

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XII.—September 20.

CHRISTIAN LIVING.—Romans 12.
PRINTED TEXT
Romans 12: 1-3, 9-21.

GOLDEN TEXT
Christ liveth in me. Gal. 2: 20.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING
Time.—The Epistle to the Romans was written in A.D. 57.

Place.—This epistle was written from the city of Corinth, while Paul was on his third missionary journey, and was written to the Christian believers living at Rome.

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren. Never once does Paul command his readers; his favorite word is beseech (Eph. 5: 1; 1 Thess. 4: 1). By the mercies of God. (See 2 Cor. 1: 3).

These mercies refer to all the wonderful promises and truths recorded by the apostle in the preceding eleven chapters. To present your bodies. "Christianity does not condemn the body, but demands that the body shall be purified and be united with Christ. A living sacrifice. This is in contrast to the dead sacrifices of slain animals presented in the temple. Our sacrifice has to do with our daily life. Holy acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. The margin here is probably much better when it substitutes "belonging to the reason" for the word "spiritual." The service we give to God is not an automatic one, but one that results when we begin to comprehend what God has done for us.

2. And be not fashioned according to this world. "The spirit of this present age is absolute selfishness as contrasted with divine love. Its object is the gratification of self, rather than the doing of the will of God, and its authority springs from Satan because it has refused the one true Ruler of the Universe. By the renewing of your mind. Our minds are no longer to be enslaved by our fleshly nature, but are to be renewed and purified by the Holy Spirit. That ye may prove. "The result of this purification is to make the intellect, which is the seat of moral judgment, true and exact in judging on spiritual and moral questions." What is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God? The will of God is good because it comes from God, who, alone, doeth good, and because, in our doing it, only good can possibly result (Deut. 10: 13; 28: 63; 29: 5). By "acceptable" is meant the impression produced on us when we contemplate his will, as realized in our life.

For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. Satan fell because he became proud and was determined to take the very place of God in heaven; our first parents fell when Satan appealed to their pride in telling them they could be as gods. In the renewed life of the Christian, pride is the first thing that must be got rid of. But so think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith. "The wise and prudent man will remember that his position in the community is dependent, not on any merit of his own, but on the measure of his faith, and that faith is the gift of God. Faith is used here for all those gifts which are given to man, with, or as the result of, his faith."

9. Love without hypocrisy simply means love that is sincere, that is not put on. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Charles Hodge has finely interpreted this sentence in his paraphrase: "A striving to avoid what is injurious to others and earnestly endeavoring to do whatever is kind and useful."

10. In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another. The word translated "tenderly affectioned" comes from a verb which denotes "the delicate attentions mutually rendered by those who cherish one another with natural affection, as parents and children, brothers and sisters. The apostle, by using of the members of the church to one another the tender character of a family affection." In honor preferring one another. The word here translated "prefer" means "to go ahead," "to lead." "It is not only an injunction of politeness, but that in all acts of respect and kindness, we should take the lead."

11. In diligence not slothful. (See Eccles. 9: 10). Fervent in spirit; serving the Lord. The reference here is probably to the human spirit within a man.

12. Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation. Persecution would be breaking upon the Roman church within ten years after this letter was written. Continuing steadfastly in prayer. "The idea expressed by the word steadfast is that of firm adherence and constant waiting."

13. Communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. Hospitality has always been appreciated by those receiving it, but this was especially the case in the first few centuries of the church when Christians were so often ridiculed, driven away, and, later, put to death.

14. Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not. See the teaching of our Lord regarding this most difficult virtue in Matt. 5: 10, 11, and our Lord's own practice of such a lofty ideal in Luke 23: 34.

15. Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep. Cf. 1 Cor. 12: 26. See also the account of our Lord at Cana (John 2: 1-12), and at Bethany (John 11: 1-44). If we are members of one body, we have the same wishes and the same feelings. The joy of one member is the joy of another; the sorrow of one should be the sorrow of all.

