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Notes and Comments

A Complicated System

York County Council spent one afternoon debating the matter of school grants, and puzzling out just how they are arrived at. It is safe to say that not ten per cent of the school trustees or members of Boards of Education could give any ratepayer a proper explanation on how the amount of school grants received from the Department of Education or the County, are arrived at.

The method of computation is intricate and difficult in the extreme, and one wonders why some simpler form of arriving at the amount of the grants handed out each year is not worked out in some more simplified form. After a competent auditor had traversed the whole situation members of York County Council were seen shaking their heads, and asking who ever conceived such a method for the basis of paying grants as that which exists in the Province of Ontario.

The Costs of Strikes

Strikes are costly to all groups in the community. The worker suffers a loss of income. The employer has reduced profits. The consumer suffers inconvenience and must forego products urgently desired. This is all so obvious that it scarcely needs repetition, notes the New York Times. What is less obvious the Times points out, is that the cost involved is often excessively greater in relation to the rewards to be won.

Taking the present steel strike as an illustration, the Times drives home its point as follows:

"The companies have offered an increase of 15 cents an hour, which would be the largest increase ever received by these workers. This strike has been called to obtain an additional 3 1/2 cents an hour. If the 15-cent offer were accepted, steel workers would earn about \$1.29 an hour. On the basis of their own demands they would earn \$1.32 1/2 an hour. Every hour's work that is lost because of the insistence upon an additional 3 1/2 cents an hour costs the steel worker at least \$1.29. It would take him 37 hours of work at the additional 3 1/2 cents an hour to make up for the loss of one hour's pay of \$1.29. In other words, if the steel worker is unemployed for one 40-hour week it will take him 37 full weeks at the higher rate to make up for the time lost. If the strike lasts for two weeks it will take 74 weeks to make up for the time lost. If the strikers were out for a month it would take 148 weeks, or almost three full years, before the earnings lost during the strike were recouped.

"These figures, of course, do not in themselves establish the merit of the offer made by the steel companies. They do not in themselves disprove Mr. Murray's claim that more could have been paid. But they do call attention to a factor which is frequently lost sight of, when union labor rejects a major gain in favor of a strike."

Uncle Hy. Says

I used to think the rain was sent, some plan of mine to circumvent, but since I've started planting seed, I find the rain a friend indeed.

I used to think the wild winds blew, to raise the dreaded dust anew, but since I work with loam and sand, I find the wind dries up my land.

I used to think the sun's hot rays, were meant to spoil my holidays, but since I've taken to the hoe, I find the sun helps things to grow.

So come on wind, and rain and sun, and do your stuff, my planting's done, since you're my friends, a helpful lot, move in and run my garden plot.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for February 10

Golden Text.—Whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.—Prov. 3:12

The Lesson as a Whole

The Book of Numbers was the guidebook of the Levites, who attended to temporal things in connection with Jehovah's sanctuary and were responsible to minister to the needs of His people. Throughout this Book we see Israel under the guidance and discipline of Jehovah, as they pursued their way as pilgrims to Kadesh-barnea, the place of opportunity from which they might have gone up triumphantly into the Promised Land, had faith been in exercise. Turned back because of unbelief, they were obliged to wander for thirty-eight years in the wilderness, until the generation that had rebelled against God had died away. But though they were suffering because of their refusal to trust and obey God, He did not cease to watch over them and to meet their daily needs. Nevertheless, He dealt with them in holy discipline, for "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb. 12:6). It is thus He has visited His people with the rod, when wayward and disobedient, in all dispensations: And He declared this to be true in a special way in connection with Israel (Amos 3:2).

The wilderness is the place of testing. It was actually no part of God's purpose for Israel, but it was part of His ways with them in order to try them and to bring out what was in their hearts. He might have taken them by a short route to Canaan (Exod. 13:17), but He desired to protect them from warfare, to which, as yet, they were not accustomed, and He had great and important lessons to teach them, which could only be learned through wilderness experiences (Deut. 8:15). In the present lesson we see them afflicted by His disciplinary hand because they decided not the report of Caleb and Joshua (Num. 14: 6-10) and refused to act in obedience to God's commands.

