

The Stouffville Tribune

Established 1888

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association

Issued every Thursday, at Stouffville, Ontario.
Eight to Twelve Pages Average Circulation 1,500 Copies

Subscription Rates, per year, in advance:
In Canada \$2.00 In U.S.A. \$2.50

A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

Notes and Comments

The Sugar Situation Sweet for All

Lots of householders in Stouffville have been congratulating themselves on their foresight in having procured a bag of sugar before the order came into force a week ago limiting the amount one may buy.

However, there is this thought to keep in mind. Any of those folk who had a bag or half a bag of sugar on hand are liable to a fine as high as \$5,000 if they are caught purchasing even a quarter pound of sugar until they use up what they have.

Few people, if any, will be "hoggish" enough to attempt to buy more sugar when they have ten or twenty pounds on hand, but just in case, they are reminded about the penalty.

After all no one is standing with any great advantage. Folks who had no sugar on hand may purchase their requirements up to the limit of the allowance which is very liberal, three quarters of a pound per person.

Adopting One Time Again

Ottawa has made a sensible move in bringing about one time again in Canada, be it standard or daylight saving. One town running on one time and the next one operating under another time created endless confusion. The fact that daylight saving is adopted instead of standard time, is hailed in many quarters as the best time to adopt. That may be so, but if anyone can explain why daylight saving is better than standard time for the winter season, we would like to read about it. There is no saving of daylight during that season, but there is increased hardship in being forced to get up in the dark.

We realize that many folk favor daylight saving time, and generally conclude their approval by saying something about the saving of hydro. So far the Hydro Electric Power Commission has never shown any figures indicating there is any saving during the winter. That there is some saving in the summer is readily admitted.

Farmers Making 25 to 30 Cents per Bushel on Deal

A number of farmers feeding wheat in Western and Central Ontario are trading their Ontario winter wheat for Western wheat and making 25 to 30 cents a bushel on the deal, according to advices reaching the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture. This not only gives the farmers bushel for bushel, but a tidy profit as well which may be put in various cash uses as repair parts for machinery, purchase of baby chicks, commercial fertilizers, etc.

With feed on many farms showing prospects of running low before pasture time, many farmers are exchanging wheat and putting the profit into more Western grain. This is true in a number of counties, according to dealer reports, where half the wheat crop is yet to be sold or fed. These dealers state that Lambton farmers are trading their wheat freely making 30 cents a bushel on the deal. Huron reports more wheat is being traded all the time with a 30 cent profit. Bruce farmers are also trading and so are those in North York, according to reports.

The Ontario wheat being exchanged is going to the millers for pastry flour, it is stated.

Churches Take Stock

In a day when the influence of the Christian Church was never more needed, and despite the numerous calls for patriotic purposes and war financing, it is very encouraging to note recorded in the annual reports of churches in Stouffville, Claremont and some of the smaller places, balanced budgets, treasury surpluses, allocations for missions met, and increased memberships, both by profession of faith and certificate.

Like private business, the churches annually take stock, to ascertain their spiritual and material profits and losses, and plan for the future.

Some reports indicate that the attendance at public worship is on the upward trend. This may be due to one or two things—increased populations brought about by industrial and construction projects undertaken as part of the price of war, or the awakening of a new consciousness that in these uncertain days the church has much to offer through its gospel message and its ministrations. Perhaps we are on the eve of a great revival in church-going such as has been brought on by the war in Britain. Most ministers, we fancy, would like to see the first signs of it in Sunday evening congregations which today in the majority of our churches are mere shadows of what they were in bygone days when there were not so many voices calling and so many attractions to keep people away. Without a doubt, getting the people out to church Sunday evenings is one of the greatest problems facing ministers and church officials generally today.

The call of the church today is not and must not be one of despair, not uttered in muffled tones, but must be directed to all who care to listen to its clarion summons.

Sunday School Lesson

A BUSY SABBATH IN CAPERNAUM
Golden Text—"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day."—Rev. 1:10

The Lesson as a Whole
The teaching and healing ministries of the Lord Jesus Christ were ever intimately connected. The latter complemented the former and in a sense authenticated it. His works of power proved that He was the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel and the Saviour of the world. He wrought no useless miracles, no merely spectacular wonders. He was not a magician seeking to astonish people by His mystic ability over the elements or the minds of men. In all that He did He had the Father's glory and the blessing of mankind in view. This Sabbath day in Capernaum is but a cross section of His entire life of service, for which He had been sent by the Father, who anointed Him with the Holy Spirit that He might go about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil (Acts 10:38). He recognized all diseases, every physical infirmity as primarily the work of the enemy of God and man, inasmuch as there would have been no sickness in the world if sin had not come in to mar God's fair creation.

Verse by Verse:

Verse 21—"They went into Capernaum." To this city our Lord and His mother and brethren had removed from Nazareth, and to Jesus it was therefore home (Matt. 4:13; John 2:12). It is called "his own city" (Matt. 9:1). Here He taught frequently and wrought many miracles. It was a city privileged above all others in Galilee; yet it rejected His testimony and against it He pronounced one of His most solemn woes (Matt. 11:23). "Straightway on the sabbath day." Punctiliously Jesus observed the Sabbath of the law in the way God intended that it should be kept, but He refused to recognize the mass of traditions and legalistic additions to the Scriptures which the rabbis had connected with it, and which made burdensome what was intended for blessing. The synagogue was open to Him as a recognized teacher and He entered into it and taught.