16. Be of the same mind one toward another. The word here translated "mind" really means a mental and moral disposition. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. Be not wise in your own conceits. The word here translated "condescend" does not mean, as the reader would at first take it to mean, to have an attitude of patronage, but it means that we are to be carried along with those who are of a lowly place in life, i.e., we are not to assume an attitude of arrogance and superiority over those who may not be so fortunate as we are in the things of this life, and especially in our service in the church.

17. Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men. (See Prov. 3: 4; 2 Cor. 8: 21). Our Lord was one who, when reviled, reviled not again (1 Pet. 2: 23).

18. If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men. (See Matt. 5: 9). Of course there are occasions when Christians, because of the attitude of other people, are prevented from being at peace. The emphasis here is on the pronoun you. Let it never be said that we are responsible for antagonisms and bitterness.

19. Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me: I will recompense, said the Lord. The quotation here is from Deut. 32: 35. We are to stand out of the way and leave the matter of vengeance with God, whose prerogative it is alone to punish.

20. But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. To heap coals of fire upon any one is a punishment which no one can bear. Kindness is no less effectual. The most malignant enemy cannot always withstand it. The true and Christian method to subdue an enemy is to "overcome evil with good."

21. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. If our life is filled with good, the evil against which we must struggle will then more easily be overcome. A person earnest in doing good does not have time or inclination to practise evil. A life that is filled with good has no place for the incoming of evil thoughts and evil desires.

