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Notes and Comments

Those Easter Bonnets

New spring hats for Easter are now making their appearance, but it is too early to say whether some of the ridiculous and silly styles of last year and other years before that will make their appearance. Girls should wear that which is most becoming to them, independent of what the stylists say.

Farmers Prepare Spring Offensive

The feeling of spring is in the air again. This year it is serving special notice that the time of planning for the spring offensive on the farm front is past and the period of action is upon us. An increase of five million pounds of milk and 17 per cent in hog production over last year is the goal that must be attained. An all-out effort on the part of the agricultural industry is the only hope of success.

The acute shortage of farm help is a major difficulty and almost certainly will cause a serious reduction of acreage planted to grain, corn and root crops. The loss in production thus resulting can and must be made up by increased acre yields of the area that is planted.

Replies by farmers to a soil test questionnaire, set out to growers in all parts of Eastern Canada and British Columbia, show that yields of grain, pasture, hay, corn and roots are being increased generally by 10 to 50 per cent by the liberal use of fertilizer which should be used this year more than ever.

"How Much Can I Get" is the Wrong Attitude

We Canadians are not into this war in a real serious way yet, if the manner in which people are striving to obtain the best gasoline ration they can put over, is any criterion. Persons may well be amazed with the effort of scores of people who attempt to get into some category to which they are not entitled. Even retired ministers and many school teachers who are not entitled to anything above class "A" are using their profession to gain a higher gasoline rating.

Just because the powers that be provided a class for ministers and teachers who really have to travel, scores of others seek to get in under this assumption. Teachers who live in towns and cities should be in class A because they can reside in the community where they teach, or use the street cars as others will have to do, while ministers who are not in active work, have little excuse for obtaining a rating intended for an active minister.

Scores of other car drivers have worked overtime to figure out some excuse for obtaining more gas, so that it is not only the teacher and the preacher who are guilty. Thousands of persons are doing the same thing.

Even though we are told that to conserve gas will help win the war, the prevailing attitude is, "how much can I get," not "how little can I do with."

Postmaster General Extends Free Mail Service

The member for North York made a short statement in the House of Commons last Wednesday, indicating that Hon. Wm. Mulock is extending the privilege of free postage on letters from soldiers, as well as an extension of the air mail to Quebec. Here is the statement made by Hon. Wm. Mulock as reported in the daily proceedings of the House:

"I should like to advise hon. members that steps are being taken to facilitate the exchange of correspondence between soldiers and their homes in Canada at all times. Letters from Canadian troops in England and Newfoundland have been accepted free of postage for some time past, and arrangements have now been completed under which letters posted in Jamaica by Canadian troops stationed there will pass free of postage to their homes in Canada. This concession takes effect on April 1, next.

I should also like to say to the house, in response to numerous questions, that have been asked in regard to the establishment of air mail service between Montreal and Quebec, that the business value of an air mail service between these cities has been carefully investigated, and in the light of the facts disclosed steps are being taken to inaugurate a regular daily-except-Sunday air mail schedule between these two important points on or about April 15 next. The proposed schedule of service will link the city of Quebec with main line air services at Montreal, operating to and from maritime provinces, the Canadian west, and all points in the United States. The postal advantages of this service should prove to be definite value, especially at this time when speed in the transmission of the written word is of such great importance."

Citizens Approve More to Get More Water

The news published last week concerning the village Council's decision to engage a consulting engineer with the view of designing a third reservoir for Stouffville was received with gratification by the water users.

There is a lovely creek of sparkling spring water running to waste from off the town reservoir property, and the aim is to ultimately harness this supply for domestic use. While the users have only had to forego lawn water in July or August, the supply has been perilously low at times had fire broken out. With additional storage capacity this danger will be removed, and possibility of running short for tap water removed with a certainty.

Sunday School Lesson

Easter Lesson, April 5

CHRIST AND LIFE AFTER DEATH
Golden Text — "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

—1 Cor. 15:57

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

By H. A. Ironside, Litt. D.

Pastor Moody Church, Chicago.

