

The Stouffville Tribune

Established 1888

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and Ontario-Quebec Newspapers Association. Issued every Thursday, at Stouffville, Ontario. Subscription Rates, per year, in advance: In Canada \$2.00 In U.S.A. \$2.50 A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

Notes and Comments

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Discussions seeking to explore the possibilities of some form of international federation of farm producers will take place in Canada during the next few weeks, when a party of six representatives of British producer organizations, now touring the Dominion, will confer with Canadian producer organizations under the auspices of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. The British group will also confer with leaders of American farm organizations in a meeting to be held in Washington, April 19th.

In his first public statement in Canada, made at Montreal, Mr. Turner, head of the British visiting party, said: "We are confirmed in the belief that a well-planned and prosperous world of agriculture, accompanied by the distribution of the world's primary products, is the foundation for world prosperity and peace. We hope by this visit to effect a much closer understanding between the primary producers of Canada and ourselves, and are seeking complete collaboration in approaching the problems facing us in the post-war era. In our visit we are discovering that problems which to us several thousand miles away seem insurmountable, by complete frankness and exchange of views, have almost melted away."

How the Nation is Divided

So few people care to read statistics, especially of a national scope such as we have been surveying for a purpose recently. Yet here are a few simple statements that are speaking of Canada and the working adult obligation contained in the over all total of eleven million people, we arrest your attention this way:

really statistical yet so very interesting that you may well take the two minutes or less to read on to the end. Eleven and a half million we are, with nearly 30 per cent under 14 years of age, exactly 4 per cent over 70 years, a sixth of the latter of whom are still working. In other words, there are over a third whose work has not begun or whose work is done, and therefore under 8 million in the "contributing" age range of 14 to 70 years. Of these, however, nearly half a million, even in wartime, are still students (though over 14 years of age) and another quarter of a million mostly young girls, would be "living at home." There are about 2 1/2 million home-makers, over 900,000 of them rural. So, our working "potential" comes down to 4 1/2 to 4 3/4 millions, of whom 300,000 were on Active Service at the last census (June, 1941). (This would not appear to be an unreasonable total at which to keep our Armed Forces for some considerable postwar period.)

The Canadian population will dwell and work, four to

five out of every ten in rural areas, another four to five in urban centres and one to two in settlements of less than 1000. At once it is evident that the nature and occupation of the country, the settlement it offers, will always take a large share of human-power, and of the wealth which it produces, in the very costly task of merely servicing the nation. Just the maintenance of roads, railways, transport and communications cannot but be heavy in a land whose physical features will always keep population widely and sparsely settled.

The Speeders Again

The Constable is urged to put on the pressure against motorists who persist in speeding through Stouffville at a reckless pace, or over the limit of thirty miles. More offenders are reported travelling into town from the west than anywhere else. If warnings are not sufficient a deluge of summonses may be expected to issue. Last spring more people were fined for speeding in town than in any five years, and it appears that such action on the part of the constable is the only thing that will be heeded.

Once it was considered smart to drive fast and beyond the limits of the law, but we are firmly of the belief that it takes more brains to move carefully than to speed in an irresponsible way.

Not all offenders are out-of-town people, hence a word to the wise should be sufficient. May we dare to hope that Sunday speeders and week day offenders will consider this matter and act wisely.

Nazis' Post-War Organization

"As the great armies battle on the fronts of Europe in a determined effort to bring to an end the tragedy which devastated the world the curtain is already beginning to go up on the next act in the horrible, nightmarish Nazi play," writes Raymond A. Davis in Saturday Night. "The Nazis know now they have lost this war but even now they are preparing for the next one. And this preparation is something that must be taken into account. Traces of it can be seen everywhere. Wherever the Germans have been or wherever they have succeeded in establishing open or secret agencies their black hand can be seen, sensed or felt.

But in Germany and in all formerly-occupied countries, and on ostensibly neutral soil, in such countries as Spain, Argentina and possibly Sweden, Nazi groups of assassins and saboteurs will continue to operate. The Nazi virus has become deeply imbedded in the body politic of the world and if the world doesn't act ruthlessly to exterminate it it will gather fruits which will disturb the normal life of mankind for a long time.

Yugoslavia is a good example. During recent weeks the Yugoslav Government has unearthed a widespread conspiracy, inspired by Gestapo agencies and operating through intransigent Chetniks and followers of Nedich Etlyotich, which aimed at disturbing the peace of Serbia and making worse the economic and political situation in every way. Investigation revealed that terrorist groups had been prepared in special schools to enter liberated Yugoslavia and work for "civil war and prepare for the German spring offensive." It was their task to disrupt communications, to blow up factories, to disorganize supply routes and by all means possible provoke discontent."

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the cruel taskmasters set over them by a new dynasty of Pharaohs, who "knew not Joseph" (Exod. 1:8). Every effort was made to destroy them, but the more they were afflicted the more they multiplied and grew (Exod. 1:12) until the hour struck which God had foretold to Abraham, "His friend," and so their deliverance "was effected. So it shall be in connection with the termination of their present long-drawn-out agony. The time of the promise draws nigh. Deliverance will come with Messiah's Second Advent in God's appointed time. The Heart of the Lesson

The lives of the patriarchs furnish us with wonderful illustrations of the power of faith and of the faithfulness of God. Not one of these men lived absolutely sinless lives, but all valued the things of the spirit and were more concerned about the favor of the Lord than earthly prosperity. Jacob may seem, during part of his life, to have been an exception to this, but actually the birthright, as heir of the promise, was valued by him even though he sought it in the wrong way. His was a long life for self and a short life for God, but his closing years declared the reality of his faith. To Moses, the reproach of Christ meant more than all the honor and wealth that Egypt could offer him (Heb. 11:24-26). We shall be blest indeed if we imitate the faith of these men, while seeking to shun their failures.

