

### OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

Written exclusively for The Stouffville Tribune by M. L. Schwartz

With restrictions of all sorts removed or limited greatly, it is expected in this capital that Canada will get an unusually large number of tourists this summer and these may reach a number which has not been seen in Canada for a long time, with the budget of the Dominion's Tourist Bureau showing an increase of \$200,000 over last year's expenditures in this direction and representing a sum of no less than \$650,000. In fact, a former Minister of the King Government had gone on record as predicting that Canada's tourist business could be developed to \$500,000,000 a year.

It is reported in Ottawa that Canadian beer exports to the United States last year reached a total of 2,354,797 gallons and for the first two months of this year were 366,756 gallons.

Since the end of the war there has been a popular impression that registration is now unnecessary and officials in this capital stress in no uncertain terms that this is not true. In fact, everyone reaching the age of 16 must not only be properly registered but it is illegal to be found without a registration card at all times, this being compulsory until the law will be repealed or changed.

Though the affects of the labour troubles in the United States bituminous coal fields have been serious in Canada, especially since from April 1 to May 4 only 660,000 tons of coal were shipped to Canada from United States as against 1,915,000 tons in same period last year, yet it is hinted in Ottawa that the coal problems are not just based on these labour troubles in United States, nor that these are only temporary conditions which will pass away by themselves. Indeed, in the summer, unless coal production is resumed in the early future, the whole Canadian situation on coal will be serious and the prospects for next winter are not optimistic at all. Even increased shipments from western Canada, opening of new mines, using every possible means to get more workers for the mines, and other actions may not provide a complete solution, with the report of the Royal Commission on Coal, while substantial progress has been made, not expected for some time yet in face of every effort being made to press this work to its earliest possible conclusion and being awaited here with intense interest.

Canada's retiring High Commissioner to London, Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, will receive Premier Mackenzie King on his visit there since he will be leaving for Canada only shortly afterwards, planning to be home for the marriage of his son here on June 15. Minister of Transport, Hon. Lionel Chevrier, has announced that the system of air priorities for servicemen on domestic airlines in Canada will be discontinued. At the same time it has become known in Ottawa that Trans-Atlantic airmail flights have been increased from four to five weekly. An effort to end ban on manufacture and sale of low-priced oleomargarine in Canada as substitute for butter has met with failure in the Senate after lengthy debate, though it did reveal that many communications had come to this capital in support of this idea. Incidentally, it is reported in Ottawa that the butter situation is improving rapidly and supplies are available in stores across the country. Likewise, there are suggestions in Ottawa that beef deliveries are improving and the

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shortage will be eliminated shortly as more grass fed cattle appear on the market. A parliamentary committee has been proposed by Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, Hon. J. A. Glen, to investigate and to make recommendations on Indian affairs in this country. The life of the Combined Food Board, which was to end June 30 of this year, has been extended to next Dec. 31 on account of the deterioration that has occurred in the world food situation in recent months and the need to continue control distribution of many foods with a view of preventing widespread suffering and starvation. The C.N.R. has estimated a surplus of \$7,500,000 for 1946 as against \$25,756,130 last year. (Reproduction prohibited, 1946, Federal Features Syndicate.)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for June 2  
Golden Text.—Let us love one another: for love is of God.

1 John 4:7

The Lesson as a Whole  
The home at Bethany, where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus dwelt, was, for our blessed Lord, one of the brightest spots on earth. It was one place where He was always welcome and where His mission was understood to a large extent. Mary, perhaps, entered into His thoughts better than the others, for she learned at His feet what may have been hidden from her busier sister, and even from Lazarus himself. To these three, the Lord Jesus could allow His affection to go out in a way He could not always do toward others. We read that Jesus "loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus" (John 11:5), and it is very evident that they appreciated and reciprocated that affection. For, when the brother was ill, the sisters thought it was quite sufficient to send a messenger to Jesus to say to Him, "He whom thou lovest is sick" (John 11:3).

I know that some take it for granted that there are two women involved in the different accounts of the anointing of the Lord in Bethany, but to me this seems utterly preposterous in view of the fact that practically the same conversation is given in each account. In each instance the disciples object to the waste of the ointment, on the ground that it might have been sold for three hundred pence and given to the poor, and in each case the Lord says that what this woman has done shall be told for a memorial of her wherever the Gospel is preached. To me these words prove conclusively that it was Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, who anointed the Lord, and only she.

It is interesting to note how the Holy Spirits speaks of Bethany as "the town of Mary and... Martha." Doubtless, many important people lived in this suburban city, so nigh to Jerusalem, and one might have identified it more naturally with them than with this quiet, unassuming family. But to God it was their town, because they loved and believed in His Son. May this not be more than a hint of the way the Lord looks upon our cities and villages today, valuing them, not as "the places of residence of those great in the eyes of the world—whose names are prominent in political, scientific, or business circles—but rather as the place where some of His saints dwell who are numbered among the "quiet in the land" (Psa. 35:20), "the poor of this world, rich in faith" (Jas. 2:5), unknown to men, yet well known to God (2 Cor. 6:9).

