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CURTAIN LIFTED ON WARTIME SUGAR SECRETS

While German submarines were plying the Atlantic, the background story of Canada's sugar supply and the work of the Sugar Administration of the Prices Board ranked high on the list of official secrets. But during the last session of Parliament, with sugar movements no longer guarded, the curtain was lifted on the various aspects of the sugar picture—importations, domestic sugar beet production and an accounting of the Sugar Stabilization Fund.

It was revealed that the Sugar Stabilization Fund had by last autumn accumulated a profit of over \$14 million on its transactions. This money is being used to keep

the price of sugar in Canada down to its present level despite the rising cost of raw sugar.

During the war years one blow after another battered the sugar supplies of the allied world. The sugar industry was destroyed in the Philippines and in Java. In Europe, the ravages of war laid low sugar industries both on the field of battle and in occupied territories. Other countries, such as Australia, Fiji, Trinidad and Antigua suffered a decline in sugar production due to shortages of labour, shipping facilities and fertilizer. World production of sugar plummeted down 8 million tons—in 1939 it was 31 million tons, last year only 23 million tons.

Canadian beet sugar production

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for March 31
The Lesson as a Whole

Israel, in the beginning of her national history, was a theocracy. God Himself was her King who revealed His will through His prophets and through the inspired Word as committed to Moses and his successors. It was when the priesthood had broken down, and even the prophetic office failed in a measure, that the people demanded a king, in order that they might be more like the nations surrounding them. They were out of touch with God, and so they wanted an arm of flesh on which to lean. In response to their insistent plea, God gave them Saul, after warning them, through Samuel, of what his reign would mean. But nothing could dissuade or turn them aside from their determination to have a leader who could rule over them and command their armies in time of war. Saul was their choice as well as God's. In vociferously acclaiming him their king, they were only carrying out what He had decreed, little as they realized it. Long years afterward, He declared through Hosea, "I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath" (Hos. 13:11).

Saul seemed, at first, to be an ideal choice: lowly, yet brave; determined, yet subject to the Word of the Lord. But he soon ceased to be "little" in his own eyes (1 Sam. 15:17) and became arrogant, disobedient to God, and insanely jealous of others (chap. 18:9). For this, God set him aside, after repeated warnings (chap. 16:1), and he ended his unhappy reign when he fell in battle on mount Gilboa (chap. 31). With him perished three of his sons, so that the house of Saul lost the kingdom, though for seven years afterward Ishbosheth, another son, was recognized by ten of the tribes as king, while David was reigning in Judah (2 Sam. 2:8-10).

After judging Israel forty years, Samuel anointed Saul, the son of Kish, to be Israel's first king. He, too, reigned forty years (Acts 13:21). Mystically considered, the number forty speaks of testing and probation, so we need not be surprised to find one forty-year period following another, all the way from Eli's priesthood through the reign of King Solomon. Saul reigned from about 1095 to 1055 B.C.

Verse by Verse
1 Sam. 8:10—"Samuel told all the words of the Lord unto the people that asked of him a king." While God acceded in their request for a king, He made it clear that this was a backward step on their part, which would have serious re-

has climbed to a figure 20 million pounds above the pre-war average. In 1945 our beet sugar crop was 165 million pounds. During the time beet sugar production was rising in Canada it was in the process of falling in the United Kingdom and the United States. All the sugar we produce goes into the world pool and is divided equally. That means we cannot get more sugar than our allocation by simply turning out more beet sugar, though naturally any increase we achieve is of benefit to all.

In 1945 we had available for use 920 million pounds of refined sugar, as against 985 million pounds in 1944. Each year the demand for sugar, with increases in population, is going up. In 1940, before the period of sugar devastation got under way, we had 1217 million pounds of sugar for consumption, although the 1935-1939 average was 996 million pounds.

During 1945 the overall sugar target for individual usage in the three countries was set at 70.8 pounds. But each nation is free to distribute that amount as it sees fit amongst consumers, restaurants, industries and institutions. Therefore, there may be and often are, differences in the amounts granted to different types of users in different countries.

No sugar goes to breweries or distilleries in Canada, although a small amount is allocated to manufacturers of grape wine.

