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Notes and Comments

This Old-Fashioned Winter

Old Ontario is suffering from what is generally known as an old-fashioned winter, and we are beginning to appreciate the vital importance of transportation and communication facilities. Rural people realize how inconvenient it is to be deprived of a rural mail service, and how upsetting it is when supplies cannot be brought in or product taken out. This in turn disturbs the whole economy of villages, towns and cities, for the flow of food products is interrupted and raw material for processing comes forward scantily or not at all. Township councils are finding their plowing equipment is too light for the task assigned to them, and that heavier and sturdier trucks are needed if real service is to be rendered.

It has been many years indeed since Ontario roads were so thoroughly obstructed by snow and transportation on sideroads and concessions so badly paralyzed. Only a spell of mild weather will relieve the situation and improve transportation so Old Ontario can get back to the customary way of living.

It is indeed an old-fashioned winter, and we have a new style of living and doing business. This creates a conflict and, as usual, nature wins.

Tire Hopes Blasted

Hopes for an increased civilian tire ration in Canada during the coming year have been dealt a knockout blow by the upsurge of war demand in the United States, states the Ottawa correspondent of the The Financial Post.

Crux of the matter is the alarming rate at which tires are wearing out behind the battlefields in Europe. As one observer puts it: "Tires are ploughing through mud saturated with shell fragments that are chewing them up."

Thus within recent weeks U.S. authorities have ordered new plant extension which will "up" military tire production in that country more than 60 per cent. At the same time an urgent plea has been made to Canada to increase production in this country and step up Canadian "surplus" for use by the United Nations "pool."

A Tea-Pot Tempest

Toronto Saturday Night, while admitting that its knowledge of the matter is gained totally from newspapers favorable to the Ontario Government, says that principals of schools in the province are required to prevent the distribution in their schools of any printed matter sent to them without the Department's authorization, and the infor-

mants claim that the directive is aimed at or against the distribution of printed copies of speeches by the Prime Minister of Canada.

Saturday Night continues:

"Prior to this event we were under the impression that the schools of Ontario were under the control of their respective school boards, and that the work of the Department was confined to the enforcement of certain educational standards. Certainly the Department does not appoint the principals, nor can it, we fancy, dismiss them. We are wondering what would happen if some principal, imbued with a passion for local autonomy and supported therein by his School Board, were to ignore this directive and distribute some unauthorized material. Would the principal be dismissed? Would the school district lose its provincial grant? Would the teachers who accepted the distributed matter be arrested? What action would be taken by the provincial police? Would any teachers' certificates be cancelled? Would the Board be summoned to appear at Queen Park? What would happen?"

The Burning Question

A letter from a Toronto brokerage firm, C.H. Burgess & Co., received a few days ago provides some real provocative thought, and we pass it on to our readers because it rather contains a lot of truth about Mr. John Public as he passes in view before us. The letter reads in part:

"Did you ever watch crowds at a busy corner and wonder what they all do for a living? They must be fed, clothed, sheltered, warmed, transported, entertained, as well as governed. The people have to work at something and are consumers or users of all the foregoing.

While the production of food is still the most important—factories, mines, transportations, entertainment and government give more employment than the farms of the country. Transportation, entertainment and government are not producers of wealth. The farms, mines and factories are. Yet a purely agricultural country is considered a backward country.

The burning question before the people of so many countries just now is how the needs of the people can best be supplied, whether by individual enterprise or through one body representing all the people. If it were not for the weaknesses of human nature the latter might possibly be the better method. But human nature is the same as always. By harnessing natural desire for gain and possessions to private enterprise and having the government act as a referee for fair play, most of our wants can be provided in greater quantities with less cost. Those things we actually need probably cost less than those which we want. For instance, a quart of milk delivered at your door costs 11c, while a quart of pop costs 30c and some other beverages many times as much, and people stand in line for hours to get them. Yet the milk is the most necessary and costs more to produce. The advocates of government ownership emphasize the profits that private enterprise makes, rather than cost, but private enterprise can produce articles at less cost to consumer than governments can, and still make a fair profit. An American industrialist in Russia found that it took five times the man-hours to do the same job as in America. However, they worked more hours a day in Russia."

