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Notes and Comments

Battle Over Beer

If one were to judge from the space given to it in some newspapers one might think the war was being fought over the amount of beer available for civilians in Canada. In our opinion, the whole controversy is a bit disgusting.

No possible contribution can be made to the war effort whether the amount of beer is increased or lessened. Soldiers in Italy who are trying to overcome a stubborn and merciless foe must be amazed and sickened by the selfishness of people in Canada who are out to get their fill of beer regardless of whether the war effort succeeds or not. The use of manpower in its manufacture, bottles, shipping containers, trucking etc., apparently does not concern them, so long as they get their full quota of beer.

Sees State Socialism Our Threat

Assuming that the war will end in 1945, Canada may concentrate half a century of progress into the next ten years. Gladstone Murray told retail merchants from all parts of Canada who attended the conference of the Canadian Retail Federation held in Toronto this week. "The only serious threat to the future of Canada is state socialism," he stated.

"State socialism would destroy any chance of development." Mr. Murray, former chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, said. "We would be frozen into a rigid and regimented society of civil servants taking in each other's washing. The key to our future is freedom for enlightened and responsible enterprise working in partnership with enlightened organized labour."

"The storekeeper is the guide, philosopher and friend of people living in the thousands of rural communities which are the back-bone of Canada," the speaker stated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for April 2 -

Golden Text—If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.—2 Cor. 5:17

The Lesson as a Whole Approach to the Lesson

The importance of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus and his selection by the risen Christ to be His special ambassador to the Gentiles may be gathered from the fact that it related, more or less fully, five times in the New Testament. We have Luke's account and we have Paul's story. Then in Philippians 3:4-11 he refers to it when writing to a Christian church. To his son in the faith, Timothy, he again tells the story of his one-time enmity to the Gospel, and the grace of God that transformed the persecutor into an evangelist. These five recitals of the great change that came to this man are most suggestive, emphasizing, as they do, the incorrigible evil of the heart of man—even religious man—and the sovereign, electing grace of God.

Verse by Verse Acts 9:1—"Breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord." This attitude and behaviour was something for which the Apostle Paul could never forgive himself in after years, even though he did it ignorantly in unbelief. It was the result of a mis-saken zeal for Judaism and a detestation of what he considered a false and heretical system and deserved to be destroyed as ruinous to the soul and inimical to all true religion.

Verse 2—"Desired letters to Damascus to the synagogues." There's what we might call an underground connection between the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem and synagogues, or Jewish congregations, all over the world. These latter would recognize the authority of the chief priests, although legally they had no jurisdiction outside of Palestine.

Verse 3—"Suddenly, there shined round about him a light from heaven." This manifest effulgence was

a supernatural blaze of glory from the presence of God. It blinded Saul for the time being to all else.

Verse 4—"Why persecutest thou me?" This was, to Saul, a remarkable revelation. It told him that so intimate is the relation of believers in Christ to their risen Lord that to touch them means to persecute Him. This, in germ, the revelation of that mystery of the one body which it was given him to unfold later.

Verse 5—"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." Note the human name of our blessed Lord. He bears in Heaven the name given to Him when born on earth. "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Like a refractory against the goads, designed to make him take the right way.

Verse 6—"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" The use of the term "Lord" implied immediate surrender. Convinced that Jesus was the Christ, the erstwhile persecutor yielded at once to His authority.

Verse 7—"The men hearing a voice, but seeing no man." We are told they saw the light, but heard not the voice of Him that spoke. Some have thought they detected a contradiction here, but this is absurd, as it is the same author who relates the two accounts. The men with Paul heard the sound of the voice, but could not make out the message. It was, to them, an unintelligible noise as of thunders.

Verse 8—"Saul arose from the earth." He had fallen prostrate. Now, he arose, and, blinded still by the brilliancy of the light, allowed himself to be led by the hand into Damascus.

Verse 9—"Three days without his sight." These were days of deep exercise for him, as he reviewed the past and meditated on the message of the risen Christ. So absorbed was he in the contemplation of the stupendous event that he neither did eat nor drink. The great problems he had to face were all-important, and physical needs paled into insignificance in the light of spiritual realities.

In verses 10 to 12 we learn how the Lord appeared to Ananias, an

For Your Early Potatoes

Sprouting potatoes a few weeks before planting time has been found helpful to obtain extra-early mature potatoes. For all that, one can scarcely see that it would pay to do this in a commercial way. However, for the gardener who delights to be first, the plan is simple and positive. An early variety, such as Irish Cobbler, should be chosen for this treatment, an agricultural expert tells us. The tubers selected for sprouting should first be disinfected, then placed in shallow boxes, with the bud ends up, and placed in a room with a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees. Healthy sprouts should develop in five or six weeks. Seed treated in this manner when planted in shallow drills develop in three or four weeks.

