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Notes and Comments

Gives Advice to Horticultural Societies

Mr. John Clark of the Department of Agriculture gave the Mount Albert Horticultural Society some thoughts at their annual meeting...

Blood Donors Urgently Wanted

From Uxbridge came a call last week for fifty more blood donors. They are asked to leave their names at Fred Mowder's store in Clarendon...

The blood is taken by a physician by a simple and painless process requiring about 15 minutes, and it does not incapacitate anyone.

Over 100 Years of Service

The Green family at Greenwood has conducted the milling business there for 110 years. At one time it was a more pretentious business than in this day...

Editor Tells the Merchants of a New Idea

The Newmarket Era came out with an editorial last week saying that the merchants of that town might well consider closing their places of business on Saturday nights...

Probably the editor wanted to startle the business men of the town, or frighten the farmers, or probably business is so poor in Newmarket on a Saturday evening...

One thing about the suggestion is that no other person will ever have thought of it, and therefore it will make the Era readers sit up and ponder the idea.

Tax Forms Must be Simplified

One of the most timely editorials appearing in the Financial Post for some time, gave reference last week to the complicated income tax forms being issued by the government.

True, the authorities face a tremendous task in making the tax as equitable as possible, so that citizens with special and private obligations will not be compelled to carry an unjust burden.

Local officers of the Department of National Revenue are besieged by all sorts of people utterly bewildered as to what information is required and the total of taxes expected.

In far too many cases discouraged taxpayers have already turned the job of estimating their income taxes over to a lawyer or accountant.

Where this is done the taxpayer likely has only the vaguest idea of how much he is paying and the vital feature of bringing the cost of war home to every individual is lost.

With the income tax now taking such a substantial part of all our gross personal earnings and involving such a large new group of Canadians, sweeping simplification is urgently necessary.

Sunday School Lesson

February 21

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Golden Text—I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

—John 10:11

The Lesson as a Whole

When our blessed Lord spoke of Himself as the Good Shepherd, He was using a term that the Jews understood as belonging to God Himself. In the well-known Twenty-third Psalm, David sang, "The Lord (Jehovah) is my shepherd," and in Psalm 80:1, we read, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock."

Verse by Verse:

John 10:1—"He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold... is a thief and a robber." The sheepfold does not refer to Heaven. It is not of man's vain effort to obtain entrance to that blessed abode by his own works...

Verse 2—"He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep." This was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who came in exact accord with the prophetic Word and in perfect obedience to the Father's will.

Verse 3—"To him the porter openeth." John the Baptist was the porter. He recognized Christ as the expected One, and presented Him to Israel as the promised Messiah (John 1:29-34).

Verse 4—"The sheep follow him: for they know his voice." He came seeking the lost sheep of the House of Israel (Matt. 10: 5, 6; 15:24). These were those who were waiting for the Saviour to appear and who received Him in faith.

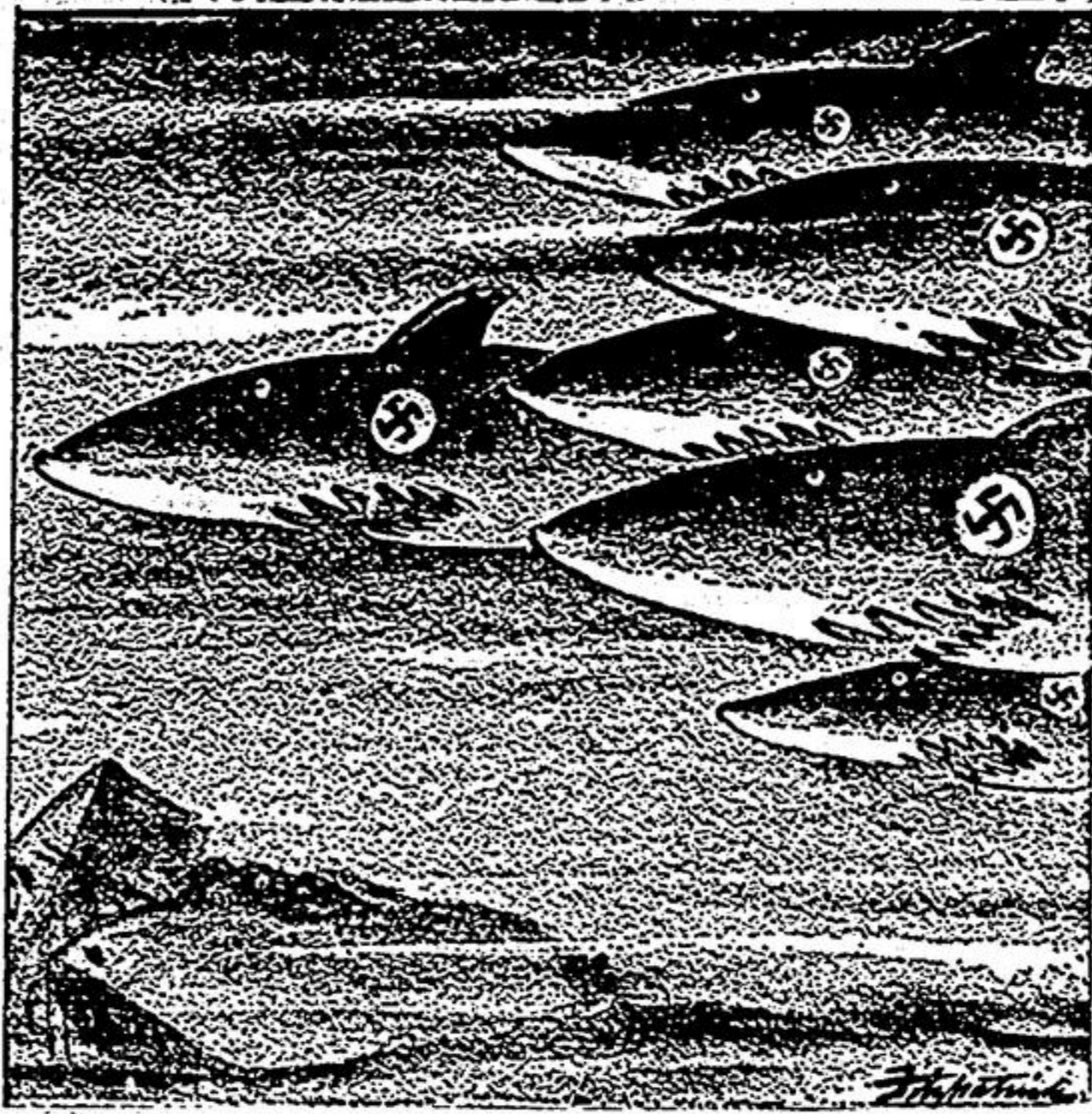
Verse 5—"They know not the voice of strangers." These Israelites, like Nathanael, recognized Jesus Christ as Messiah (John 1:47-49). They were a bit carried away by the pretensions of others. They knew the Shepherd's voice and obeyed it.