EMPTY SEATS AT C.C.F. MEETING ANNOY AGNES AT NORTH BAY

"I am getting to a point where I am not very much interested in using my time and talents to talk to empty seats," Miss A. McPhail, M.L.A., (York East) told a North Bay audience on Saturday night, January 6.

The meeting held in the auditorium of the North Bay Collegiate Institute and Vocational School where there is a total seating capacity of 750 drew an attendance of 100.

Miss MacPhail, in North Bay to attend a caucus of the C.C.F. members of the Ontario Legislature, was one of five C.C.F. speakers at the meeting. On the platform were all 28 of the 333 C.C.F. members of the Legislature who attended the caucus.

"We are the official Opposition and we work hard for the common people whether they know it or not," Miss MacPhail said. "It would be very little for them to do in return to fill this auditorium on such an occasion as this."

HONEY PRODUCTION

If the production of honey in 1945 is about 36,600,000 lb., or approximately the same as in 1944, the Agricultural Supplies Board estimates all essential requirements will be met. Present indications are however, that production this year may be substantially heavier than last year; that is if the 506,000 colonies of bees in all the provinces give average yields which they didn't last year. If average yields do result the total output of honey will be about 48,560,000 lb.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for January 21

Golden Text—Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. 5: 10

The Lesson as a Whole

Approach to the Lesson

In the so-called Sermon on the Mount, our Lord was not preaching the Gospel, but He was setting forth the principles of His Kingdom, which should guide the lives of all who profess to be His disciples. In other words, this is the law of the Kingdom—the observance of which must characterize its loyal subjects as they wait for the day when the King Himself shall be revealed. Throughout, it recognizes the existence of definite opposition to His rule, but those who own His authority are called upon to manifest the same meek and lowly spirit that was seen in Him while in the days of His humiliation here on earth. The Epistle of James answers very closely to the teaching we have here set forth. He calls it "the perfect law of liberty," because it is that which is becoming to the new nature received when one is born of God.

For the natural man, this sermon is not the way of life, but rather a source of condemnation, for it sets a standard so high and holy that no unsaved person can

by any possibility attain to it. He who attempts it will soon realize his utter helplessness, if he be honest and conscientious. He must look elsewhere in the Scriptures for the Gospel, which is the dynamic of God unto salvation to all who believe (Rom. 1: 16). The keenest intellects on earth have recognized, in the Sermon on the Mount, the highest ethical teaching to men, and have praised its holy precepts even when conscious of their inability to measure up to its standards.

Verse by Verse

Matt. 5: 3.—"Blessed are the poor in spirit." These are the men and women who recognize the fact that they have no spiritual assets. They confess their lost condition and so rely upon divine grace.

Verse 4.—"Blessed are they that mourn." The very sorrows men are called to pass through prove a means of blessing, if they know the "God of all comfort." (2 Cor. 1: 3) who binds up broken hearts (Psa. 34: 18) and makes our griefs to become the means of our growth in grace when we trust His love and rest in the realization that all things work together for the good of His own (Rom. 8: 28).

Verse 5.—"Blessed are the meek." The world admires the pushing, self-assertive man, Jesus Christ was meek and lowly in heart: Those who partake of His spirit are ones who get the most out of life,

after all. It is they who "inherit the earth," for they see in all nature the evidences of a Father's love and care.

Verse 6.—"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." Such hunger and thirst—such deep, earnest desire—gives evidence of the new life. These desires are not given to mock us. Satisfaction is the promised portion of all who thus yearn after God, in whom alone righteousness is found.

