

A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

By Jim Greenblatt

Throughout the length and breadth of the nation there are few who have not some relative, man or woman, somewhere in the armed forces, and it's only natural that everyone is concerned with their future when the guns stop booming. Certainly they've got to stand on their own feet to a great extent to preserve their own self respect and independence, but in view of their services to our country the State has some responsibility for their rehabilitation. Got me thinking that right here in Ottawa, of course, is the answer to problems which have been maybe bothering people.

I have heard of the Canadian Veterans Rehabilitation Plan, but didn't know much about it. I figured most other people wouldn't either, so I struck off to see E. B. Reid, superintendent of publicity for the Department of Pensions and National Health and got from him a clear picture of just what is being planned for the men and women returning to civil life. What you think of it is your own business. What I propose to do is lay the facts before you for easy comprehension.

The whole very important Plan had to be a blueprint first, but some of it is at work already. Apparently they tackle the problem with the idea that "job" is the vital thing and the answer to the job is "skill". You know, of course, that the men and women have been guaranteed a return to their civilian jobs, if they exist, and if they were bona-fide employees of the company before enlisting, and with seniority rights established. But what about thousands and thousands of others not fortunate enough to have a peace-time niche to step back into? That's the highlight of the plan, as I saw it.

To ensure that thing called financial security during the transition period the Post Discharge Re-Establishment Order provides cash allowances of \$10.20 weekly to the single person, \$14.40 to the married and if necessary additional allowances for children on the same scale as when the person was in service. There are five groups eligible. Mr. Reid told me: 1. Those fit and available for work and who have no suitable employment available. 2. Those under Vocational Training (also provided under government auspices). 3. Those in small business or on farms and awaiting returns. 4. After discharge, those temporarily unable to work. 5. Those finishing university education which was interrupted by the war, (and provision for this is also in the plan).

Before getting into the meat of the thing, let me add that these allowances, except in out-of-work benefits, can be applied for within 12 months after discharge or the end of the war. The out-of-work ones are paid only within 18 months after discharge. It might be well to add, lest anyone think the Plan is just in the "mind" yet that phases of the program are operating already, with more than 6,000 having benefited and some 2000 getting training. Last reports indicate that in connection with those whose university education had been interrupted by enlistment some 75 are back and continuing their courses through auspices of the Plan.

The vocational training phase of the plan seems to me to hit the jackpot. There are no strings attached to the offer in this war, so there's no use starting to think "they didn't do this or that" in the last one. Any service man or woman, the plan de-

initely states, is entitled to vocational training on the basis of period of service, if he will benefit by it, for a minimum of 12 months. Fields of employment are now being vigorously explored and plans, I am told, are laid by which they expect more than 50 per cent of those discharged from the services will go into industry to be trained in various fields. There will be sympathetic "guiding" and that, to me, seems another highlight of the plans laid to restore our men and women returning from the war.

Now let's get down to earth. That means to the land, where most people in Canada directly or indirectly are rooted. Thousands of those returning will have no other thought in mind than to be independent farmers; others, primary producers or fishermen, as their dads were before them. What about them, I asked Mr. Reid. The answer lay in the Veterans Land Act, and again you might be inclined to get suspicious in view of past experiences, but don't—until you get the full picture.

There are three types of settlement embodied in the Act: first, full time farming for those with practical farming experience; secondly, assistance for small holdings for veterans in spots easily accessible to the place where work, and this includes, of course, industrial jobs; thirdly, small holding near fishing areas where the veterans expect to take on the job of being a commercial fisherman.

The Plan is finicky about one thing, and rightly so, that those going into the assisted settlement scheme must be suited to it and not burdened with an overwhelming debt. There was bitter experience after the last war by reason of this very thing not being made fundamental to plan of resettlement, if you will remember.

There in a nutshell is the Veterans Land Act. The State is prepared to finance the purchase of land and buildings up to \$4800 and in addition livestock and equipment up to \$1200, a total of \$6000. What does the applicant have to do? He must on application deposit cash to the extent of 10 per cent of the total cost of land and buildings, which is a maximum of \$480. And here's the swell part of the deal for him or her: If they fulfill terms of the agreement for 10 years, the state resells them the whole thing, lock, stock and barrel, at two-thirds of the cost plus the 10 per cent down payment, this means \$3680. The rest is a gift from the State, which also agree to finance the balance \$2200 over a maximum period of 25 years with interest at 3 1/2 per cent. The veteran in the deal becomes owner of everything, such as livestock, farm implements, fishing equipment, etc., as well. A simple thesis, this.

Chas. Leadbetter Dies in 81st Year

Mr. Charles Leadbetter passed away on Sunday, February 20, at the home of his son, Harry, at Mt. Albert. His health had been failing for some time and he was in his 81st year.

Mr. Leadbetter came to Canada some thirty-five years ago. He came on a visit to his brother, Jas. a Toronto ship builder, and liked Canada so well that he sent to England for his wife and family. At the time he was in partnership in a meat business with his brother, John. "Uncle John" sold out the business and brought the family to Canada. They lived for a time at Ballantrae and later on a farm on the 7th Concession. Over twenty years ago they bought out T. O. Lowry's meat business in Markham.

Mr. Leadbetter's wife predeceased him some years ago, and his son John died last year. He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. P. Pitt, Mrs. R. Woodcock, Mrs. N. Smith, and son Harry who lives at Mt. Albert. His brother John still makes his home in Markham.