Verse 22—"He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes." These men were accustomed to give out what their teachers had said before them and did not attempt to give any authoritative instructions themselves. Jesus spoke as One sent from God, who did not need to bolster His instructions by quotations from human authorities, but preached the Word as the mouthpiece of the Father, whose representative He was. This was teaching such as the people had never heard before.

Verse 23—"A man with an unclean spirit." The Scripture plainly tell us of the reality of demon poss-

ession. This was not just a Jewish superstition. On this occasion the service was interrupted by a man under the control of a wicked and unclean spirit.

Verse 24—"I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." The demon who possessed the man recognized the person and authority of Jesus and feared lest He was about to visit the evil spirits with judgement, confining them in the eternal prison house of the damned. Men might be incredulous regarding Christ's claims, but fallen spirits knew Him for what He professed to be.

Verse 25—"Jesus rebuked him." Our Lord did not desire testimony from demons. He commanded the spirit to be silent and to come out of the frenzied man.

Verse 26—"When the unclean spirit had torn him, . . . he came out." As with a last vengeful effort, the demon inflicted further suffering on his poor victim, and then in unwilling obedience to the command which he was powerless to disobey, he left the man free from his awful power. The deliverance was evident to all present.

Verse 27—"What thing is this? what new doctrine is this?" The amazed throng that filled the synagogue were thrilled when they recognized the power of Jesus over evil spirits and questioned one another as to the meaning of it all, and the source of His authority. Never had they known such a manifestation of the divine approval before, as they had listened to the ordinary exponents of the law.

Verse 28—"Immediately his fame spread." One told another of the remarkable thing that had taken place in the synagogue of Capernaum, until the news had penetrated all that part of Galilee. But as after events proved, it is one thing to recognize in Jesus a great teacher, prophet, or wonderworker. It is quite another to bow in repentance before God and receive the Saviour He has sent, as the Redeemer from sin.

Verse 29—"They entered into the house of Simon and Andrew." Originally these brethren dwelt in Bethsaida. It may have been after Simon's marriage that he removed to Capernaum, possibly to share the home of his wife's mother.

Verse 30—"Simon's mother lay sick of a fever." Everywhere Jesus went, there were evidences of the havoc sin had wrought in Israel. Had this people been faithful to God, He would have taken sickness away from them (Exod. 15:26). But they had failed as a nation to obey His word. Consequently sickness and disease were everywhere prevalent. Seeing the condition of this suffering woman, the disciples called Jesus' attention to her, confident that He would relieve the situation.

Verse 31—"He . . . took her by the hand . . . and immediately the fever left her." There was healing in His touch. In tender personal consideration for the poor sufferer, He gently raised her up and, "the fever left her." His hand calmed and soothed her and brought deliverance from the fire that burned in her

Gas Rationing

Order Becoming Effective April 1 Will Limit Pleasure Drivers to 300 to 380 Gallons Annually.

Most important news announced last week from a domestic standpoint was the fact that motorists using their cars chiefly for pleasure purposes are to be allowed between 300 and 380 gallons of gasoline per annum.

Other owners, using their cars for business purposes will be allowed greater amounts of gasoline, according to the nature of their business and proven needs.

These preferred classes are divided into six categories. First on the list will be "A" category, cars which are owned privately and driven for non-essential purposes.

Special provision will be made for U.S. tourists, who will be provided with gasoline licenses and coupon books without costs. Other motorists must pay \$1 for coupon books.

The units in ration books will allow purchase of five gallons, but the purchaser will be permitted to turn in half a coupon if he wants to buy only two and a half gallons.

There will be only one book to cover the year. It will be divided into quarters with more coupons useable in the summer months of heavy motoring than during the winter period.

Gasoline rationing plans are progressing and it is the government's intention to impose them April 1.

veins. In loving gratitude she who had lain there so helpless, now arose and ministered to others.

Verse 32—"When the sun did set." As the day drew to a close, a motley throng could be seen coming from every side, bringing the diseased and demoniacs that Jesus might manifest His healing power on their behalf.

Verse 33—"All the city was gathered together at the door." This is not mere hyperbole. Capernaum was not a large city. From every quarter its inhabitants went to the house of Simon and Andrew, impelled either by curiosity or a sense of need. Alas the great majority of them never considered seriously their responsibility to Him who had come among them in the activity of His grace, not only with healing for their bodies, but to proclaim salvation for their souls.

Verse 34—"Suffered not the devils (demons) to speak, because they knew him." He healed many of their physical infirmities, delivered others from spiritual bondage to demon power, but He refused to allow the wicked spirits to declare His identity, for He would not receive testimony from the hosts of the evil one. The Heart of the Lesson

The life of our Lord on earth was one of ceaseless service. This does not imply that He was always actively engaged in teaching and healing. He found abundant time for quiet communion with the Father: Yet none of His disciples were so busily engaged as He. The record of this one Sabbath day in Capernaum is but a sample of the many such days He spent in proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and meeting the needs of men and women, as a testimony to the divine interest in human concerns. In all of this He has left us an example. We waste so much time upon things that do not profit. He made every moment count for the glory of God in our lives there is so much that is of no real and lasting value. In all He said or did there was a worthwhileness that counted for eternity.

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