After leaving Egypt, the people came in a few weeks to Sinai, where they remained a full year. There the Tabernacle was built. From thence they moved on by easy stages till at last they came to

Kadesh-barnea on the southern border of Canaan. From there Moses, at their solicitation (Deut. 1:22), and yet by divine acquiescence (Num. 13:1-3), sent twelve spies to view the land and bring back their report as to what they found. Ten of the spies discouraged the hearts of the people by insisting that they were quite unable to overcome the armed inhabitants of Palestine, who dwelt in walled cities. Caleb and Joshua, the other two spies, gave a good report. But the people determined not to attempt to go in to take possession of the promised inheritance. Because of this, God's indignation was aroused.

Verse by Verse Num. 14: 11.—"The Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? Nothing stirs the heart of God to indignation like unbelief on the part of those He has redeemed. He had given Israel every possible evidence of His power and goodness, yet at the moment of their great opportunity they failed to trust Him and refused to go up and possess the inheritance He had promised them.

Verse 12.—"I will smite them, and will make of thee a greater nation." God was prepared to destroy the whole sinful nation and replace them by the descendants of Moses. Israel had forfeited all title to His protection.

Verse 13.—"Moses said, 'Then the Egyptians shall hear it.' The holy boldness of Moses and his utter unselfishness were markedly manifested as he interceded for the people. Could God afford even to seem to fail in His purpose? If Egypt heard that He had destroyed Israel in the wilderness, it would give them cause to rejoice over their downfall and to question Jehovah's ability to perform what He had undertaken.

Verse 14.—"They have heard that thou Lord art among this people." The marvelous dealings of God with Israel had become known throughout all contiguous lands. All had heard of His manifested presence in the pillar of cloud and fire. His honor and the salvation of His people were linked up together in their minds.

Verse 15, 16.—"If thou shalt kill all this people, then the nations will speak, saying, Because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land, he hath slain them." There is something truly sublime in the bold way in

which Moses presented the case to the Lord as he pleaded the cause of the people who had been so ungrateful to him on many occasions.

Verse 17.—"Let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken." Moses was, as it were, reminding the Lord of His own promise. He besought Him to fulfill His own word as he went on to quote God's declaration made to him in Mt. Horeb.

Verse 18.—"The Lord is long-suffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression." In faith Moses laid hold of these precious words, and he counted on God to do as He had said. It is true he knew that the Lord had also added, "and by no means clearing the guilty," but he evidently distinguished definitely between God's grace and His government. He who pardons iniquity freely upon repentance and faith does not overlook failure in His people, but deals with it by the rod of discipline.

Verse 19.—"Pardon, I beseech thee, according unto the greatness of thy mercy." He did not plead for pardon on the ground of their merit, for they had none, but he besought the Lord to act in accordance with the love of His own heart.

Verse 20.—"The Lord said, I have pardoned according to thy word." The test of Moses' own faith was ended triumphantly. God answered his plea and assured him that He had forgiven His erring people.

Verse 21.—"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord." For, though He had pardoned, He would so deal with Israel that the righteousness of His throne would be untarnished and all the world should learn that, although He could and did forgive the sins of His people, He did not make light of their iniquities, but would deal with the nation in a way that would magnify His holiness and manifest His righteous government over those whom He had taken up in grace. His glory shall yet be displayed before all created intelligences, and Israel will be the vessel whereby that glory shall be made known throughout all the world.

Verse 22, 23.—"All those men which have seen my glory, and have tempted me, now these ten times shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers." Although the nation, as such, had been forgiven, discipline had to take its course upon those who had

proved so unbelieving and rebellious. As it was with the nation then, so it is with individuals now. There are certain temporal consequences of sin which are not necessarily remitted when the believer who has failed and confessed his failure, is forgiven, for, as intimated above, grace and government go hand in hand.

Verse 24.—"My servant Caleb, which followed me fully, him will I bring into the land." The faith of this devoted man stands out in vivid contrast to the unbelief of the rest of the nation. He, therefore, and Joshua, alone of that generation were to be preserved through all the trials of the way and brought into the land at last.