Approach to the Lesson

Our Lord, and the Scripture generally, teaches not merely the survival of the soul after the body dies (Matt. 10:28), but the literal, physical resurrection of the bodies both of the just and the unjust (Acts 24:15), the one a resurrection unto life, the other a resurrection unto judgment (John 5:28,29). By this is not meant a reincarnation in some other form, as held by certain Oriental mystics and their misguided Occidental followers, but an actual rising again from the dead of the very same person who died. Our Lord Himself came out of the grave in the same body that had hung upon the cross, bearing still the marks of His passion (John 20:20, 27). In like manner death shall yield up the bodies of all men, even though long since apparently reduced to their chemical elements, for our God is the God of resurrection. He who created these bodies with all their marvelous powers can reassemble them and make them live again when the time comes for the saved to be caught up to meet the Lord (1 Thess. 4:13-17), and later for the wicked to rise and stand before the Great White Throne for judgment (Rev. 20:11-14). Surely nothing should have a more solemnizing effect upon our lives in this scene than the knowledge that this life is only a prelude for that which is to come, to be lived forever in the joy of Heaven or endured amid the sad and gloomy horrors of hell. Faithfully Jesus Christ portrayed both aspects of the life beyond the grave, that none might presume or be deceived by the vain hope of a happy immortality if living and dying in sin. He would have all men remember that there are two resurrections, and following these, two destinies. Therefore the importance of receiving Christ now, that we may be assured of felicity hereafter.

Verse by Verse

Mark 12:24—"Ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God."

The Sadducees had sought to puzzle or heckle the Lord Jesus and to make the doctrine of the resurrection seem absurd by their fanciful illustration. Our Lord appeals to two great reasons for accepting the fact that the dead will rise. It is revealed in the Bible, which is God's inspired Word, and it rests upon the power of the omnipotent God. When God has spoken, it is not for man to reason, but to accept His declaration, with becoming reverence. To ask how anything can be done because contrary to the ability of finite creatures is to forget that all power belongeth unto God, with whom nothing is impossible. (Luke 18:27).

Verse 25—"As the angels... in heaven." The angels are sexless beings who do not have the power of reproducing their kind. In the resurrection the same will be true of mankind. In the eternal condition following the rising from the dead, marriage will have no place. Each will be a distinct individual capable of endless bliss or woe, but human relationships, as we know them here, will be ended.

Verse 26—"God spoke... saying, I am the God of Abraham, and... Isaac, and... Jacob." He did not say, "I was their God," but, "I am their God." He spoke of them as definite personalities related to Him by grace though their bodies were dead long since. In His own time they would rise again and be acknowledged as His own.

Verse 27—"He is not the God of the dead." If these patriarchs were reduced to unconsciousness, or annihilated by death, He would not still be their God, but "all live unto Him." Though they are dead as to the body and hidden from the eyes of men, He, the God of the spirits of all flesh (Num. 16:22), sees and knows everyone in his present state between death and resurrection.

1 Cor. 15:50—"Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." It is not in our natural bodies, sustained by blood, that we shall participate in the heavenly aspect of the Kingdom of God. A great physical change will take place in order that we may participate in that sphere of incorruption.

Verse 51—"I shew you a mystery." That is, I make known to you a sacred secret. Apart from a divine revelation no one could know anything of resurrection. "We shall not all sleep." Death for the believer is but the sleep of the body, while the spirit is absent from the body and present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). But all believers will not pass through death. Some will be alive and will be changed at the Lord's return (Phil. 3:20, 21).

Verse 52—"The trumpet shall sound." This is called elsewhere "the trump of God" (1 Thess. 4:16). There is no such thought in Scripture as the awakening of the dead "when Gabriel blows his horn"! When this age ends, the last trump will sound,

FARMERS' INCOME HIGHER IN 1941

Farmers' cash income from the sale of farm products in 1941 was 15.5 per cent greater than in 1940, and the highest for any year since 1929, states the latest issue of the Current Review of Agricultural Conditions in Canada. Increased production and better prices for livestock and animal products have brought income from these sources to the highest levels on record. Although the income from field crops was the highest for any year since 1929 with the exception of 1939, the wheat situation continues to depress farm income in the Prairie Provinces below the average level from 1926 to 1929. In 1941 the income of Western farmers was supplemented by the Dominion Government under the Wheat Acreage Reduction Policy, Prairie Farm Assistance Act, and in the form of special Prairie Farm Income payments.

TO SAVE TINPLATE

In order to conserve tinplate and freight space, a trial shipment of compressed dried whole-cream milk powder has been sent from Australia to Great Britain. Instead of being packed in cans, the powder was moulded into firm blocks, thus reducing the volume by more than one-half. Thirty-three pound of the powder can be compressed into a 9-inch cube, which, when beaten up in water is reconverted into 26 gallons of milk will be reimbursed by the government.

SUIT MAKERS GET O.K. TO RAISE PRICES

Ottawa — Permission has been granted manufacturers of made-to-measure suits to raise prices by 50 cents on lines priced at wholesale up to \$20 and up to 5 p.c. on lines priced to the retailer from \$20.50 and over. These price increases apply on suits for spring, 1942. They are applicable to "new sample ranges sent out for spring, 1942, selling season and are not to be applied to the sample ranges of previous season's cloths excepting staples that may be in the hands of retailers."

closing up the dispensation of grace and calling the heavenly saints to rise to meet the descending Lord. Do not confuse this with the seventh angel's trumpet, which in Revelation 11:15 sounds to usher in the earthly Kingdom. This will be some time after 1 Corinthians 15:52 has been fulfilled.

