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Notes and Comments

No Lack of News These Days

Nobody can complain at a lack of war news nowadays. It seems to be coming from all directions, and most of it makes very comfortable reading. With the Russians performing miracles in pushing back the Nazi invader, with General Montgomery chivvying Rommel and his Afrika Korps across the desert, and with Berlin at last getting a taste of what London took in 1940, there is every reason to feel encouraged about the shape of things to come. The only fly in the ointment is the bogging down of the allied offensive in Tunisia. It is probably true that the weather played a part in holding up our offensive here, but there may be good reason for some uneasiness as to what is going on behind the scenes from a political angle. However, apart from this, the war news generally must be considered satisfactory.

Poor Time to Pop the Question

York County Council chose an inopportune time to press the government for some improvement in Old Age Pensions such as increase to total pensioners, and lowering the minimum age that pensions may be paid. While the great majority of people would favor granting pensions at a lower age, it should be remembered that just now the governments are straining every effort to raise money for prosecuting the war.

Our chief energy is devoted to the war, and to introduce such a measure as pensions just now means that the request of the County of York will be ignored. As one member of the council declared, it would cost five million dollars annually to increase pensions from \$20 to \$25 per month, it will be seen that grave consideration must be given the whole scheme. That five millions is required for war effort just now, and thousands of pensioners are able to make a bit extra these days to aid themselves.

When they get around to it the government may well consider paying the pension to everybody when they reach the eligible age. Millions would be saved in operating the present act, that could go to paying the pensions for those not receiving it now. All that would be necessary would be to prove age and citizenship. Thousands of men and women now finding jobs as investigators, office clerks, and old age pension board would not be needed any longer.

Arrangements should also be made enabling wage earners to pay toward their pension during their working days. If that was done, the idea of a "dole" would be lifted from the whole set-up and the financial responsibility would be lightened.

However, all these ideas will have to wait until the war is won. It is most unlikely that any government could be interested at this time.

**Trade Board vs. Dept. of Agriculture
 (Financial Post)**

Control of agricultural subsidies would be taken away from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and turned over to the Dominion Department of Agriculture, if a powerful lobby now underway in many parts of the country is successful.

This would mean that Hon. James Gardiner and his advisors, not Finance Minister Ilsley and Donald Gordon, would decide if, when and how, bonuses on butter, cheese, bacon and other farm products would be paid.

The W.P.T.B. would still set retail prices of farm products, but the actual costs of these to the public treasury would rest with the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Conceivably the subsidies might eventually amount to more than the price asked of the consumer, and their payment would constitute a most serious threat of inflation.

On the other hand the Department of Agriculture officials should know more about farm production and the necessity or otherwise boosting output through timely bonuses, than the W.P.T.B. So far the latter has not exhibited any great shrewdness in dealing with either beef or butter, the two most critical farm products to date. In both cases W.P.T.B. officials went out of their way to deny the very course they were forced to adopt a few weeks later. That sort of thing does not engender confidence.

Officials of the W.P.T.B. apparently have failed to understand fundamental farm problems. They do not seem to realize that most of the food now running short, takes a long time to produce and that if we want more beef, butter and eggs, preparations, including financial encouragement, may have to start months, sometimes years in advance. They have not grasped the fact, well known to every farmer, that almost all agricultural lines are competitive, with a delicate price balance governing their ebb and flow.

Because the country has a superabundance of wheat and large supplies of live stock feeds W.P.T.B. seems to think that there is nothing to worry about in the general food situation. But the public cannot live on bread alone and it takes time, manpower and money to manufacture live stock feeds on the farm into butter, bacon, and beef.

These problems, Department of Agriculture officials should understand, but there is grave doubt whether they understand as thoroughly the dangers arising from infla-

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson for February 7

JESUS AFFIRMS HIS DEITY

Golden Text—He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.—John 14:9

The Historical Setting

It was probably in the month of October, A.D. 29, following the incident concerning the woman taken in adultery, that Jesus had this altercation with some of the chief Pharisees concerning the person of the Messiah. He insisted on the fact that He came from God to do the Father's will, and claimed all the attributes of Deity.

Verse by Verse

John 8:12—"I am the light of the world." Consider the greatness of this claim! Who but a divine person could rightfully make it? If Jesus were less than God, it was monstrous presumption so to speak. But in the full consciousness of His deity He could use such language rightfully. To follow Him meant deliverance from darkness and enjoyment of "the light of life."