The Heart of the Lesson

The Father's discipline of His own family is a most solemn and important line of truth. God was a Father to Israel. He said, "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son of Egypt" (Hos. 11:1). Because of this covenant relationship He undertook to see them through to the final fulfillment of all His promises, but He could not overlook their sins and failures. These had to be dealt with in the divine government. "These things happened unto them for examples," or types. (1 Cor. 10:11). They illustrate God's dealings with His people now. Chastisement is not necessarily punishment, however, but it is nevertheless part of that disciplinary process by which we are made to learn the importance of obedience to the Word of God.

9th Line, Markham

(Too late last week) The Sewing Circle met last week at the home of Mrs. G. Lewis. A "Wear Ever" Brush demonstration was a feature of this meeting. The next meeting is to be held on Feb. 12 at the home of Mrs. Murray Lewis. This will be the annual meeting.

Mr. Bob Thomas of the O.A.C. Guelph spent the weekend at his home.

Mr. Harold Townsend attended the short course in Agriculture held at Unionville last week.

Birthday congratulations to Mr. O. Peacock. To celebrate his 80th birthday his family held a most enjoyable dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith, Pethesda. During the evening Mr. Peacock was presented with a beautifully upholstered Ottoman chair.

On Taking of Oaths

Mr. Justice Manson of the Supreme Court of British Columbia is reported to have rebuked a witness who, in taking an oath, kissed the hand in which he held the Bible instead of the book itself. There is no suggestion that the witness intended to commit perjury, but apparently he was fastidious about putting his lips to a court-room Bible. In any event, as the learned judge pointed out, the witness could not escape a charge of perjury if he was trying to avoid taking the oath. As he might have pointed out, the oath is binding even when a Bible is not used.

According to some legal historians, the custom of kissing the book is a relic of trial by ordeal. The witness, having performed the formality, was expected to be in fear of supernatural punishment if he swerved from the narrow path of veracity. But, if one is to judge from much of the evidence that is given in courts today, the fear of the supernatural no longer carries much weight. It is hard to believe that such a mass of directly contradictory evidence could be presented on two sides of a case if all witnesses were doing their best to tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

The oath in its present form has a tinge of illegality about it. An honest witness might have no difficulty about telling the truth and nothing but the truth, but if he attempts to tell the whole truth as he sees it, he is likely to be stopped by the judge or one of the counsel. All that he can conscientiously do is to tell as much of the truth as he is permitted to tell. His evidence must be the truth, but the truth is not necessarily evidence.

The respect of the layman for the courts is the strength of our legal system, and it is desirable that those persons who are called upon to give evidence should do so with a full sense of their responsibility. If the formal oath has lost its force, it might be better to substitute for it a caution by the judge to each witness to the effect that he was bound, under penalty of prosecution for perjury, to answer truly all questions that he might be asked. Then, if perjury was committed, the prosecution should be instituted immediately. The change in custom might increase the work of the courts for a time, but in the long run it would assist the cause of justice.

Too Much Overhead

There are tens of thousands of government employees across Canada who are no longer needed, Senator C. C. Ballantyne declared a few days ago, adding that "one could close his eyes and dispense with the services of 50% of those workers for the government and they would never be missed."

Such a rough and ready demobilization of the war swollen civil service would probably not be the best method but Senator Ballantyne brings to the public attention a pruning job that should not be delayed.

Before the war there were 44,000 people working for the Dominion Government and the annual payroll amounted to \$88 millions. This year those figures had risen to 150,000 people and \$229 millions. That outlay is approximately half our prewar budget, an utterly fantastic load for a country of only 12 millions to carry. Assuming that the average civil servant supports two dependents this means that, exclusive of the armed services, every 25th worker is on the Dominion Government payroll.

Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right

Because the members of Parliament at Ottawa stuck their hands into the money chest for an extra two thousand dollars per year salary, tax free, Victoria County council members, meeting at Lindsay, are petitioning the Minister of Finance for exemption from income tax on the remuneration received as municipal councillors.

A resolution asking the exemption passed without a dissenting vote. Reactions to the Lindsay resolution are varied among members of York County council.

However, this paper does not subscribe to the idea, so long as persons earning only \$660 or \$1200 are forced to pay over a portion of their small salaries.

The whole tax exemption should be widened to enable single persons to earn \$1000 a year tax free and married persons \$2000.