Verse by Verse  
Mark 14:3.—"The house of Simon the leper." We know nothing as to this man, but the presumption is that he had been a leper and was cleansed by Jesus. The "woman having an alabaster box of ointment" was Mary, of whose act of devotion we also read in John 12. She considered nothing too precious for Jesus, upon whose head, and feet also (as John tells) she poured the spikenard as He reclined at the table. It was a beautiful tribute to the One whom she recognized as the promised Messiah.

Verse 4.—"Why was this waste of the ointment made?" Judas, we know from John's account, was the prime spirit in this murmur of discontent. It indicated how little he and the rest understood of the events soon to take place, though Jesus had foretold them again and

again. Mary anointed His body beforehand for its burial (v. 8).

Verse 5.—"It might have been sold for three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor." The Roman penny or denarius was a silver coin of a little less value than our twenty-five cent piece, but it had far greater purchasing power, and was the ordinary wage of a laboring man in those days; so that, according to the computation of Judas, the ointment represented a full year's wages, if the sabbath and special feast days be omitted. This seemed too much to lavish on Jesus. The suggestion that it might rather have been used in almsgiving did not mean, however, that Judas cared for the poor. We are told it was because he was a thief and kept the bag and bare away what was put therein (John 12:6, literal rendering.)

Verse 6.—"Let her alone, she hath wrought a good work on me." Jesus always appreciated every evidence of sincere affection, and He placed a high value upon Mary's act of devotion.

Verse 7.—"Ye have the poor with you always, me ye have not always." It is ever right and proper to minister to the needy, who can always be found if we desire to help them. Such ministry is commendable at all times. But Jesus was about to leave them and Mary seemed to realize this.

Verse 8.—"She hath done what she could." There can be no higher commendation than this. All cannot do great things for Christ, but it is well if each one does what he can as unto the Lord Himself.

Verse 9.—"Whosoever this gospel shall be preached, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." Mary had no thought that day that her kindly expression of love for the rejected King was to make her name known throughout the entire world; yet so it was, for the story is told in three of the Gospels and has been carried throughout every hand where Christ is preached.

Luke 10:30.—"A certain woman named Martha received him into her house." This was on a previous occasion to the one we have been considering. The suggestion seems plausible that Martha was the eldest of the trio and the owner of the house.

Verse 39.—"Mary... sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word." Mary delighted to take the seat of a learner. She revealed in the truth Christ came to reveal, and found her chief joy in sitting at His feet. To some she would seem to be dreamy and impractical, but Jesus appreciated her deep interest in His message and her love for Himself.

Verse 40.—"Martha was cumbered about much serving." Martha, who, as suggested, was probably the older sister, was perhaps of a more practical turn of mind than Mary, and manifested her love by service. There was nothing wrong in this. Her failure consisted in the fact that she became somewhat censorious of her sister and allowed herself to be anxious and troubled regarding her own household duties. There is a touch of self-pity in her complaint. "Dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?"

Verse 41.—"Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many

things." The Lord's words were in the nature of a gentle rebuke because she had become so taken up with her work that she failed to appreciate, for the moment, that which was of greater importance, namely, heart-occupation with Christ. Service should never be divorced from the spirit of worship.

Verse 42.—"One thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." It might be rendered, "Of one thing there is need," that is, the one prime necessity is to be subject to Christ in all things. This was what characterized Mary, and this He would have her continue to enjoy. Observe that the one thing needful, in this instance, was not the salvation of the soul, but heart-enjoyment of Christ.

John 11:1.—"A certain man was sick, named Lazarus." This is the first time we read of a brother to the two devoted sisters. His illness and subsequent death afforded the Lord Jesus the opportunity to give one of the most convincing proofs of His deity.

Verse 2.—"It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, whose brother Lazarus was sick." These words were inserted here for identification purposes though the actual anointing did not take place until some days later.

Verse 3.—"Lord, behold he whom thou lovest is sick." Nothing more was needed. They knew the Lord Jesus Christ would understand who

was meant. And He did but He waited till Lazarus was dead before responding. Then He came to raise him and so to give a remarkable testimony on the reality of His claim to be the Messiah of Israel, the Son of the living God. He does not always answer our prayers in our way. But His way is always best.

The Heart of the Lesson  
In these three friends of Jesus we have illustrated three things that should characterize all believers in Him. In Martha we see service, which is at its best when free from worry and anxiety and done as unto the Lord Himself.

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