Verse 6—"I am the good shepherd." In contrast to the self-seeking pretenders, who had so often deceived the people and raised false hopes, Jesus presented Himself as the good shepherd, who had come to lay down His life in order to redeem the sheep.

Verse 7—"An hireling... leaveth the sheep, and fleeth." These false ones fled in the hour of danger and left their poor, deluded followers exposed to their cruel enemies. He came to stand between the flock and the foe, to die that the sheep might live.

Verse 8—"The hireling... careth not for the sheep." Actuated by self-interest, the hireling thinks only of his own comfort and safety. It was far otherwise with our Lord, to whom the sheep of the flock were dearer than His own life.

NO. 1 NAVAL PROBLEM



The Editor's Mail

The Editor's Mail on page two provides two highly interesting letters this week. While they were not necessarily written for publication, we considered them so full of interesting news, from such well known personages as Dr. Thos. Mitchell and Inspector Archie Stouffer...

Hotel Bates, St. Petersburg, Florida

Dear Mr. Nolan: This is Monday morning, yesterday and today we are having quite a cold spell. At such a time most of the houses here are colder than at home. We have an oil stove in our cottage and we are quite comfortable.

The folks here are being quite heavily rationed. Sight-seeing vehicles are all off the roads. Private cars are not allowed for pleasure.

The violation of God's holy law. It was His life or ours. He died that we might live.

Verse 16—"Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold." He meant those from among the Gentiles, who would turn to Him. He died, not for the Jews alone, but for all men (John 11:49-51; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6).

Verse 17—"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." No one belongs to His flock who does not hear His voice and seek to follow where He leads.

Verse 18—"I give unto them eternal life." Eternal life is non-transferable, otherwise it would not be eternal. Those who possess this life "shall never perish," for He who began the work of grace in them will bring it to completion (Phil. 1:6). He says "Neither shall any... pluck them out of my hand."

Verse 19—"My Father... is greater than all." He speaks as the dependent man, who came to do the Father's will. The Father ratifies the work of His Son and guarantees the safety of all who trust Him.

Verse 20—"I and my Father are one." In chapter 8:16 we found a similar expression, "I and the Father." If Jesus were not conscious of His own deity, it would be the height of conceited egotism, if not actual blasphemy, so to speak.

Verse 21—"The sheep follow him: for they know his voice." He came seeking the lost sheep of the House of Israel (Matt. 10: 5, 6; 15:24). These were those who were waiting for the Saviour to appear and who received Him in faith.

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The exception is for use in carrying people to church. There is no cocoa in this city, coffee and postum are hard to get. Tea is a bit more plentiful. We can't get butter, but there is a substitute for it called "nutley" which looks like butter, tastes like it and is said to be very nutritious. It sells for about 20c. per pound. No bacon is in sight.

The preachers here have no trouble getting people to church. It is not because the heralds of the Gospel are better than ours at home, indeed I think that on the average, they are not as good. It is because the folks, who come here are for the most part church going people, and in addition, they are ailing in some degree and are therefore in need of the reinforcement a live church can give.

Two blocks from where we live is a church that has two services in succession every Sunday morning, in order to accommodate worshippers, when one service ends ten or twelve hundred people are at the door waiting to get in for the next. All over the city the churches are full.

The other evening I went to a service in a colored church. The sermon was not strong at all but the spontaneity, enthusiasm, and the dignity of the other parts of the service certainly did surprise me. The singing was by all odds the best I have heard for many a day. What wonderful voices these negroes have and how well they can use them.

Well, we expect to stay here a couple of weeks more and then we hope to meander about the State to see other parts before we leave for home. If you find yourself unable (Continued to page 6)

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