Verse 53—"Incorruption... immortality." The risen saints whose bodies have seen corruption will rise in incorruptible bodies. Those who are still on earth in their mortal flesh will become immortal when the great change takes place. They will never die at all, nor will they be capable of death.

Verse 54—"Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." This is a quotation from Isaiah 25:8. When all the redeemed are raised in glory, the ravages of death will, for them be at an end, and their seeming defeat be turned to victory over him who had the power of death and used it throughout the ages to torment and harass the people of God (Heb. 2:14, 15).

Verse 55—"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, or hades, as it should read, where is thy victory?" This is the challenge of Hosea 13:14. Even in Old Testament times the believer was taught to look in faith for the abolition of death and sheol, the separate state.

Verse 56—"The strength of sin is the law." Many people imagine that the law is the strength of holiness, but that is because they have not recognized the very reason why God gave it, namely, "that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful" (Rom. 7:13). It is sin that makes men fear to die and the holy law of God accentuates this. It is through the Gospel, with its revelation of perfect love, that fear is banished (1 John 4:18).

Verse 57—"God... giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Our sinless Saviour met all the claims of the law we had broken, died under its curse, but arose in triumph, and we who believe are now united to Him, and so death is a defeated foe.

Verse 58—"Therefore... be ye steadfast... forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Judged by the light of this present scene, the Christian's life and service may seem to be of no avail, but seen in the pure clear light of resurrection; he can go on in confidence, knowing that all will be appraised aright in that day. The Heart of the Lesson

The truth of the resurrection is intended to be an encouragement to Christians and a warning to unbelievers. It will be then that the child of God will become fully like his Lord and that his works will be rewarded. For the Christ-rejector the resurrection will mean the final judgment, when he shall give account to God for all the sins of his life. How important for all of us to live now in the light of then! We are all too prone to think only of present gain or loss, forgetting that it is the eternal values that are really worth while

FERTILIZER SUBSIDY NOW OBTAINABLE

In a sustained effort to increase yields in crops vitally needed for the production of war food, the Dominion Government has set aside \$1,000,000 to encourage Ontario and Eastern Canada farmers to use chemical fertilizers on certain specific "war crops." In other words, the government will pay part of the farmers' fertilizer bill as a subsidy on crops providing food for live stock and poultry.

Farmer must guarantee that any fertilizer obtained under the subsidy will be used only on pastures; clover, alfalfa and grass hay crops; field corn for ensilage or husking; spring wheat, oats, barley and spring mixed grains for grain production; mangels and turnips for feeding live stock. The regulations provide penalties for use of subsidized fertilizer on crops other than the above war crops.

Subsidies will be paid on purchases of not less than one-quarter ton of any one kind or analysis of fertilizer and not more than five tons to any one farmer who must buy for his own use and not for resale.

There are six different combinations of fertilizers eligible for purchase as well as fertilizer chemicals. The amount of subsidy is based on 40 cents per unit of nitrogen and 20 cents per unit each of phosphoric acid and potash. For example, a farmer buying a ton of fertilizer containing 2 per cent nitrogen, 12 per cent phosphoric acid and 6 per cent potash, will have \$4.40 deducted from the net cash price by the vendor who will be reimbursed by the government.

The subsidy may be obtained only through fertilizer manufacturers, their agents or dealers. These dealers have forms which must be filled out by them and signed by the purchaser.

Farmers who wish to take advantage of the subsidy and who want further information should write to E. K. Hampson, Provincial Supervisor of Subventions, Dept. of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings.

PLACE 40,000 BOYS ON FARMS THIS YEAR

Forty thousand boys of secondary school age will be placed on farms, according to Alex. McLean, director of the Farm Service Force for Ontario.

Last year there were 23,000 boys sent out and this year farmers are calling for more. Applications have been sent out to farmers asking how many hired hands they need to keep the farms running at maximum efficiency.

The minimum age for students is 14 years and the average pay is \$15 a month. Not only have school boys and girls been asked to spend their summer on the farm, but this has been extended to the teachers.

Fourteen camps in the Niagara Peninsula are being planned to accommodate 700 women needed for picking fruit. Last year the results proved very satisfactory, and it is expected that this year similar results will be obtained.

Among the 1943 shortage, possibly, will be buggy whips, due to inability to get rattan from somewhere or other.

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