ice fields of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, it is essential that the apparatus be of the most modern type and kept in perfect condition, Coast Guard officers declare.

Radio experts of the Coast Guard and engineers of the Naval Research Laboratory here are working on the refinement of the 500-watt high frequency transmitter built at the laboratory which communicates from the Grand Banks directly with Arlington. They are also perfecting the 2-kilowatt transmitter which broadcasts on long waves information to ships regarding the location of icebergs, and weather conditions.

Each ship speeding through the ice-infested areas by night or in fog plays a game of chance. The patrol ship minimizes the danger by giving each vessel all possible information in regard to the set and drift of currents, the set and drift of the ice and its location at all times. To obtain this information requires considerable cruising in search of bergs and after finding, trailing them to determine their movements.

By means of radio information from ships passing through the ice regions the area under surveillance of the patrol has been greatly enlarged. The radio vessel assumes the role of a clearing house and disseminates Merchant vessels, Canadian direction finding stations and United States shore stations and the patrol usually is made by ships at distance of about 450 miles and west of the Grand Banks. During 1927 there were 5,548 reports received from passing steamers concerning their position, course, survey of the radio work for the year, speed and sea water temperatures. A shows that schedules between the naval radio stations and the patrol ships were maintained more consistently than ever before. This is attributed to the higher power used by naval stations and the personal co-operation of individual operators both ashore and afloat.

The ice patrol was inaugurated following the sinking of the Titanic.

**Not Working**  
A Negro, presenting herself for confirmation, was asked to repeat the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Commandments.

She got through the first two fairly well, but when it came to the last she bungled and hesitated, and finally remarked in a confidential tone: "De fac' is, Ah hasn't been practisin' de Ten Commandments lately."



HE COULDN'T HAVE HEARD  
Neighbor: Did you hear that terrible row in the street right after 12 o'clock last night?  
Jones: Can't say I did—got home just about that time and my wife had expected me in at 10.

"How's your football star at office work?" "He wants to save the day in the last three minutes of play."

### The Schubert Centenary

The world has no great composers today. It has only memories of great composers; and, fortunately, their works. So these years are years of commemoration, of the celebration of anniversaries, rather than of greeting new personalities. Last year in the hundredth anniversary of Beethoven's death was observed in all the civilized lands where his music is cultivated; in this year falls the anniversary of Schubert's death. Both men lived and did all their significant work in Vienna; so to Vienna in 1928, as in 1827, will fall the chief glory and the chief responsibility of commemoration.

Shall it be said that for most music-lovers, seeking for an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace in music, and finding none, these years are tinged with regret and disappointment? The glory has departed and makes no manifestation of returning. The great line in music has snapped. For some hundreds of years, ever since music as we understand it has existed, the line continued uninterrupted. The life of one great master or one great school overlapped the life of succeeding ones—great masters who really ruled the world of music. The line stops short with the death of Wagner and Brahms and Verdi in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Will it be renewed? There is no answer yet vanced all possible information in regard to the set and drift of currents, the set and drift of the ice and its location at all times. To obtain this information requires considerable cruising in search of bergs and after finding, trailing them to determine their movements.

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**CLEVER RETORT**  
The recent marriage of Dr. Alfred Noyes, the well-known poet, recalls an amusing little tale I once heard him tell.

It concerned a young woman, the wife of a poet, and a certain publisher who is not noted for liberality in dealing with the writers whose books he publishes.

"Isn't it awful to be married to a poet?" he asked her banteringly.

"It has its disadvantages, I'll admit," promptly replied the lady, "but there is, at all events, one compensating advantage. Nobody can accuse my husband of being a profligate. His publisher sees to that."

"And," added Noyes thoughtfully, in telling the story, "no doubt she was right. Nowadays there is more truth than ever in the saying—poets are born, not paid!"

He: "After all, I am sure there is no place like home." She: "Why, has something unpleasant happened at the club, dear?"

The body of Cher Ami was served and brought back to United States.

"Brethren, we must do something to remedy de Status Quo," said a negro preacher to his congregation. "Brudder Jones, what am de Status Quo?" asked a member. "Dat, my brudder," said the preacher, "am Latin for de mess' we're in."

### Cricket Hordes Devour Crop Of Three Counties

"Mormon" Pests Abandonment of 200 Farms on All Crops in 1927's Scourge in 162,000 Acres Infe

Vernal, Utah.—Temporary, not less than 1,000,000 acres land, destruction of crops on a total of seven years, abandoning nearly 200 farms and a red three counties in northern Utah to invading hordes of crickets. Eleven years ago entered Moffat County and spread to Rio Blanco and Huerfano. Not until a year ago were made to combat them, which are the size of a man in length, with a more solid and possessed of an appetite them to devour every growing, with the exception brush and jumper trees.

Early last summer a report of the Federal Department of Agriculture was sent to northern Utah to make a thorough survey of the affected counties, and report just issued said that Moffat County 85,000 acres of private land are affected by infestation of the pest; in Rio Blanco 76,000 acres and in Huerfano 2,400 acres. In the Moffat County alone, the pest has been added to the infested area under normal conditions. But instead of showing an increase, or any increase, the Moffat County alone shows a decrease in the number of crickets. Such abandoned fields, lone homesteads not yet cleared of land, and the state.

**Cover Area Like Blank**  
Some bands are so large, they cover areas of from 100 to 200 acres, and they are so thick that from a distance they appear as a black blanket over the land. The band area and other bands cover the entire area. The bands are so thick that they have a rough and broken surface. This condition causes the crickets to form into a mass. The same condition, according to report, makes more feasible the destruction of the insects.

It is proposed to inaugurate a campaign early next year to cover the entire area in all the counties and to report officials to be placed in charge of this work.

Two years ago a band of crickets, while migrating across the highway near the Utah-Colorado line, actually laid an egg mass on the road. The band was a mile in width, and as it moved through it quickly found the wheels were unable to grip the face of the road due to the formed by the thousands of crushed crickets.

These crickets are of the species that appeared in 1848 in Salt Lake Valley and threatened destruction of the first crops there by the Mormon pioneers. The crops were ready to mature, the pioneers made water ditches, the pests came down the mountains and invaded the fields. The drowsing crickets, ditches and beating the crickets; but little headway against the enemy. The story when the pioneers had given hope of saving the crops, but flocks of sea gulls came from Great Salt Lake and vanquished crickets by devouring them.

**A War Bird For The Sonian**  
In the Smithsonian Institution there is the stuffed body of a pigeon which has been among the heroes of the World War. Cher Ami was the messenger brought about the rescue of Charles W. Whittlesley's troops, had been cut off five days from the remainder of the Seventy-seventh Division.

When the "Lost Battalion" separated from all supplies, sources of help Major Whittlesley's five carrier pigeons as messengers. When Cher Ami flew into the son's loft and fell on the floor, his eye was gone and one leg had shot away. But the message was intact.

The body of Cher Ami was served and brought back to United States.

Money-lender: "Because I your father so well, I am only of the five fifteen per cent." Joe: "I'm glad you don't my grandpa's head!"

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### "MUTT AND JEFF"—By Bud Fisher.