DURING SIEGE OF IRUN

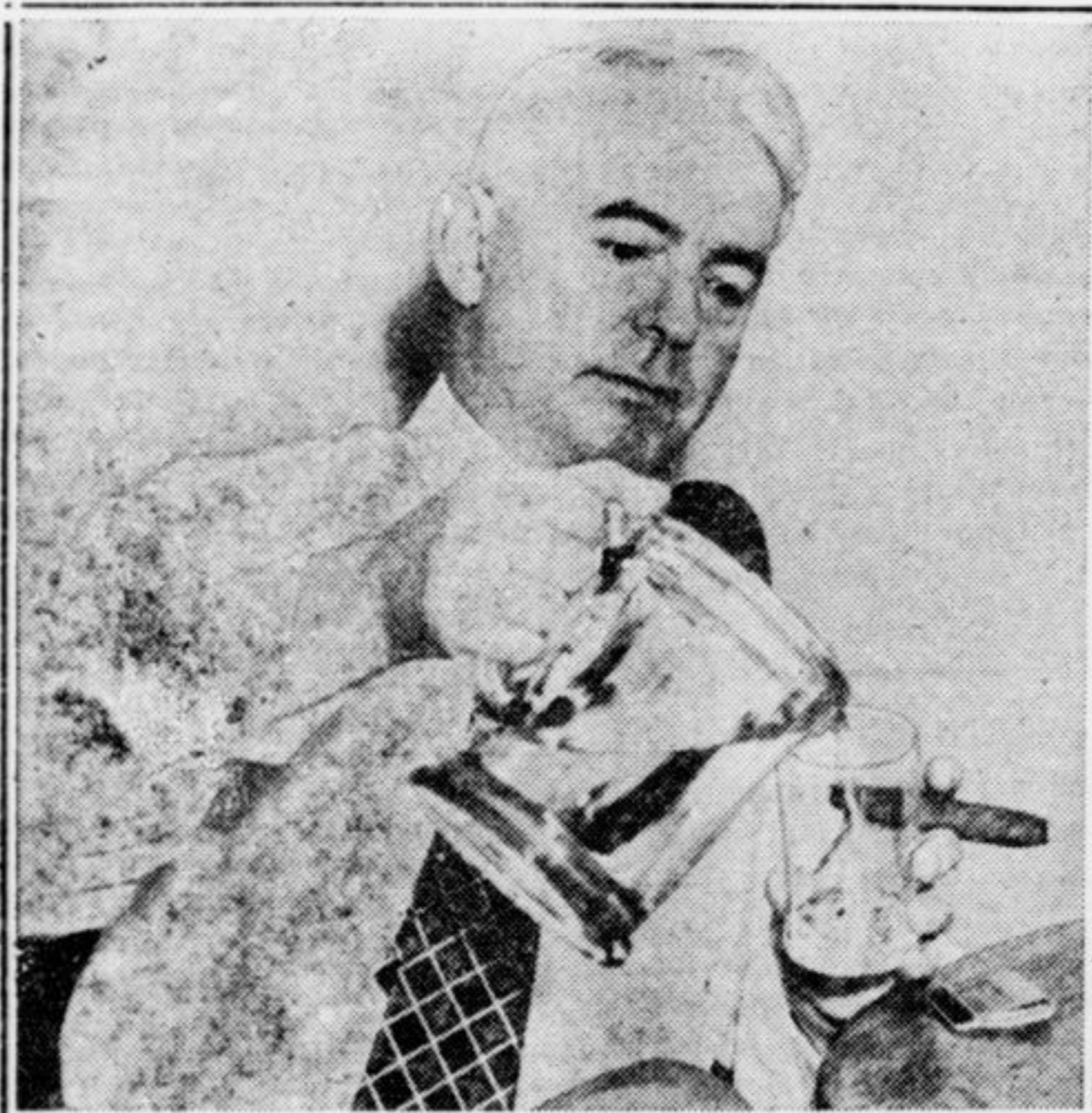


The besieged Irun stands about in public square of Irun, Spain, as rebels battled nearer and nearer from the north. Fight