The Starling Nuisance

Strange how things which were once considered a blessing in time become a nuisance. Take the little starling, for example. It is reputed to be one of the most effective bird enemies of ground inhabiting insects, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They include in their diet such pests as the clover leaf weevil, Japanese beetle, cutworms and grasshoppers. Unfortunately they do not confine their taste to these but are also very fond of cherries and other fruit and garden truck. They are also considered objectionable because they congregate in enormous roosts and usurp the nesting sites of native birds.

The situation must be particularly bad around Woodstock because the mayor of that quiet little city has taken the matter in hand and is making an intensive study to find ways and means of reducing the nuisance. Municipal authorities and fruit growers in the Niagara Peninsula are also on the hunt for ideas of combat and an advertisement appeared in the Hamilton Spectator the other day asking for suggestions. If the little starling was possessed of sufficient intelligence he might take a keen delight in having so successfully outwitted the high intellectual faculties of man who seeks his destruction.

The effort to defeat the starling in Woodstock will be watched locally with interest since this bird became a great pest in Stouffville a few years ago. After feeding all day on the farms of Markham, for it was from the south they seemed to come and go, they congregated in town in the evening, and made life unpleasant around sections of Main Street. The most effective weapon to keep these little birds from coming here in thousands was the shot gun.

Queen's Park

By Agnes McPhail, M.P.P. York East

The welfare of our men in the armed services was considered last week. Three bills were passed by which financial protection will be offered to men and women who volunteered for active service. Together they provide for moratorium on mortgages, a deferment of payment on other debts, and Government loans to keep up payments on insurance policies. These bills only apply to obligations incurred before enlistment.

The legislature was unanimous in support of the principle of the bills although the Official Opposition would have liked to have gone further. Ft. Lt. Weismer, known as "Wis," himself a volunteer in the R.C.A.F., asked the government to provide the same protection for draftees since their need was equally great, but the Premier refused.

Arthur Williams (C.C.F. Ontario) clashed with the government on the three per cent interest charge. He thought that money should be advanced to the men and women on Active Service without interest charges. And he told the Government that if they wouldn't pay for the interest under such circumstances, they weren't worth a tinker's damn which created quite a furore. He was asked to withdraw. And after quite a fuss took back the tinker's damn but not the condemnation of the interest charge.

Dr. Vivian's Municipal Health Services bill has proven to be the first really contentious bill before the House. Everyone wants Municipal Health Services. But the bill provides for taxing the municipality to provide free medical and hospital services to be paid in part or in whole out of such taxation, but does not provide for control either wholly or in part by the local people. The Official Opposition offered many amendments to give local control and to have parity as well as the Professional group represented on the central committee.

The Budget debate has not yet finished. Ft. Lt. Weismer (C.C.F. Toronto Riverdale) led off as financial critic for the opposition. He urged the further extension of rural electrification as soon as labour and materials are available, increased expenditure in the eradication of venereal disease, careful planning for post war re-establishment by the newly established planning department, and suggested that the Bank of Canada be asked to co-operate in reducing costs of provincial financing. He proposed Old Age Pensions for all—rich or poor alike, at a minimum of \$30 a month at the age of 60 and blind pensions when blindness begins rather than at the age of 40 as at present.

The Women M.P.P.'s and the wives of the members had a pleasant break this week when they were entertained at a delightful luncheon party at the Granite Club by Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Jolliffe and Mrs. Nixon, the wife of the Speaker, Mrs. Stewart and the wives of the Cabinet Ministers. They thought that in war time it was better to all go together and have one party rather than to have many as used to be the custom. We all get plenty, or too much to eat in this country without having a dozen different parties.

As a woman I took great pride in the Leaders' wives. It would be

EDITOR'S MAIL

Gormley, March 21, 1944
 Dear Sir,
 Just a note to say we enjoyed the reports on Parliament's doings by Miss McPhail and thought it was a good idea so hope they will continue.
 Gormley Reader

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HYDRO
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IMPORTANT IN YOUR GARDEN

If you wonder why stocks of dry white beans, yelloweye beans and dry whole split peas in Canada have been frozen by the Prices Board the reason given is the necessity of ensuring that supplies are available to the Department of Munitions and Supply for ships' stores and other priority users. The humble bean and pea will become important in your garden this summer.

difficult to find three more delightful and intelligent women. They are so natural and wholesome and interested in people and their conditions. Mrs. Drew and Mrs. Jolliffe are both very young looking. Mrs. Drew is tall, dark and graceful with such a natural and easy manner that everyone feels at home with her at once. Mrs. Jolliffe is small, slight, fair and looks, if always tell her, like a bit of social fluff without a brain in her head. It is quite a jolt to find that she is a serious-minded intellectual. Then their youth is balanced by the wisdom and understanding of maturity in Mrs. Nixon. I had the pleasure of sitting beside Mrs. Nixon and greatly enjoyed my visit with her.

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