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Sunday School Lesson

Lesson for April 15
Golden Text.—By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.—Heb. 11:8

The Lesson as a Whole

Approach to the Lesson

The story of Abraham occupies a large part of the Book of Genesis, including most of chapters 11:26 to 25:11. He is referred to again and again throughout other portions of the Word of God and two designations are given him, which distinguish him from all others. He is called "the Friend of God" (Jas. 2:23; Isa. 41:8) and the father of all that believe (Rom. 4:11, 16). God has thus put signal honor upon this man, whose memory both Christians and Jews revere and whom Mohammedans reverence as the father of Ishmael, the progenitor of the Arabian tribes.

Abraham was born in an idolatrous home (Josh. 24:2, 3). In a pagan city and land, Ur of the Chaldees (Gen. 11:28). To him, when a young man, God revealed Himself and commanded him to leave his parents and native country and go out to a land yet to be shown him. Note that this command came before he dwelt in Haran (Acts 7:2, 3). Evidently, upon making this known to his father, Terah, he decided to go along and so took all his household to Haran—a halfway house, as it were, from which no further move was made to obey in full the divine command until after Terah was dead.

Then Abram (as he was called at that time) obeyed and went on to Canaan. Here he dwelt among the people as a stranger. He was characterized by two things, a tent and an altar—speaking of pilgrimage, or strangership, and worship (Gen. 12:8; 13:3, 4). To him God gave the promise that in him and in his seed (which was Christ—Gal. 3:16 tells us) all nations should be blest (Gen. 22:18). In due time, Isaac was born, and he became the father of Jacob, from whom came the twelve patriarchs, the progenitors of the nation of Israel. Famine drove them down to Egypt, until, in process of time, God raised up Moses to lead them out of that land of bondage and on to the borders of Palestine, into which they entered under the leadership of Joshua.

Verse by Verse

Gen. 12:1.—"Now the Lord had said unto Abram," Note the expression "had said." It was before, not after, they left Ur of the Chaldees that this word came to Abram. He was commanded to leave not only his country, but all his kindred, to go to a land which God would show to him. It is evident that, in the beginning, there was not sufficient faith or understanding to enable him to act upon this, so he allowed his father, Terah, to take the lead, and as a family they left the land of their nativity and went on to Haran, where they remained until after Terah's death, when the original instruction he had received was remembered and acted upon and Abram led the way to the land of Canaan.

Verse 2.—"I will bless thee, and thou shalt be a blessing." Marvelously have these words been fulfilled. After the lapse of nearly four millenniums, Abraham's name is a household word in every civilized land, and through him untold blessing has come to innumerable people who have profited through the revelation and fulfillment of the promise given to him.

Acts 7:4.—"From thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land." These words and those that follow from the part of Stephen's historical sketch of God's dealings with the patriarchs and with Israel, when he made his great defense before the Jewish Sanhedrin. He emphasizes the fact that it was not until after Terah had passed off the scene that Abram fully obeyed the command of God.

Verse 5.—"He gave him none inheritance in it, yet he promised that He would give it to him, and to his seed after him." It is not as though God's Word has failed. The promise shall yet be made good! God gave the land to Abram and his seed, and that unconditionally. The day will come when they shall dwell in it in peace; never to be driven out again.

persecution and borne the ill will of those who knew not the plan of God regarding them.

Verse 7.—"The nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, and after that they shall come forth, and serve me in this place." All had been foreseen by Him to whom the future is as the present, and all was duly fulfilled.

Verse 12.—"Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt." It was this that resulted in the whole family leaving Palestine and immigrating to Egypt, where Joseph was waiting to greet them and give them a goodly inheritance.

Verse 13.—"At the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren." Like our blessed Lord, of whom he is a type, Joseph was disowned and despised by his brethren. Even on their first visit to Egypt, they did not recognize in the Prime Minister of that land the brother whom they had treated so basely. But the second time, he revealed himself to them. So will it be when a greater than Joseph, Jesus, Christ the rejected one, appears the second time, and they will look in amazement and in deep penitence upon the face of Him whom once they spurned.

Verse 14.—"Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred." Their blessing

came through the brother they had set at nought and sold to the Ishmaelites, even as Israel's future blessing will come through Him whose Messianic claims they once denied.

Verse 15.—"So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers." Thus God's word to Abram was fulfilled literally, and the way for the rest of the prophecy dealing with the affliction of Israel was prepared. God always fulfills His Word exactly as given.

Verse 16.—"Laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought." It was the will of God that the patriarchs, who had dwelt in tents in Canaan, should be buried there to await the hour of resurrection, when their seed shall inherit the land and dwell in it throughout the years of the Kingdom of Christ on earth.

Verse 17.—"When the time of the promise drew nigh." God has a definite time for the fulfillment of every promise. Israel became a nation of slaves, suffering under

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THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

which has been appointed to enquire into and report upon the system of education in Ontario will hold its first sessions in the Senate Chamber of the University of Toronto at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. on April 11, and on April 12, 1945, under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Mr. Justice J. A. Hope.

Such briefs as are submitted on or before April 10, 1945, will be given preliminary consideration at the first sessions. Briefs submitted after April 10, 1945, will be considered at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

The sessions are open to the public.

All organizations interested in any of the problems related to public education are invited to submit briefs to

R. W. B. Jackson, Secretary, Royal Commission on Education, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.