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Notes and Comments

Dangerous Apathy

Recent municipal elections have shown a continued decrease in public interest, the Financial Post aptly points out. In Toronto, for instance, only something like 20 p.c. of the eligible voters took the trouble to go to the polls and the record is all too typical of all larger centres. While there is an axiom that electors get the kind of government they deserve, it is most fortunate that, in general, electors are getting better government than their present conduct deserves.

Most Canadian municipalities have the good fortune to have reasonably efficient administrations which have been doing a noteworthy job in reducing tax rates and cutting down their funded debt so that their communities will be in better shape to meet postwar conditions. But how long such government can continue in the face of such public apathy is a question to be seriously considered.

Spend a Little, Save a Little

With the shop keeper running out of many staple goods, with butter rationed and beef and canned goods next on the list of rationed goods, there has arrived a time in our history when people never had more to spend and so little to spend it on. At that we have a greater choice than our great grandfathers ever dreamed of. But the thing we ought to remember is that there is still all we need, and the wise ones will save their surplus money for a less favorable time of employment. Every employable man and woman should put away part of his or her savings, and if we do this the next depression will be farther away than it might be if we adopt the policy of "spend all as you go."

A School for Farmers

This Thursday and Friday a short course is being held in Stouffville on Farm Mechanics. A similar course will be held at Buttonville next Monday and Tuesday. These courses all over Ontario covering the 28 counties will do much to increase the value and efficiency of the farmer and his machinery. It is one of the best lines of work carried on by the agricultural departments. How many young farmers know how to splice a rope properly? Many of the older ones do not know either. Well, this is just one of the many things taught in the brief space of time allotted to the school. Common repair troubles on the farm will be taken up, while farmers will discuss promptness in ordering machine parts that cannot be readily purchased, so that there will be no hold-up next spring when it is time to go on the land.

The large number of short courses held will waken a universal interest among the farmers in machinery and farm mechanics generally.

Any farmer with even a spark of ambition will want to hear the discussions at some of these sessions. They run from 10 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, and it will not be surprising if Stouffville meetings show an attendance greater than any other place in the county.

50 Miles to the Gallon

Raincoats without rubber and 50 miles to the gallon are at least two of the things that may become common after the war. They are now facts to the army forces. Thousands of yards per day of a new material is being turned out at the C.I.L. plant, in New Toronto but it is going into raincoats for the army. The 50 mile a gallon gasoline is going to the airplanes.

Under the pressure of war, necessity indeed becomes the mother of invention. The needs of today are compressing into the space of months chemical developments which might, in the less demanding times of peace, have taken years to realize. "Today we produce to destroy but tomorrow we shall again produce to build," declared one of America's outstanding research chemists the other day.

Outlining some of the scientific revolutions that are already under way, he told that seven times as much aluminium will be produced by the end of 1943 than was available in 1939, after 50 years of development. Better fuels for our fighter and bomber planes have resulted in an octane that drives cars 50 miles on a gallon.

The chemist sees the present motor as out of date. On the subject of motors he spoke of sealed cooling systems, now used in aviation, at half their present weight which, with increased power fuels, may yield 50 miles to the gallon.

The high pressure synthesis of ammonia, one of the major chemical exploits of the century, will mean entirely new capacities in the fields of chemical fertilizers for the farmer. New and versatile plastics will be available on a scale beyond all previous conceptions. From chemistry's building bricks will come unbreakable glass that will float, wood that won't burn, laminations of plastics and wood that will compete with the older structural materials, hosiery and other textile materials from coal, air and water, shoes that contain no leather, window screens that contain no wire and machinery bearings that contain no metal.

Magnesium, which a few years ago was a structural curiosity, is now recovered from sea water by a chemical process and is today being used in the construction of fighter planes and after the war the production of this lightest of all structural metals will be more than double the aluminium output in 1939.

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson for January 17
JESUS WINNING SOULS
Golden Text: "He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal!"