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EDITOR'S MAIL

Dear Sirs,

You will be happy and interested to know that we have recently completed a very successful Red Shield Home Front Appeal. The good response we have met with throughout the Division and the Territory has been made possible by the willing co-operation and good service rendered by our many friends who have so willingly assisted us.

I would like to take this opportunity, both on behalf of The Salvation Army, as well as myself as Divisional Commander of the Toronto East Division, of thanking you for your very fine assistance, and assure you of our deep appreciation. We shall continue to do our best to meet the need with which we are surrounded.

The obtaining of necessary funds for our work is an important factor, but our many friends giving so generously of their time and effort to assist us means a great deal, and is an encouragement and an inspiration to all members of The Salvation Army.

We pray that God will bless you and give to you and yours in this coming year, and in the years to come, much of His blessing.

Sincerely yours, Herbert H. Newman, Divisional Commander.

The Stouffville Tribune

I receive it each week direct from the publishers' office as a gift from my daughter, and am delighted to read its pages. It is just like receiving a good long letter from home for I was born and raised on a farm not too far from Stouffville and many of the names mentioned in its columns I remember quite well. The news from far and near pours in like a "Niagara" and is written in short snappy style and is most wholesome and is free from the stench of gossip tattle. The manner in which the publisher makes his comments and criticisms on all current issues given in a concise, frank and constructive way, and I infer that he does and will support any project that will be for the benefit of the community.

As a country paper the Tribune has a very large circulation and is a most popular medium through which the public may and are using as a source of advertising anything for sale of which they may have need. The Tribune gives honour to itself by presenting an excellent exposition of the Sunday School lesson each week and informs young and old where the churches and their ministers may be found with a kindly welcome to all who may attend. I am of the opinion that the publisher of The Tribune is an ardent believer in home trading, for he is careful to make mention of Stouffville source of supplies where—with little exception—anything may be purchased or ordered of which the town or countryside may have need, and too, is persuaded that right in your own community are to be found proficient tradesmen, business and professional men who are able to give the highest type of service which may be needed in any walk of life, from the cradle to the grave.

I am informed that the public come for miles to make their purchases in Stouffville, and on a Saturday night this town presents the picture of a fair with cars so numerous there is scarcely room in which to find parking space and

everyone coming to make their purchases, to pay their bills, to shake hands with each other and to have a good time together, policemen included, and then go home with a steady step and a clear brain with a kindly feeling toward everybody. Listen folks! believe it or not! The prosperity and good will which exists in your town and country round about is largely due to the healthful influence of the Stouffville Tribune.

J. Pike

INTERNATIONAL FARM MARKET SEEN AS VITAL

World-Wide Trade Needed to Maintain Agriculture—Would Become Peasants, Reeve Says

"Farmers of York County must interest themselves in seeing that their senior governments do everything possible to develop international and world-wide marketing, if they are not to become peasants," Reeve Charles Hooper, chairman of the agriculture committee, warned York County Council last week.

"Farmers of York County and every other county, must be prepared to assist in the implementation of an extensive food production program to support such a marketing program," continued Reeve Hooper, who is also president of the Ontario Agriculture Council.

"We farmers must adjust ourselves to the actions of some of the strikes not only in Canada but in the United States and elsewhere, because communication and transportation has developed so rapidly in recent years that every action taken by labor, industry and government, directly or indirectly, affects our agriculture program," contended Reeve Hooper.

"If no interest is taken, we, as farmers, will find ourselves struggling for life with high production cost on one hand and low prices for our products on the other. This will drive our young people from our beautiful farms and the ones who are left will become peasants," he concluded.

In their report, the members of the agriculture committee contended that the Price Stabilization Act, passed by the Federal Government to operate in the transition period from war to peacetime, is not known to be functioning.

As a result County Council endorsed a resolution recommended by the agriculture committee, wherein the county asks the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to press for a statement of policy in respect to the continuance of subsidies employed in wartime to assist in maintaining the cost-of-living index and to equalize production costs.

It was suggested in the recommendation that generally the same net per unit return from farm products be maintained in relation to the production program.

"At the earliest possible moment the machinery under the Prices Stabilization Act should be made to function," the committee advised.

THURSDAY NIGHT

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