The funeral was held on Wednesday afternoon, in charge of Rev. F. Herman, with interment at Grace Church cemetery, Markham Economist.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

MARCH 5th
JESUS URGES HIS DISCIPLES TO WATCH

Golden Text.—Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh.—Mark 13:35
Lesson as a Whole

This stirring chapter (Mark 13) should be read in connection with Matthew 24 and Luke 21. In order to get the true viewpoint it should be remembered that the great mystery of the one body had not yet been revealed—so our Lord addressed His disciples as the believing remnant in Israel. A similar group will be found in the world (many in Palestine itself) in the time of the end (Dan. 12:4), during the dark days of the Great Tribulation. (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21, 22), after the present parenthetical age has come to a close. We should not read prophecy, therefore, as though addressed to the church as such, but rather to the faithful in Israel waiting for the coming again of Messiah to bring in the promised Kingdom, when Heaven's authority will be acknowledged over all the earth. There are general principles that are applicable to all believers so long as Christ is absent. But the distinctive truth of the Church as the body of Christ is not found here, nor is there any definite teaching as to the rapture of the saints when our Lord descends to the air at the close of this present dispensation (1 Thess. 4:13-18). All this belongs to a revelation given after the death and resurrection of our Lord, His ascension to Heaven, and the coming of the Holy Spirit to baptize all believers into one body (1 Cor. 12:12). During this age, Israel, as a nation, is set to one side. Believers from among them become fellow members of the body with their Gentile brethren. When this work of God is completed and the church is raptured away to meet the Lord in the air, believers in Israel will be once more on the same ground as when our Lord was here. To them this prophecy will prove a light to guide them in the dark days of Antichrist's dominion, just preceding Christ's visible return in glory.

Verse by Verse

Mark 13:3.—"He sat upon the Mount of Olives over against the temple." The brook Kidron separated the Temple area from Olivet. Sitting on the mount, they overlooked the magnificent buildings of the sanctuary, which the Lord Jesus had told the disciples should be utterly destroyed—something that must at first have seemed almost incredible to them.

Verse 4.—"When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?" As led by the Spirit, Mark does not give much space to the Lord's answer to the first question. He simply gives certain outstanding circumstances which would lead up to it. But Mark quotes our Lord much more fully as to the end-time conditions immediately preceding His second advent.

Verse 5.—"Jesus... began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you." It was far more important that they be on their guard against false prophets who would mislead them, than that they should be familiar with all the details of Jerusalem's coming judgment.

Verse 6.—"Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ." There have been many antichrists (1 John 2:18) all down throughout the dispensation. There were many who sought to mislead Israel immediately before Jerusalem's destruction, by professing to be divinely appointed to bring deliverance. Against these, God's children need ever to be warned and on the alert lest they be misled.

Verse 7.—"Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars... but the end shall not be yet." It is always a mistake to base the expectation of the Second Advent upon troubled conditions among the nations. God has said, "I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: until he come whose right it is." (Ezek. 21:27). This refers to the overturning of governmental authority. Wars will continue in this sin-maddened world until Christ returns as Prince of Peace. No arrangements among the great national leaders can bring about a warless world while Christ is rejected.

Verse 8.—"These are the beginnings of sorrows." Throughout all the waiting period, before the final hour of tribulation comes, there will be upheavals among the nations and great calamities in the earth. But these do not in themselves declare the end is upon us. They are but the precursors of the day of the wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6:12-17) which ushers in the Great Tribulation in all its intensity. They are the inevitable results of sinful man's rejection of earth's rightful Ruler.

Verse 9.—"Ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them." This prophetic declaration of the long martyrdom to which Christ's witnesses will be exposed till His return is so worded as to cover all the intervening years, whatever distinct dispensational character they might take. The noble army of martyrs, who have loved not their lives unto the death (Rev. 12:11), will be an honored host in the day of our Lord's triumph.

Verse 10.—"The gospel must first be published among all nations." In Matthew 24:14, the emphasis is placed upon the Gospel of the Kingdom. Here the Kingdom is not mentioned, but the more general term

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"the gospel" is used, which covers all that God has told us about His blessed Son. While waiting for His return, His servants are to give themselves wholeheartedly to proclaiming the message of His grace.

Verse 31.—"My words shall not pass away." Some day the heavens shall be rolled up as a scroll and the earth and all in it shall be consumed by judgment fires (2 Pet. 3:12; Isa. 34:4), but the words of Christ will remain unchanged and unalterable.

Verse 32.—"Of that day and that

hour knoweth no man... but the Father." The things that are revealed are for us and our children. The secret things belong to God (Deut. 29:29). The day and hour of Christ's return in glory is one of those secrets which the Father has not made known to others.

Verse 33.—"Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." It is far more important to be watchful and prayerful than to spend time speculating as to when the Lord will come back.

Verse 34.—"To every man his

work." This is a little parable easily read. Our Lord has given some special service for each one to do, during His absence.

Verses 35-37.—"Watch ye therefore... I say unto all, Watch." This should be the constant attitude of His disciples during His absence. The Heart of the Lesson

Jesus predicted His second advent, but the time was never revealed. So all His own should ever live in an attitude of expectancy, seeking to do His will and make known His Gospel till He returns. Prayer should be our resource in every hour of trial.

What Does Inflation Mean to You and Me?

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Why, we couldn't buy enough food to keep our families healthy under inflation. For wages and salaries never catch up to prices when they start to soar!

How would we like to pay \$1.10 a dozen for eggs? You say it can't happen? Don't forget it's already happened right here in this Dominion, during the last war. And it will happen again... unless we're on our toes to keep the cost of living down. Every Canadian must face this challenge! It's our responsibility.

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