—John 4:36
The Lesson as a Whole

The Gospel of John is the best handbook on personal work in soul-winning that has ever been written. In it we see the Master Soul-Winner dealing with needy men and women in His own wonderful manner. He had no stereotyped method of bringing the truth to bear upon the hearts and consciences of those with whom He dealt. In each case the message and the manner of presentation were specially adapted to the moral to the normal and intellectual condition of the one He sought to save. It was to a learned and religious doctor of the law of Moses that He spoke so seriously of the importance of being born again, in order to see or enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:1-5). To the poor, characterless woman, whom He met at Sychar's well, He told of living water that could slake the thirst of her longing soul, and He led her to repentance concerning the past and to implicit confidence in Himself for the future. She saw in Him a prophet who had revealed the hidden sins of her life, and a Saviour who met every yearning desire of her poor famished soul. Do not pass over the early part of the chapter. In verses 1 to 26 we have one of the most touching and instructive records in the Bible. He who would be used of God to win the lost may well ponder this wonderful dialogue and note how wisely the blessed Lord met this woman's need and overcame her prejudices. He was willing to receive of her, a despised Samaritan, in order that she might be prepared to receive from Him, the promised Messiah, the Giver of life and everlasting blessedness. When her own heart and conscience had been probed to their depths and she had trusted Christ for herself, she hastened back to the village to tell others of the One who sat on the curb of Jacob's well.

Verse by Verse
John 4:27—"His disciples marvelled that he talked with the woman." To these men, jealous of their Master's reputation, it seemed strange that He should give so much time to a woman of so disreputable a character. She was not only a despised Samaritan, but evidently of notoriously evil life. But it was to save such that the Lord Jesus came.

Verse 28—"The woman then left her waterpot." The thirst of her soul quenched with the living water she forgot her waterpot for love of Him, and hastened away to carry the good news to her townfolk.

Verse 29—"Is not this the Christ?" With holy enthusiasm, she told how she had found One who had torn off the veil that hid the sins of the past and revealed to her the true condition of her life. How could He who had done this—when He had never seen her before—be other than the promised Christ, that is, the "expected Messiah?"

Verse 30—"They went out and came unto him." So well did she do her part that the men to whom she spoke hastened out to the well to see and hear Him of whom they had heard, for themselves.

Verse 31—"His disciples prayed him, . . . Master, eat." Busted about temporal things, a hasty meal had been prepared, to which, apparently, the Lord Jesus paid no attention, so absorbed was He in the salvation of this sinful woman.

Verse 32—"I have meat to eat that ye know not of." The all-engrossing passion of His soul was doing the Father's will in saving the lost.

Verse 33—"Hath any man brought him ought to eat?" So inquired the perplexed disciples one of another. They, as yet, knew nothing of that passion for souls which supersedes all other considerations.

Verse 34—"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." It was for this purpose He came into the world (Matt. 20:28), and He would never be satisfied until He could say, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). It was the joy of His heart to do the Father's will, even though it meant going to the cross to redeem mankind and to glorify the Father in the scene where He had been so terribly dishonored.

Verse 35—"Lift up your eyes, and look." While they could see the growing grain all about them it would be some months yet before the harvest would be ready for reaping. But He saw all about Him the ripened fruit, waiting for spiritual reapers who had opened eyes and burning hearts. He would have the disciples contemplate the waiting throngs in such need of the Gospel message that, spurred on by a holy zeal such as that which was consuming Him, they too, might go forth to win souls.

Verse 36—"He that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." For those who labored faithfully in the world's great harvest field there would be sure reward in that day when all who served God here shall give account of their labors. Whether it be one's lot

THE OLD HOME TOWN



YORK COUNTY HOGS FELL AWAY SHORT OF QUOTA

A freight train reaching from Toronto to Winnipeg would be required to transport alive the 8,000,000 hogs that the farmers of Canada are asked to produce in 1943 to take care of our contract for bacon for Britain and have enough left over for ourselves. The 25 p.c. increase being asked for in Ontario is very small compared with the increase being undertaken in the western provinces.

