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Notes and Comments

"Before you invest, investigate," is the timely advice passed along by T. L. Wheeler, Ohio State Extension specialist. It would be a good slogan for all of us in what promises to be another wild after-war era. In the boom period that followed the other war farmers lost a lot of money investing in packing houses that never got beyond the prospectus stage, oil stocks and other promotion schemes. So did city people speculating in "sure things." The slickers are getting ready some new hoaxes with which to harvest other people's money. One reported kind, which takes advantage of the war-excited interest in science, consists of trick gadgets supposed to perform wonders of various sorts. A gun-shy attitude and a firm grip on the purse or checkbook are reliable defenses against what seems coming.

Palestine from Abraham to Yesterday

The present disturbances in Palestine awaken interest in its history which may be traced in the Royal Ontario Museum over a period of 5,000 years. There are cups and bowls which Abraham might have used; "pieces of silver" and the "widow's mite" of the time of Christ; garments worn in the nineteenth century but of types that were current in the time of our Lord; wooden ploughs, again of modern make, but identical in design with those that David knew. These and many other objects illustrating the life and art of Palestine will appear in a special exhibition to be held in the Museum between January 20th and February 17th under the joint auspices of the Museum and the Canadian Jewish Congress. For this occasion the Museum Collection will be supplemented by many fine manuscripts and early printed Jewish books, jewelry and ceremonial objects loaned by owners both in Canada and the United States.

Hunter, Consider the Bird of Prey

Large numbers of red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk and snowy owl, moving into southern Ontario during the winter, deserve more protection. Usually these large birds are killed because of their alleged attacks on poultry, but analyses of the stomach contents of these birds made at the Royal Ontario Museum show that their major prey is moles and wild mice. The latter do much damage to fruit trees and shrubbery throughout the winter. In addition, the snowy owl kills large numbers of the brown rat—a dangerous pest. Recently a white owl was shot in Whitchurch, and The Tribune received several protests from bird lovers.

To many persons, however, hawks and owls are intrinsically worth saving, even where the economic consideration is not clear. They are a beautiful and graceful part of our countryside. If all animals which fell foul of some special part of our interest were eradicated, this would be a dull and empty land for the lover of the out-of-doors.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for January 13

Golden Text.—I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength.—Isa. 12:2

The Lesson as a Whole
 Even though we may think we are well acquainted with Israel's early history, it is important that we read again the thirteen chapters indicated for the present lesson, and that with care. They reveal in a marvelous way the activity of God in both judgment and grace: judgment upon Egypt and its false gods, and grace toward His afflicted people whose cries of distress had gone up to His throne. The conflict that followed was not between Satan and God. Consequently, there could be only one possible outcome. No matter how haughty the ruler of Egypt might be or what his boasted might, he was bound to lose, because he had dared to fight against the omnipotent Creator, who was Israel's covenant God. The ten plagues were all directed against the gods of Egypt. The Nile god was worshipped as the source of Egypt's corn supply. Its waters were turned to blood. The light of the Sun, esteemed as the supreme god, was blotted from the heavens. The sacred Bull was shown to be powerless in the murrain of the cattle. Even insect life, as seen in the sacred Scarab, was turned into a source of misery and distress for the people who followed Pharaoh's lead in his defiance of Jehovah. The locust and the frog, feared, yet worshipped as the symbols of deities to be placated by sacrifices, brought desolation and contamination in their wake. All nature seemed turned against Pharaoh, in accord with Jehovah's word, as Moses lifted up his rod in judgment.

The last plague of all, the death of the firstborn, struck at the house of the king himself, he who was supposed to be the son of the Sun, as in the case of the pretentious but now humiliated Japanese emperor, Hirohito, today. To touch Pharaoh's firstborn was to expose the fallacy of his claims to deity.

The fact that the Israelites were exempt from these plagues showed how God had put a difference (lit., a redemption, Exod. 11:7, marg.) between them and the Egyptians. The blood of the Passover lamb became the token of the divine favor and the assurance of the divine protection. This as we know typified Christ as our Passover (1 Cor. 5:7) through whom all who appropriate His blood by faith are saved from judgment (1 Pet. 1:2, 18, 19).

Verse by Verse
 Exod. 6:8.—"I will bring you out... I will rid you out of their bondage... I will redeem you... I will take you to me for a people... I will be to you a God... I will bring you in... I will give it you." In these verses we have God's seven "I will's." It is His declaration of His perfect will for His people. Henceforth faith could stand firmly upon His declarations and so be confident, no matter what difficulties might arise or delays intervene. When every promise was fulfilled, Israel would know beyond all question that they had to do with the living God.

Chap. 13:17.—"When Pharaoh had let the people go." At last, the long, hard years of bondage were ended. Israel had been thrust forth by the terrified king himself, fearful that if he delayed longer to obey the command of God, Egypt would be destroyed. Sheltered by blood on the Passover night, their hosts had been led on by Moses from the shores of the Red Sea. From there to Palestine, by a northern route, it was but eleven days' journey to their promised home, but the Philistines would have contested their way, so God led them by a southern route lest they should be discouraged when they saw war.

Verse 18.—"The children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt." God had seen to it that the Egyptians provided them with all things needful before they left Goshen. Although hitherto a nondescript rabble of slaves, under the direction of Moses they soon became a mighty army, equipped for meeting, first the desert nomads, and, later, the warlike hosts of Canaan.

Verse 19.—"Moses took the bones of Joseph with him." This was in accordance with Joseph's request, made many years before (Gen. 50:25). His body was embalmed and put in a coffin in Egypt, but when Israel left they took it with them and finally interred the remains in the land of Palestine, near Shechem (Josh. 24:32).

