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Notes and Comments

The Canadian Infantryman

The soldier, the infantryman, long known as the backbone of the army, is still a unique fighting man, the man experts say will be the deciding factor for victory even in the highly modernized conflict of 1942. This week is army week, (June 29th to July 5th.) with all its military panoply and publicity is bringing home the value of the Dominion's foot soldier to the Canadian public.

The infantryman of today is not merely the foot-slogging, rifle-shooting, bayonet-charging fighter of the last war. He is that and a lot more. Today the infantryman goes through a carefully planned course of training at a basic training centre and then progresses to an advanced training centre, where he receives at least eight weeks of specialized training before he can be drafted for overseas service.

The infantryman in the advanced training centre is perfected in the art of modern warfare so that his individual initiative can be of value. For instance, every man—every private—attains a standard of expert map-reading efficiency before he leaves an advanced training centre. Today the soldier often finds himself doing his fighting job among only a handful of fighting men, or even alone. While whole platoons and companies did the fighting in the last war, but this time a section, eight to ten men, is a component fighting group. This is made possible by the Bren Gun, a light, mobile machine gun, extremely accurate and capable of a high rate of fire.

The infantryman learns in his advanced training course to be a rifleman, bayonet fighter, machine-gunner, grenade-thrower, even a rifle-grenadier. His fighting art today is highly specialized. He is prepared to care for himself in the severest positions, and we salute him as among the world's finest.

More Explanation Appreciated

Too many new laws or regulations are handed out before they are carefully thought out and properly phrased for the public. Not long ago it was announced that truckers could not carry any person other than a helper in their cab. Now it turns out that a farmer may take his wife along as he leaves the farm for market by truck, and there will be no prosecution. This is the fact despite the very definite wording of the original ban made by the Wartime Price and Trade Board.

Many farmers have no other conveyance than the farm truck. To forbid the wife or a member of the family to seize the opportunity to go to town when the truck is going, was the height of folly. There was no saving of gasoline at all.

If a truck of any kind is travelling its route to Toronto and the trucker wants to take a member of his family along, surely there is no harm in that, or no sensible reason why it should be stopped. The alternative may be for the trucker's wife to take the family car and trail along over the same route that the truck travels. Now it actually turns out that what we are trying to defend does not need defending, because the Board has stated in letters to anxious enquirers that the idea is likely to stop truck owners from using the farm or town truck as passenger car. Why wasn't it explained this way in the first place namely, that the farm truck cannot be sent places merely to transport passengers or members of the family. If, however, a member of the family goes along with the driver when the truck is making its regular trip, that is all right.

From the Poorest to the Richest

The death of Thomas Williamson removes from the life of this community a man who had played an active part and taken a keen interest in its affairs for around 70 years. He came here with little or none of this world's goods, with little or no schooling, yet he rose to be the head and financial backing of a private banking institution that made big loans here in the days of the private bank in Ontario.

The life of Thomas Williamson would fill an interesting story book. Here was a lad who at the age of 11 was forced to leave his home because there were too many other children for a widowed mother to care for. "I had only ten cents in my pocket," he often told his friends, and then he would relate how he gave his last dime to a greedy railway conductor for transporting him to his first place of destination in search of work. He landed finally in Stouffville as a harness maker at the age of 21, and commenced to build his fortune.

He made no secret of the fact that he desired wealth and that some day he would pass away to be known as a benefactor of the poor of this village by reason of his accumulation which he so carefully cherished during his lifetime.

Despite the fact that he spent but few, if any of his days within the walls of a school building, Thomas Williamson could match his wits and foresight with the best trained business mind. He possessed a determination seldom equaled in man, and having once set his mind to a task, he never failed to carry it out if humanly possible. His self-determination was largely the foundation of his ability to rise from the poorest to the richest in this world's goods.