Stories of sugar surpluses circulate from time to time. These stories should be weighed in the light of circumstances. Very often a year's production of sugar may be turned out in a relatively short time and is naturally held on hand until normal distribution is complete. In the British West Indies, the annual production is accomplished in five months. The entire beet sugar crop in Canada is made in the last three months of the year. Furthermore, as much sugar as possible is brought into Canada before water transportation closes, because of the low haulage cost, and this sugar must be stored for monthly consumption.

The claim has been made that there is plenty of sugar in Java. The quantity is uncertain and much of it has deteriorated during the years it has been stored.

It has been suggested Canada should buy sugar from Peru. Should we do so, we would not be allowed any more sugar per year than our allocation permits and at presents prices we would have to pay double what we are paying

sults for evil and grief.

Verse 11—"The manner of the king." Samuel portrayed in a remarkable way the bondage into which they were, putting themselves by insisting on a king that they might be like the nations around them (v. 5).

Verse 12—"He will appoint him captains.....to make his instruments of war." A king without a great standing army is almost unthinkable. They must expect to be regimented and put, as a people, at the disposal of the monarch they clamored for.

Verse 13—"He will take your daughters to be concubines." The king's authority would be extended even unto their homes, so that their daughters would be at his disposal.

Verse 14—"He will take your fields, and your vineyards." The king would look upon the whole land, including the homes and farms of the people, as belonging to him, because he represented the state in his own person.

Verse 15—"He will take the tenth..... and give to his officers and to his servants." By heavy taxation in order to maintain a great body of officials, he would make the lives of the people burdensome.

Verse 16—"He will take.....your goodliest young men.....and put them to his work." The king of their choosing would not hesitate to conscript their finest young men, together with servants of both sexes, and employ them in whatever he considered to be of advantage to himself.

Verse 17—"Ye shall be his servants." They would surrender the liberty that they enjoyed under God and become bondmen, practically, to the king. How frequently has this been the case in various lands where arbitrary rule has come into effect.

Verse 18—"Ye shall cry out in that day.....and the Lord will not hear you." When the conditions depicted by Samuel actually came to pass, Israel would plead with the Lord for relief, but He would leave them to the results of their folly in rejecting Him as their King and insisting upon a man to fill that office.

Verse 19—"Nay; but we will have a king." Swayed by self-will, the people "refused to obey the voice of Samuel," but declared they would go on as they had planned.

Verse 20—"That we also may be like all the nations." This was the very thing God would have preserved them from. He had said "The people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations" (Num. 23:9). It is always a sad mistake when the separated people of God seek to copy the ways of those about them who do not know the Lord.

Verse 21—"Samuel.....rehearsed them in the ears of the Lord." Unmoved by self-interest, but deeply concerned because of Israel's defection, Samuel took it all to God in prayer.

Verse 22—"The Lord said.....Harken unto their voice, and make them a king." When people insist on having their own way God often allows them to do as they desired in order that they may learn by experience the folly of self-will.

The Heart of the Lesson

When Israel drifted into a condition of insubordination and backsliding, they asked for a king in order that they might be like the nations round about them. This was the very thing God had warned them against from the beginning. But when they asserted their will He complied with their wishes, not because it was according to His desire, but because of His indignation at their disobedience to His will. He gave them Saul that they might learn the folly of turning away from a theocracy to a human monarchy. In Saul himself we see at first a man after the flesh, at his very best, but he soon degenerated into a proud, selfish person, in whom carnality was more evident than any desire to glorify God.

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To All Employers:

All Unemployment Insurance Books for the year ending March 31st, 1946, must be exchanged for new books.

New Insurance Books for the fiscal year 1946-47 will be exchanged by the Local National Employment Office in your area for expired Insurance Books upon completion of the second last page in the expired books.

Protect the benefit rights of your employees by sending in their expired books properly completed on March 31st.

There are severe penalties for failing to make Unemployment Insurance contributions for your insured employees and for failure to renew the Insurance Books as required.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

ATTENTION FARMERS

We still have a few implements left to sell from our 1946 quota. These consist of the following: Manure Spreaders, Tractor Plows, Horse Drawn Gang and Single Furrow Plows, Mowers, Rakes, One Hay Loader, Wheelbarrows, Grain Grinders and Hammer Mills. The supply is limited, so we suggest you order now.

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