Saving every pig of the young litters would go a long way to increase our share, and this can largely be done by providing clean dry and reasonably warm quarters for the brood sow at farrowing time. A partially covered hover or creep where an electric light bulb or crock of hot water can be placed in during cold weather has saved hundreds of piglets.

York County farmers in the first nine months of 1942 shipped over five thousand less hogs than in the same period of 1941, a reduction of almost 6 1/2%. With plenty of feed and the strong demand there has been for bred sows lately this condition should be more than reversed this year. However speaking of feed there is one thing to be guarded against by all hog feeders, namely feeding to make the hogs overweight and over finished. Already the market is getting too many of these and the people of Britain do not like paying bacon prices for fat pork that renders out a lot of fat, neither would we.

to sow or to reap, the reward will be the same and both will rejoice together in that day of manifestation.

Verse 37—"One soweth, and another reapeth." It is not given to all to see the immediate result of their labors, but he who first carries the message has as great a place in the divine economy of soul-winning as he who leads men to definite decision for Christ (1 Cor. 3:5-8).

Verse 38—"Other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours." Prophets and holy men in past years had given out the Word of God. In due time Christ came and He commissioned His apostles to continue the great work of calling the nation of Israel first, and the Gentiles later on, to heed the message of grace.

Verse 39—"Many . . . believed for the saying of the woman." Such is the power of fervent testimony. This redeemed woman became an evangelist to the men of Sychar, and through her witness many came to trust in the Saviour for themselves.

Verse 40—"The Samaritans . . . besought him that he would tarry with them." So eager were these people of a despised race to hear more and to know Him better that they pleaded with the Lord Jesus Christ to remain among them. He therefore stayed on for two days, instructing them further in the way of life.

Verse 41—"Many more believed because of his own word." These had not been influenced particularly by the woman to whom He had revealed Himself at the well; but they were ready to hear His own message, and faith came by hearing (Rom. 10:17).

Verse 42—"We have heard . . . and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." Note the fullness of their confession—a recognition of the mystery of His person that compares favorably with the declaration made by Peter some time afterward (Matt. 16:16).

The Heart of the Lesson
The great business of those who know the saving power of Christ Jesus for themselves should be that of making Him known to others. No occupation to which men give themselves can compare with this in importance. To every saved one there comes the command to lift up the eyes and look upon the field—to consider the need of a world of lost sinners—that thus we may all be moved by the same holy zeal and spiritual passion that was so fully manifested in our Master. Soul-winning was the all-absorbing concern of His great heart of love. He saw men in their misery and wretchedness, exposed to eternal judgment, and came from the glory of Heaven to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT YOUR BUTTER COUPONS

Retailers were warned today that they must not detach and keep the expired butter coupons, Nos. 1 and 2, from the ration books of consumers who did not use these two coupons before the expiry date, Jan. 3.

Likewise, consumers were warned by the ration administration of Wartime Prices and Trade Board, that if they did not use the two expired coupons while they were valid, they should detach and destroy them, before presenting their ration books at the store to buy butter on coupons No. 3 and 4.

This warning resulted from reports that some retailers, when selling butter on coupons Nos. 3 and 4, which are good from Jan. 4 to Jan. 17, are also taking coupons Nos. 1 and 2, to which they have no right.

Retailers replace their stocks of butter by turning in coupons to the amount of their replacements. The ration administration pointed out that if retailers collect the Nos. 1 and 2 coupons without selling butter they obtain an illegal stock of coupons which do not represent butter actually sold.

MUST HAVE NEW LICENSE BY FEBRUARY 28

The sale of 1943 Motor Vehicle Licenses and Drivers' Permits commenced on January 4th, with the term ending at the end of February, and those who wish to operate their cars or trucks after that time must purchase their licenses before February 28th.

The 1942 Gasoline Ration Books will be valid for use with the new 1943 permits, the numbers being entered on the new cards. It will therefore be necessary that the 1943 permits should be presented when purchasing gasoline until the 31st of March.

The Gasoline Ration for 1943 commences on April 1st, after which time all owners of motor vehicles must have the new ration books. These will be available at Motor License Offices.

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