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson for July 5
GOD THE CREATOR
Golden Text—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."—Gen. 1:1.
THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson

The Book of Genesis is the Book of Beginnings. Practically every truth later unfolded or developed in the Scriptures is found in germ in this Book. Its great outstanding theme is God's sovereign, electing grace, working in a world ruined by sin, to bring in redemption for lost mankind through the promised Seed of the Woman, our Lord Jesus Christ, who was to come into the world in due time as the Virgin-born Son of God. Genesis is largely the story of eight men and four women, each setting forth, or illustrating, some special of truth: Adam, the first, type of the last Adam (Rom. 5:14), Head of the race; but falling through sin and taking all down with him, whereas Christ, through His redemptive work, raises all to newness of life who are linked with Him in new creation (1 Cor. 15:45). Abel-Seth (for the two are linked together as speaking of substitution and acceptance) counted as righteous because of the blood of atonement (Heb. 11:4). Enoch, telling of translation before the coming judgment (Heb. 11:5). Noah, a preacher of righteousness (2 Pet. 2:5), saved through the flood (Heb. 11:7). Abraham tells of justification by faith (Rom. 4: 2, 3). Isaac sets forth "sonship" and the mystery of death and resurrection (Heb. 11:17-19). Jacob's life pictures the discipline of the child of God (Heb. 12:6), and Joseph is the rejected one, who became the deliverer (Gen. 49:22-26). The four women are Eve, a type of the Church; Sarah, the covenant of grace; Rebekah, the bride led through the wilderness to join the son in the land of promise; and Asenath, the Gentile woman who became consort of the heir of the world. The first two chapters are introductory, giving the story of creation, and the earth's fall and recovery, and then, in more detail, of the special creation of man. Adam was not a product of evolution, but was brought into being by the direct act of God Himself. Though the Bible was not given to teach science, yet it is absolutely scientific and unerring, because given by divine inspiration.

Verse by Verse:

Gen. 1:1 — "In the beginning God." What a sublime opening of the story of the creation of the world and man! Go back as far as the mind may travel into the dim ages of the past and God is there; He, the Creator of the universe, who brought all things into existence by the Word of His power. The direct agent in creation was the Son, or Word, as declared in John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16,17; Hebrew 1:2, and other passages. That original creation was perfect.

Verse 2—"Without form, and void." Some believe that all was chaos in the beginning and that the earth slowly reached a habitable condition. But we read in Isaiah 45:18 that "he created it not in vain (i.e., void)." Many scholars agree that in place of "was" we should read "became." The earth, through some terrible cataclysm (possibly connected with the fall of Lucifer) became waste and empty, enshrouded in darkness and covered with water. Over this chaotic swirling waste the energizing Spirit of God moved, or brooded, as a hen brooding over the nest from which new life is to come.

Verse 3—"And God said, Let there be light." At the command of God the darkness was dissipated and cosmic light flooded the scene. Men talk of the absurdity of "light before the sun." They forget that the sun was included in the creation of the heavens, but atmospheric conditions, due to the moist state of the earth, hindered its rays coming through the mist surrounding the globe. It was not until the fourth day that the sun, moon, and stars were clearly displayed in the firmament, or heavenly expanse (vs. 14-15). But from the first day on the light began to penetrate the mist.

Verse 4—"God divided the light from the darkness." Throughout the Bible we have the story of the conflict between darkness and light. The Lord uses natural phenomena to illustrate spiritual truth.

Verse 5—"The evening and the morning." The day extended from twilight to twilight. Whether this means a definite twenty-four day such as we now know, or whether the six days of earth's reconstruction were lengthy periods of time is a question about which men, equally sound in the faith, have held diverse opinions. In either case the Genesis record stands out as a divinely inspired account of what could only be known through revelation. It is perfect and in no sense contradictory to any known scientific fact.

Verses 24, 25—"The living creature after his kind." This negates the claim of the evolutionists. There is no change from one species to another. The beasts, birds, fishes, and insects were created each "after his kind," and they continue so to this day, as fossil remains testify, all unproved



"Cheer up, pal ... things could be worse. You ain't been torpedooed yet."

THEY'RE SHORTENING OUR NIGHTSHIRTS!