Verse 20.—"Succoth... Etham, in the edge of the wilderness." They journeyed southeasterly from Goshen, stopping first at Succoth (which means an encampment) and then at Etham, which, we are told, was on the edge of the wilderness. This was close to the western arm of the Red Sea.

Verse 21.—"A pillar of cloud... a pillar of fire." In this way, God manifested His presence among them. We are told that He was in the pillar of cloud and fire, as He had been in the burning bush. It was the expression of His care over His people, enlightening and defending them. Typically, it speaks of the Holy Spirit, who is now the seal that marks believers out as under the divine care.

Verse 22.—"He took not away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night." Through all the long journey from Egypt to Canaan—the pillar abode with them, guiding them through the wilderness until they reached the Promised Land. Even so does the Holy Spirit now abide in and with those who have been redeemed by blood, leading them on to that eternal rest that remains for the people of God.

The Heart of the Lesson
 Augustine wrote, "God's delays are not denials." His people are often left for a time in perplexing circumstances, where faith is tested to the utmost. But in the end, He ever manifests His unchanging

WHITEVALE

(Crowded out last week.)

With the dawning of the year 1946 it behoves us all to take stock of ourselves, and to endeavour to make room for improvement in our individual life, our community life, and our church life. Let us therefore, in retrospect, go back over the news of the past year, and cite therein items which shaped the destiny of our town:

(1) Fire consumed two houses in our village, causing considerable expense to the owners; (2) The village store changed hands; (3) Several dwellings were bought and sold and some of the former occupants and owners moved elsewhere; (4) The village school was wired for the much-needed electric lights; (5) Mr. K. C. Donnelly erected a new and modern central heating plant, garage and egg-grading warehouse; (6) Bob Buckles was released from prison camp, and our soldier boys came (and are coming) marching home again; (7) Miss Helen Metcalfe became teacher of the Junior Room at the public school; (8) Reeve D. B. Annis was seriously injured in a fall from a grain wagon at threshing time; (9) The First Baptist Church came into being with flying colors, and took up residence in the I.O.O.F. Hall; (10) There were days of great rejoicing when "cease-fire" sounded in Europe and Asia; (11) The blacksmith shop roof caved in with the weight of last winter's snow (remember digging out the roads, and hiking through snow tunnels in order to get to work at Ajax?); (12) The Ajax plant closed down as a war plant; (13) Mr. and Mrs. Judson Pugh observed their golden wedding anniversary; (14) Rev. J. McLachlan became pastor of Whitevale United Church; (15) New families were welcomed into the vale; (16) There were the inevitable births, marriages and deaths which should not be treated so lightly and casually as they are.

So now that we have pretty well covered all the previous news items, we will finish up with the happenings of the last week in December, 1945. We wish at this point to welcome to the Whitevale staff of correspondents "M.E.B." and so promise them that we will give them keen competition in 1946.

Miss June Shank of Green River was the devotional leader of the Cottage Prayer Meeting which was held on Friday evening, December 28. Miss Shank's father and mother took part in the service too. Mr. Shank led in the reading of the Scripture lesson, and Mrs. Shank gave a fine reading suitable for the New Year. Bible study is taking place in the tenth chapter of St. John's Gospel.

Mr. and Mrs. Tweedie were sorely disappointed when they received word that their son Stan is not yet returning from overseas as they had first received word that he would be home. This is the third time the Tweedie's have been so disappointed. The Whitevale folk hope with Stan's mother and dad that he may soon be home.

It is to be regretted that there is not more interest evidenced in the school meetings which take place annually for the discussion of school problems and for the purpose of electing trustees and officers. Every rate-payer and as many parents as possible should attend because at school is where your child's future life is entrusted away from you. At this past meeting of 1945 Mr. Sid Pugh was elected as trustee in the place of Mr. Newton Robinson. It is possible that the boys of the school will be taught manual training which will be a step in the right direction.

Jimmie Mitchell, another of our soldier boys has arrived home. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Turner held a family Christmas party at their home Christmas Day. With the exception of David whom we believe is on his way every member of the Turner family was home for Christmas. Mr. D. R. Beaton also spent Christmas at the Turner home.

Several of Whitevale's Young folk were guests at Mr. Douglas Sloan's coming-of-age party held recently. Doug's home is in Toronto.

Friends of Mrs. M. E. Parks who is residing in Toronto with Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Parks, will be sorry to learn that Mrs. Parks has been confined to bed due to a serious illness. Others who have been on the sick list are Mrs. Charles Hiltz and Miss Ruby Sinclair.

Mrs. D. B. Annis entertained the ladies of the village at an afternoon of euchre on Saturday, Dec. 29. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Fleming, Miss L. Nevin, Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Donnelly, little Ruth Donnelly, Pamela Parks, and Mrs. Russel Parks, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nevin, Toronto.

Mr. Ed. Devitt has arrived home and we believe David Turner is on his way home too.

faithfulness. When we see "evil" apparently unchecked, and even for a time triumphant, we may be tempted to think God has forgotten or is indifferent to our sorrows and heedless of our prayers. But we need to remember that He sees the end from the beginning, and in His divine government there are wheels within wheels (Ezek. 1:16) of which we cannot now understand the meaning. But everything will be made plain at last and we shall praise Him for all His dealings with us, both in grace and in judgment. His ways now are "past finding out" (Rom. 11:33), but when the mystery of God is finished (Rev. 10:7) all will be cause for thanksgiving.

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