Verse 25—"Who art thou?" We need not wonder that such a question was addressed to Jesus after He had declared that He had come into the world as sent from the Father, who bore witness to Him (v. 18), and that unless He was the object of their faith they should die in their sins vs. 21, 24). His answer is most significant and might be rendered, "Altogether what I said unto you from the beginning."

Verse 26—"I have many things to say and to judge of you." Judgment is a divine prerogative. Men are warned not to judge (Matt. 7:1), but He who was in the Temple that day was the One who shall eventually be the judge of all. He was there to speak and act in the name of the Father. Those who refuse His word, He will, in the last day, reject.

Verse 27—"They understood not." As He spoke so intimately and confidently of the Father, they were unable to follow Him. His words were beyond their comprehension, for they did not realize that He Himself was the incarnate son of the Father.

Verse 28—"When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am He." The lifting up refers to the cross, as in Chapter 3:14 and again in 12:32, which is explained in verse 33 as depicting His death. After His crucifixion, His resurrection would demonstrate His deity (Rom. 1:4).

Verse 29—"I do always those things that please Him." None but Jesus could so speak truthfully. He was conscious of His own sinlessness. His delight was to do the Father's will.

Verse 30—"Many believed on Him." That is, they received His testimony and evidently confessed openly that they trusted Him as the promised Saviour.

Verse 31—"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." Continuance in the faith is the proof of reality. By obedience to His Word they would demonstrate the genuineness of their professed belief in Him.

Verse 32—"The truth shall make you free." As His word was opened up to them and they were subject to it, they would find deliverance from sin's guilt and power, and freedom from the law and its condemnation.

Verse 33—"We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man." It was a vain boast, but indicated the resentment of their hearts when He spoke of freedom through the truth. At that very time they were slaves to sin, and in subjection to the hated Roman authority.

Verse 34—"Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." He who practices sin shows by that very course that he is a poor helpless thrall of the sin in which he lives. From this, Christ came to give deliverance (Matt. 1:21)

Verse 35—"The Son Abideth ever." His relationship to the Father is eternal.

Verse 36—"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." True liberty is only found through Christ. It is liberty, not to serve the desires of the flesh, but to glorify God.

Verse 56—"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day." They prided themselves, upon being children of Abraham, but they had none of his characteristics. In verses 37 to 55 they had attempted to defend their claim, and Jesus exposed their hypocrisy. Now He tells them that Abraham, in whom they gloried, looked on in faith to His coming into the world, and rejoiced therein.

Verse 57—"Hast thou seen Abraham?" They misunderstood Him He did not say that He had seen Abraham, but that Abraham had

seen His day—that is, He saw the day of Messiah—the coming into the world of the promised Seed through whom blessing was to reach out to all the world (Gen. 22:18). Nevertheless, He had seen Abraham and knew him well.

Verse 58—"Before Abraham was I am." John the Baptist declared, "He was before me" (1:30). Yet He was younger by six months than His ardent forerunner so far as His humanity is concerned. Now He claims to antedate Abraham. He is the eternally pre-existent One who was before all things (Col. 1:17).

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Now the tide of battle's flowing as we boldly take our stand To defend our dear existence in this fair and prosperous land. While the hosts of hate come marching with a strong unswerving tread, As we prize our life and freedom, let these words be never said: That we failed to do our duty, that we shirked our simple task— Be it money, faith or service—all is small enough to ask. In the freshness of each morning, as the anxious days begin, Let us each resolve—and mean it—to do all we can to win.

Let us each resolve and mean it. If we fail, the course is clear. And we may as well admit it, that the worst can happen here. If we fail to heed the warning, if we choose the easy way, Shut our eyes to doom or horror, living only for today, Then, though death may never threaten from these blue Canadian skies, Though our streets may never echo to the siren's eerie cries, Fate shall find us in our folly, in our weakness we shall learn That its' only for the resolute the tides of fortune turn.

Here we stand, a race united—every one a job to fill. Man the navy, army, air force, man the factory and the mill. You who keep the home fires burning, you've a chance to do your bit, Even though you feel you're helpless, though you know your the unfit, You can help to build the weapons, all the weapons they require. Dauntless sailors, soldiers, airmen . . . Let us rise up in our ire, Strike the foeman in our fury in a full-equipped attack, Keep the flag of freedom flying bring our nation's heroes back.

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