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Notes and Comments

Backing the Attack

We are in the second week of the biggest bond sale in the History of Canada. If a salesman has not yet called on you get in touch with him or your banker. To reach the objective for Canada a tough job still lies ahead, but not so tough if everybody does his or her part. How are you measuring up?

Red Cross Salaries Not in This Book

The financial statement of the Ontario section of the Canadian Red Cross has just been issued, and contains a volume of several hundred pages. We turned up its pages the other day with a view to ascertaining the salaries paid to Red Cross officials, which are reported from time to time at fabulous amounts. It was our hope that we would be able to refute some of those yarns, but how did we make out?

Well, there wasn't a line of information that we could find bearing on the salaries. The report dealt wholly with the work of the various branches throughout the province.

We have laid the book aside believing that there must be another volume dealing with the inside operations of the Society which we are so proud of, and which Canadians want to protect the good name of.

High Pressure Men at it Again

For some weeks or months our mail box has been cluttered with circulars, pamphlets and other material from a mining firm in Toronto, who through some source had gotten our name. Last week it all came to a head when a long distance telephone caller attempted to prey on us for an order for some mining stock. "Did you get our circulars on such and such a mine," the enquirer wanted to know. "Yes, and we threw them in the waste basket," was our comment. "Oh, then you are not interested," said the enquirer. When we told the chap at the other end of the line that we thought such attempt to sell stocks was illegal, he said good bye, and this ended his effort. Our mail has been much lighter since that phone call, and certainly it contains no mining reports.

Klein-Blames the Women

Clothing requirements of Canada's armed forces alone are in excess of 2,400,000 suits a year plus as many great coats as were manufactured annually for the entire civilian population prior to the war.

These facts were given to the Home Economics group of the O.E.A. last week by J. A. Klein, administrator of women's, and children's wear under the Wartime Prices and Trade Board as evidence of the need for conservation of wearing apparel among the civilian population.

"If the women of this country would buy only what they need and conserve what they have, we would be able to clothe our civilian population without resorting to clothes rationing," he said. Having told us what the requirements are, Mr. Klein should tell the country how to enforce his idea

More New Implements Ahead

Realizing more and more each day the importance of Canadian farm production as a strong arm of the war effort, something is to be done about the implement shortage. According to Peter E. Helliwell in the Financial Post, Government quotas on the manufacture of farm machinery will undergo a general upward adjustment shortly, to facilitate the release of new supplies to the hard-pressed farmer early in October. This announcement, by H. H. Bloom, administrator of farm and construction equipment, confirms a report early last month in The Financial Post.

Decision for the increase, the second within a short period, is the result of a survey by Mr. Bloom, whose office is in charge of farm implement allocation throughout Canada, in collaboration with agricultural authorities. Indications are that quotas for spare parts will remain at 165 per cent of the 1940 base (they were raised from 150 per cent in March) but quotas of new machinery will be required to be increased to some 75 to 80 per cent, as compared with the present 35 per cent, of 1940 tonnage. Before the March revision machinery quotas were 25 per cent.

The urgent need for farm machinery is indicated by the prices bid at auctions of equipment this spring. In Ontario a hayloader after 24 years of service, was knocked down for \$95. Its original cost had been \$85. It was still considered a bargain since it filled the place of three men. A potato digger, 12 years old cost \$150 when new but was bought for \$162. A horse-drawn mower, six years old, was resold for \$75—small depreciation from its original cost of \$90.

According to the Ontario Department of Agriculture, the shortage in Ontario is most severe in the case of labor-saving machines. "If half a township were farmed by one owner it would not be nearly so bad," States J. A. Carroll, Superintendent of Agricultural Societies. "It is the fact that so much of the land is split up into 100 and 200 acre farms that intensifies the scarcity."

With an estimated 400,000 men gone from plow to the armed forces and the production line in Canada, and a steadily increasing demand for all farm products, the labor problem of the farmer is becoming more serious and is aggravated in some cases by shortage of machinery.



Sunday School Lesson

PETER AND JOHN, LEADERS IN THE EARLY CHURCH
Lesson for May 9

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Nothing brings out more clearly the blessing of Pentecost than the contrast between the behavior and testimony of these two disciples before and after that stupendous event. Peter, who had been self-assertive and over confident, yet vacillating and even cowardly in the hour of danger, became, when endowed with the Holy Spirit, humble, yet bold; firm, yet gracious; and was enabled to bear witness to the risen Christ in such power that multitudes were brought to Him. John, who would have called down fire from Heaven, on one occasion, to destroy those who were opposed to his Master (Luke 9: 54), became the apostle of love, whose letters overflow with the tender compassion of Christ. Both men were born again before the coming of the Spirit to usher in the new dispensation of the grace of God, but in accordance with the promise given by the Lord, they received power for witnessing when the Comforter came to convince the world, through them, of sin, righteousness, and judgment. They became transformed, and men took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. His holiness was reflected in their lives. His love filled their hearts, and in his name they both wrought signs and wonders (Acts 4:30) and bore testimony to the fact that He who had died on the cross now lived to save all who trusted in His name.

The same Holy Spirit who wrought so mightily in them abides in the Church collectively and indwells every believer individually (Rom. 8:9). To be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) is to be so yielded to His control that He may work in and through us to the glory of Christ, whose true vicergerent He is, and whom He delights to honor. It has been well said that what is needed is not that we receive more of the Spirit, but that He should have more of us—that He might have the right of

way in all our lives; that thus we might speak and act as under His control.

Verse by Verse

Acts 2:37—"They were pricked in their heart." Peter's message, given in brief in verses 14 to 36, had produced the conviction in the hearts of many of the assembled Jews that they had been guilty of rejecting their Messiah. In their deep exercise they asked, "What shall we do?" Was it still possible to obtain mercy of God after crucifying the Saviour He had sent to them?

Verse 38—"Repent, and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Repentance is a new attitude toward God and toward sin. This would find outward expression in baptism, whereby they owned their allegiance to the One the nation had spurned. Thus confessing their faith in Him, they could be assured of the forgiveness of their sins and the Holy Spirit would be given to them, thereby separating them from the unbelieving nation and uniting them to the risen Christ.

Verse 39—"The promise is unto you, and to your children." That is, to all in Israel who would turn to the Lord, "and to all that are afar off." These were the Gentiles, who were strangers from the covenants of promise (Eph. 2:11-13), but for whom there was salvation through the risen Christ as well as for Israel, the Covenant People.

Verse 40—"Save yourselves from this untoward generation." It was not that they could save their own souls by any self-effort or by baptism; but through heeding and obeying the Word preached, they would deliver themselves from the apostate nation over which the judgment of God was hanging.

Verse 41—"They that . . . received the word were baptized." The word "gladly" is eliminated in the Revised Version, and for good reason. It is not found in the best manuscripts. It is not necessarily an evidence of the Spirit's working when people receive the Word joyfully. The first work of the Spirit is to produce poignant conviction of sin. This had been evidenced. Now, in soberness, they were baptized—three thousand in all—and so, outwardly, added to the company of the disciples.

Chap. 3:1—"Peter and John Went . . . into the temple at the hour of prayer." The Temple was recognized still by believing Jews as the House of God, however the majority in Israel might have behaved. So in the early days of Christianity it remained as the place where believers gathered to meet with others in Israel who might be seeking the way of life. As time went (Continued on page Six)

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