unto the death with avowed by residents and troops, now aware of fate of prisoners of war in Spanish strife.

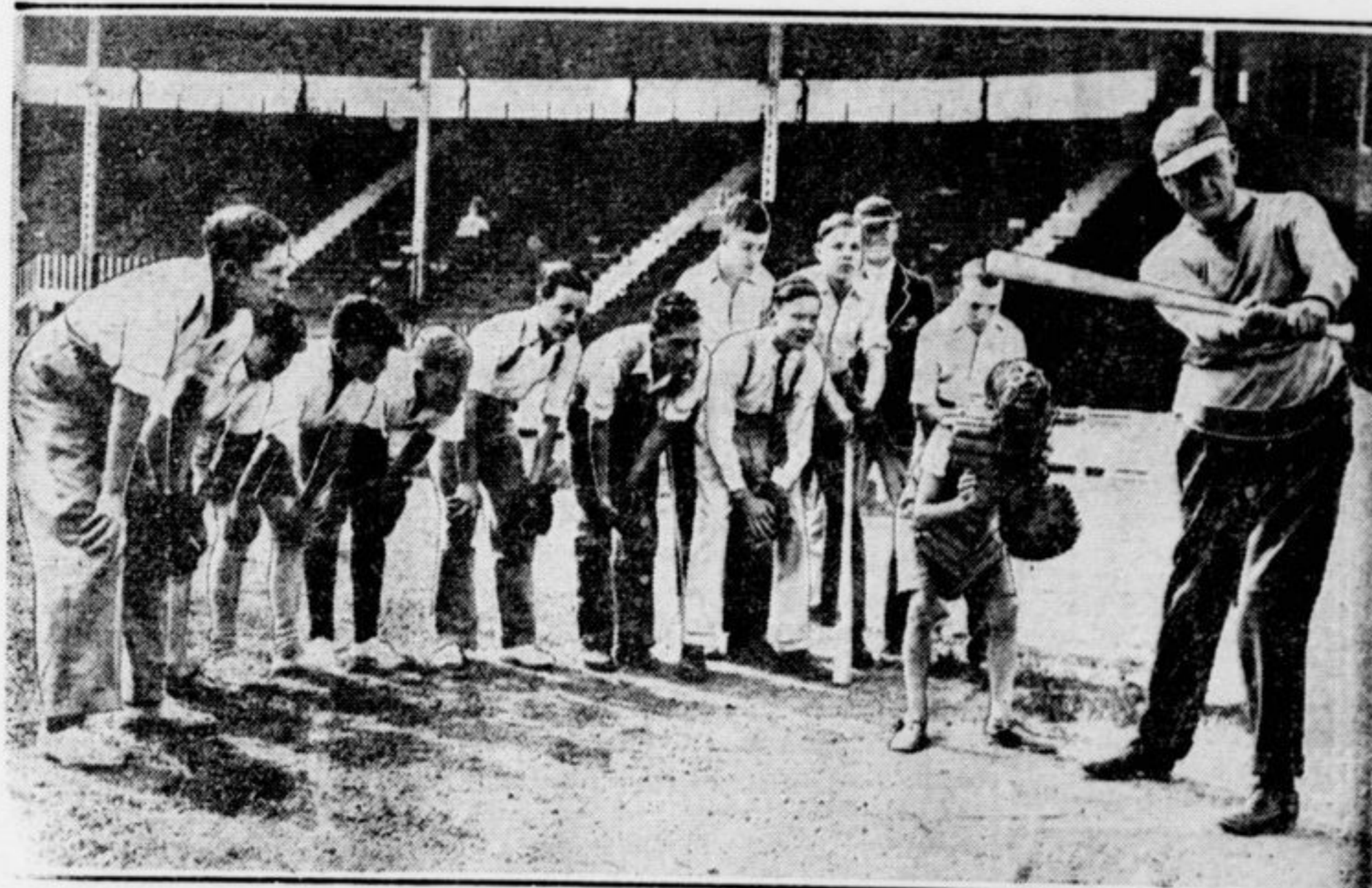
10,000 CHEER F. D. R.