Verse 7.—"Blessed are the merciful." To those who show mercy, mercy will be extended. This is a law of the Kingdom. The hard, implacable man, who deals in stern justice alone, will be dealt with in the same way when failure comes into his own life.

Verse 8.—"Blessed are the pure in heart." Purity is singleness of purpose. The pure in heart are those who put God's glory above all else. To such He reveals Himself. They see His face when others only discern His providential dealings.

Verse 9.—"Blessed are the peace-makers." Strife and division are works of the flesh (Gal. 5: 19, 20). Sowing discord among brethren is one of the things that the Lord hates (Prov. 6: 16-19). We are commanded to follow after the things that make for peace (Rom. 14: 19). In doing this, we manifest the divine nature, as children of Him who is the God of peace (Rom. 15: 33).

Verse 10.—"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake." This clearly intimates that the instruction here set forth is intended, not, as many have insisted, for the millennial kingdom of Christ, for then there will be no persecution for the sake of righteousness, but for the disciples of Christ during the time of His rejection, when His followers are exposed to the hatred of a godless world.

Verse 11.—"It hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy." The Scriptures of the Old Testament plainly commanded the former, but it was rabbinical tradition that added the latter of these sayings, possibly basing it on such passages as Deuteronomy 23: 6 and some of the imprecating Psalms (Psa. 137: 9).

Verse 12.—"But I say unto you." Speaking as the Sent One of the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ corrected the faulty position of the rabbis and set forth His perfect law of love, even for one's enemies. By doing them good and praying

for them, we overcome the evil in a Christlike way.

Verse 13.—"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." That is, as we obey our Lord's commands as here given, we manifest the fact that we are children of the Heavenly Father, who showers His mercies upon just and unjust alike and would have us imitate Him.

Verse 14.—"If we love them which love you, what reward have ye?" Even the most blatant worldly loves his own, and can appreciate those who show appreciation of him. But those who follow the Lord are to love all men, even those who by bitter opposition would make life miserable if they could.

Verse 15.—"If ye salute your brethren only, do not even the publicans so?" It is a small thing if Christ's disciples show only the same interest in others that men engaged in the most despicable callings evidence. Publicans were detested by the Jews. They were tax-gatherers of Israel who bought their offices from the Roman Government and "farmed the taxes," extorting everything possible from their own countrymen and fattening upon the proceeds after turning over only what was obligatory to the assessor appointed by the State. Yet these gave recognition to their own brethren.

Verse 16.—"Perfect, even as your Father... is perfect." This is perfection in the sense of the complete absence of partiality, thus imitating Him who is no respecter of persons (Acts 10: 34), but who lavishes His favors upon just and unjust alike.

The Heart of the Lesson
God's choicest blessings are for those who manifest the same spirit of reverence for God, meekness and compassion for others, which were seen in all their fullness in our blessed Lord, as He walked this earth in the days of His flesh (Heb. 5: 7). That which is beyond the reach of the natural man is fulfilled in those who have received a new life and nature through trusting in Christ as their Saviour. No adverse circumstances can disturb the serenity of those who know the Lord and who acknowledge His authority over their lives.

BAR HOMEWORK ALSO
(Brantford Expositor)
Gen. Eisenhower has announced that the Allies will ban the teaching of military lessons in German schools after the war. And the Allies will then have to see to it that the Germans are not permitted to do any homework on the subject.

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



MORE COFFEE!
NOTTA CUP O' (NIC) CAWFE!
HOW COME? YOU'RE ALL LEAVING YOUR FOOD TO GET A SECOND CUP O' COFFEE?
I'LL SEE IF THERE'S ENOUGH HORRORS...
OH! MIGHOSH, I SHOULD O' LOOKED IN THAT COFFEE POT BEFORE I...
BROUGHT IT OVER... IT'S THE ONE THE BOYS TOOK ON THEIR DEER HUNTING TRIP!

AIN'T SARAH PEABODY'S BEAN SOCIAL WAS A HOWLING SUCCESS