Those guys down at Ottawa are going a bit too far. Not content with telling us how much tea we can drink, how much sugar we can eat, how much gas we can burn and a hundred other things, they have now climbed into bed with us and started to measure the length of our nightshirts.

Now if there is anything about which some of us oldtimers are a bit touchy it is on the subject of night shirts. We had steadily resisted what is falsely termed the march of progress. After having been encumbered by them all day long we have persistently fought against all efforts to make us put on pants when we went to bed. At times we have unwillingly and unhappily agreed to don pajamas as when we were travelling on a train for we might appear a little more dignified in striped trousers if there was a wreck. Never have we let the old rag fall, however, when we're sleeping under a stationary roof.

And now those Ottawa birds tell us "that the finished length of a nightgown must not exceed 52 inches for any size except outside which is limited to 54 inches." Gosh! That will mean at least

statements of certain advocates of the discredited evolutionary hypothesis to the contrary notwithstanding.

Verse 26—"Let us make man in our image." The eternal Trinity is thus presented as in the counsel together concerning the creation of a being who was to be as far superior to the beasts as they were to inanimate matter. Man was to be in the image of God as representing Him on the earth, and in his likeness as a moral creature capable of fellowship with his Creator.

Verse 27—"God created man." The same power that created the universe produced a creature consisting of spirit, and soul, and body (1 Thess. 5:23) who could act for God in this scene. Note that the creation of the woman is included as part of this divine act. "Male and female created he them." The details of this are given in chapter 2:7, 21, 22.

Verse 28—"God blessed them, and God said ... Be fruitful and multiply." This was spoken to man in innocence, but it was not until after the fall that children were actually born of the newly created pair. To the man God gave dominion over all the earth. He was to rule over it for God, as His viceroy in this lower sphere.

Verse 29—"I have given you every herb ... to you it shall be for meat." That is, for food. It would seem that the primeval man subsisted upon vegetable food. Apparently it was not until after the flood that God directed Noah to eat the flesh of animals (9:3).

Verse 30—"To every beast ... and fowl ... I have given every green herb for meat." It would seem from this that the animals also subsisted on herbage during the pre-diluvian era.

Verse 31—"Every thing that he had made ... was very good." All creation testified to the wisdom and power of its Creator. God looked with satisfaction upon the earth and all that is contained. Alas, that sin should so soon have come in to mar that fair creation!

Chap 2:1—"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished." All else has been development of that which the Creator originally brought into existence. The record of creation is completed with his verse, tell us of God's creatorial sabbath. Then in chapter 2:4-25 we have additional details in connection with the origin of the human race. It is a supplementary, not a contradictory account, as some have affirmed.

eight inches from the floor for most of us and for the fellow who stands 6 feet 6 inches the last 14 inches of him will have to go to bed naked.

Now a really comfortable night-shirt should all but reach the floor. If a fellow wants to keep his tootsies warm on a cold night he should be able to wrap them up in the tail end of the shirt. That has always been one of the great superiorities of the nightshirt over pajamas. Another, of course, is that a chap does not have to try to sleep with a cord tied round his umbellicus, and then have to wake every little while to pull his pants back into place again.

Well, we are ready to make almost any sacrifice to win the war. If our shirt tails have to be shortened it is just one more grudge we shall have to settle with Hitler when the last bomb is dropped, when the last torpedo exploded, the last tank has rammed into Berlin.

A really constructive thought has just struck us. We shall write a letter to the Wartime Nightshirt Board, and tell them how to save a little more cloth. How?

Just make everybody wear nightshirts, and give us pajamas, or should we spell it "pyjamas" for the duration. For every 345 pairs of pajamas discarded in favor of nightshirts there would be enough flannelette saved to make 83 sheets for a soldier's cot, though why any soldier should want 83 sheets for his cot we cannot figure out.

Every other man would be more comfortable and peace would be restored to the world.

—Walkerton Herald & Times

A national output of 150,000 bicycles in 1942 is authorized. This is 150 per cent of last year's production. The order prohibits making of children's bicycles and eliminates all unnecessary parts and trimming in new adult bicycles.

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