A hearty reception was accorded President Franklin Roosevelt at Gary, Ind., as special train bearing him to Chicago on inspection tour stopped in that city. Above is view of throng of over 10,000 persons jamming the courthouse square as F. D. R. (left) spoke from rear platform.

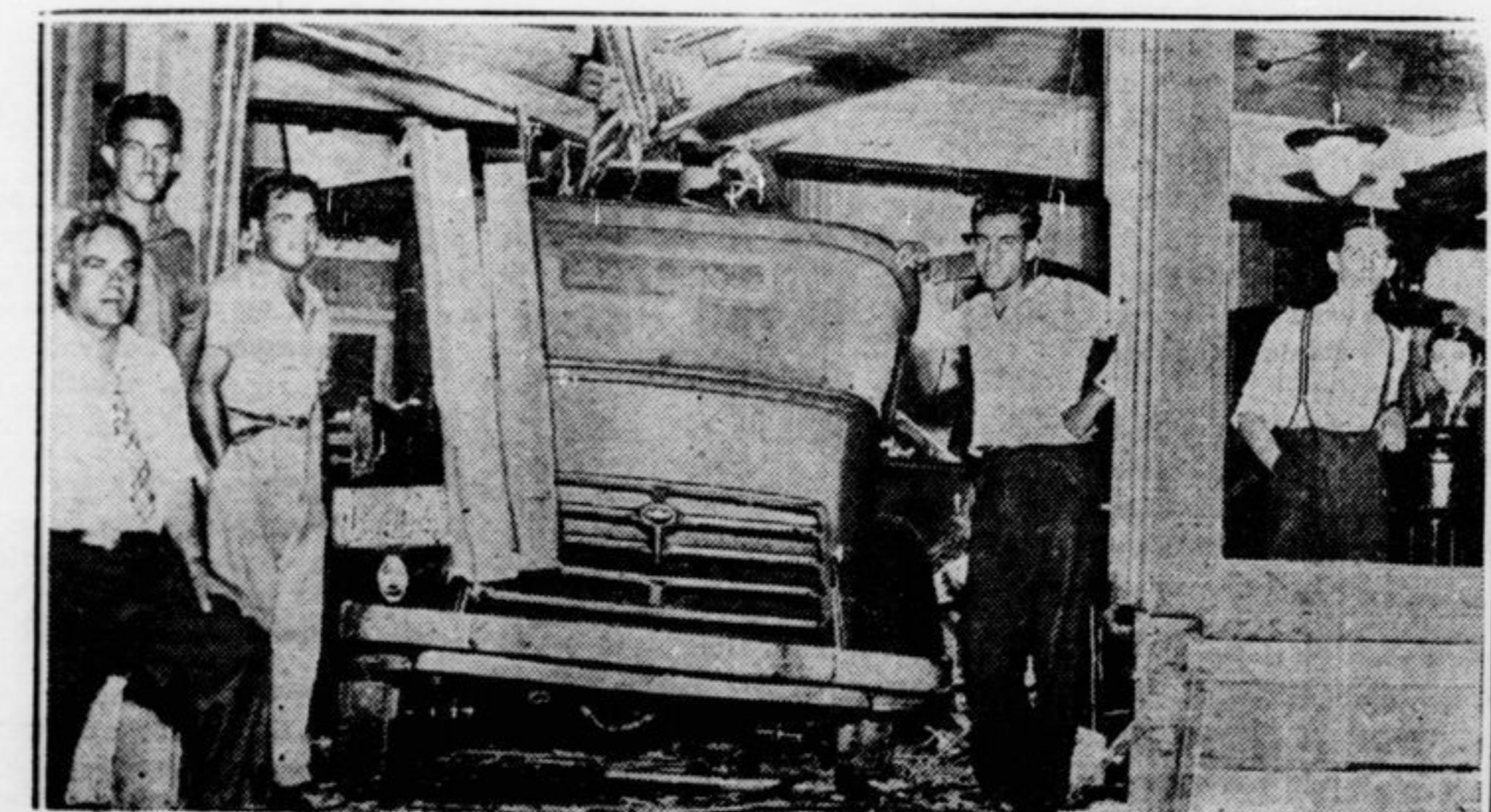


YOUNG BRITISHERS GET RUTHIAN TOUCH



Baseball has taken great strides in England this summer with the importation of several Canadian and United States players and coaches. Here is a picture taken at White City Stadium, London, showing "Doc" Hayden, former minor league player, coaching recruits in the art of "hitting the ball on the nose." More than 100 boys gathered at the stadium for instruction on various points of the pastime.

In political world, District Attorney William F. X. Geoghan (above) of Brooklyn, N.Y., pours himself a refreshing drink in Albany, N.Y., where he appeared before Governor on oyster charge.



Wrong filling station was selected by this car which crashed into beer parlor in best gate-crashers' fashion after driver lost control in Westbury, L.I. Three persons were hurt and entrance suffered severe enlargement.

"I Can't"—Not In His Vocabulary

"It can't be done." "I can't make a speech." "I can't play bridge." "I can't make tea biscuits." "I can't play golf." "I can't swim." "I can't find a job."

But 27-year-old Russell Darbo does not know how to say, "I can't."

Russell Darbo, a law student enrolled in the University of California, has been blind since he picked at some dynamite caps when he was 15. A few days ago the New York Times discovered that he had hitch-hiked across the continent. His only companion was Mia, a shepherd dog, trained by the Seeing-Eye in Morristown, N.J., as a guide and protector for the blind.

Darbo wanted to be treated as a normal person, so he undertook what ordinarily would be considered an adventure for a normal person. Early in June he and Mia left Berkeley, Cal., despite the disapproval of his friends. With only \$38, a small radio,

a few tithbits in his knapsack, Darbo and Mia struck out for New York City. A distance of about 3,400 miles the two travelled, through thick traffic, across desert and waste land, but only once, 25 miles out of Reno, Nevada, was there any desire to turn back. Mia stuck by faithfully, even though her paws were blistered. They often walked 30 miles a day.

Darbo found it difficult at times to get lodgings because of restrictions against dogs. Much of the resting hours were spent at branches of the Y.M.C.A. They were 33 days on the road.

"My advice to all men is to go ahead and get married. I have no doubt it's the only sensible way of life. I remain a bachelor, though."—Colonel Jacob Ruppert.

"There are no more patronizing smiles in Europe and Asia on the subject of American diplomacy."—Hugh S. Johnson.

Still Buy Bibles

Ottawa Journal

Somebody, it seems, is forever lamenting something that has passed. Observes the Ottawa Journal. Latest lament, spoken by an eminent divine, is that the family Bible, once inseparable from the front parlor table has been relegated out of sight. Instead of reading the Good Book now we listen to the latest thing on the radio.

How true is this? Everybody, of course, remembers the family Bible. It reposed on the parlor table, a sort of outward proof of the family's respectability but whether all or many of the family read it, or read it very thoroughly, is another matter. Our own memory seems to be that as the parlor was a sort of inviolate place opened only for favored guests, the Bible was even more neglected than the family album, with its tin-types of side-whiskered ancestors which made us laugh.

The older members of the family read it, of course, or, if they didn't read it, went to it often, because it was there they kept records of births, marriages and deaths plus some faded newspaper clippings, and sometimes receipts, but were not so sure about the younger ones. They knew more about the dining room and kitchen.

Nor can we believe that the old-fashioned parlor was the sort of thing to call for nostalgia. Our recollection of it is that it was a sort of cheerless place, with drawn shades excluding the sun from it. There would be the inevitable picture of Queen Victoria on the wall, and perhaps another of the Scots Greys charging at Waterloo, and in the corner there would be an upright piano, with a book of "Heart Throbs" on it, and somewhere, of course, the horse-hair settee, which was as uncomfortable as anything in the world could be.

We are not sure either that the passing of the family Bible, or its passing from the parlor table, means that the Bible isn't any longer read. On the contrary, we have an idea that the people we meet today, including young people, know more about the Bible, or have read more of it, than the people we knew in the long ago. In a day when the tabloid is with us, and the radio and the moving picture, that may sound strange, yet it is supported by the truth that the Bible remains a best seller among books, this is an age when more books are being published than ever before in the world's history.

Just one thing more. The thing that perhaps we shouldn't always be holding up the radio as a symbol of our barbarism. The radio has its penalties, but when people talk about its replacing the piano they forget that to countless homes the radio brings music that the piano never could bring. We are hearing music now, and great musicians that our forefathers never heard and never could hear. Because of that, we think, there is a wider knowledge of good music, and a wider love of it, than ever before.

So perhaps the passing of the old-fashioned parlor, even with the family Bible on its table, isn't such a calamity. The past has a lure that the present never can bring, and memory is even sweeter than hope, yet we doubt if many among us would really like to give up the comfortable modern living room, which everybody in the family uses every day, for one that was used, and then with a sort of ceremony, half a dozen times a year. That era, age of the top-covered buggy, of oil lamps and hat-pins and sickles, doubtless had its points, but, much as we like to read about it, we don't want to go back to it. Far-away things, like far-away pastures are seldom as green as they seem.

Nothing Too Good For Rural Women

Farm Boys and Girls Should Be Educated For Farm Life, Speaker Claims

Vancouver.—"There is nothing too good for the country women," Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.P.E., president of the Associated Country Women of the World, told delegates to the convention of Women's Institutes here.

"City women expect too much from country women," she said. "They think they ought to supply them with cheap food and often the only return they make is to litter up the countryside with picnic debris."

The Associated Country Women of the World includes nearly 100 free and independent large organizations, united through a central office in London, England.

Mrs. Watt thought farm boys and girls should not only be educated for farm life. They should first be taught the cultural subjects such as literature, history and geography and after that given any training suited to their particular abilities.

Mrs. Watt leaves shortly on a trip around the world. She has been invited to visit the Women's Institutes in New Zealand, Australia and India.

Once a resident of Victoria, she now makes her headquarters in England.