

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for June 20
Golden Text—For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be

called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
 —Isa. 9:6
 The Lesson as Whole
 The Messianic hope in Israel was based upon the promises of God given in remarkable detail and

clarity through many divinely inspired prophets from the patriarchal age onward. According to these predictions they looked for a king who would reign in righteousness over all the earth (Isa. 32:1), a prophet who would reveal God's mind fully to them and whom all were called to obey (Deut. 18:5), and a Saviour who should bring blessing to both Israel and the nations (Gen. 12:3). As Jehovah's anointed servant, He was to manifest the compassion of God toward Israel and the nations, relieving the afflicted and freeing the world from the bondage of sin (Isa. 61:1-9). Moreover, He was to be the great antitypical sin offering, in whom men should find peace with God and the pardon of their sins, though few seemed to understand this aspect of His work (Isa. 53).
 Even the Samaritans, though a mixed people maintaining a rival worship to that centered in the Temple at Jerusalem, cherished the hope of the coming of the Messiah, who would bring to men full understanding of the ways of the Lord (John 4:25).

But although His coming was so plainly predicted, yet when Jesus appeared in the fullness of time, "he came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11), for He did not answer to their carnal expectations. They were looking for a great warrior-king who would deliver Israel from Gentile domination and establish them in prosperity on the earth without an inward spiritual change. So they fulfilled their own Scriptures in rejecting the one God had sent to be their Saviour.

Verse by Verse
 Ezek. 34:23.—"I will set up one shepherd over them." Our Lord applied this prophecy to Himself as the Good Shepherd, who should gather the saved out of Israel and the nations into one flock. See John 10 throughout.

Verse 24.—"My servant David a prince among them." Messiah was to come of David's line and to reign on David's throne.
Verse 25.—"I will make with them a covenant of peace." This will be when the New Covenant with Israel and Judah shall be confirmed (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-13). All creation, even the lower animals, will be brought into blessing at that time, and the curse will be lifted from the earth.

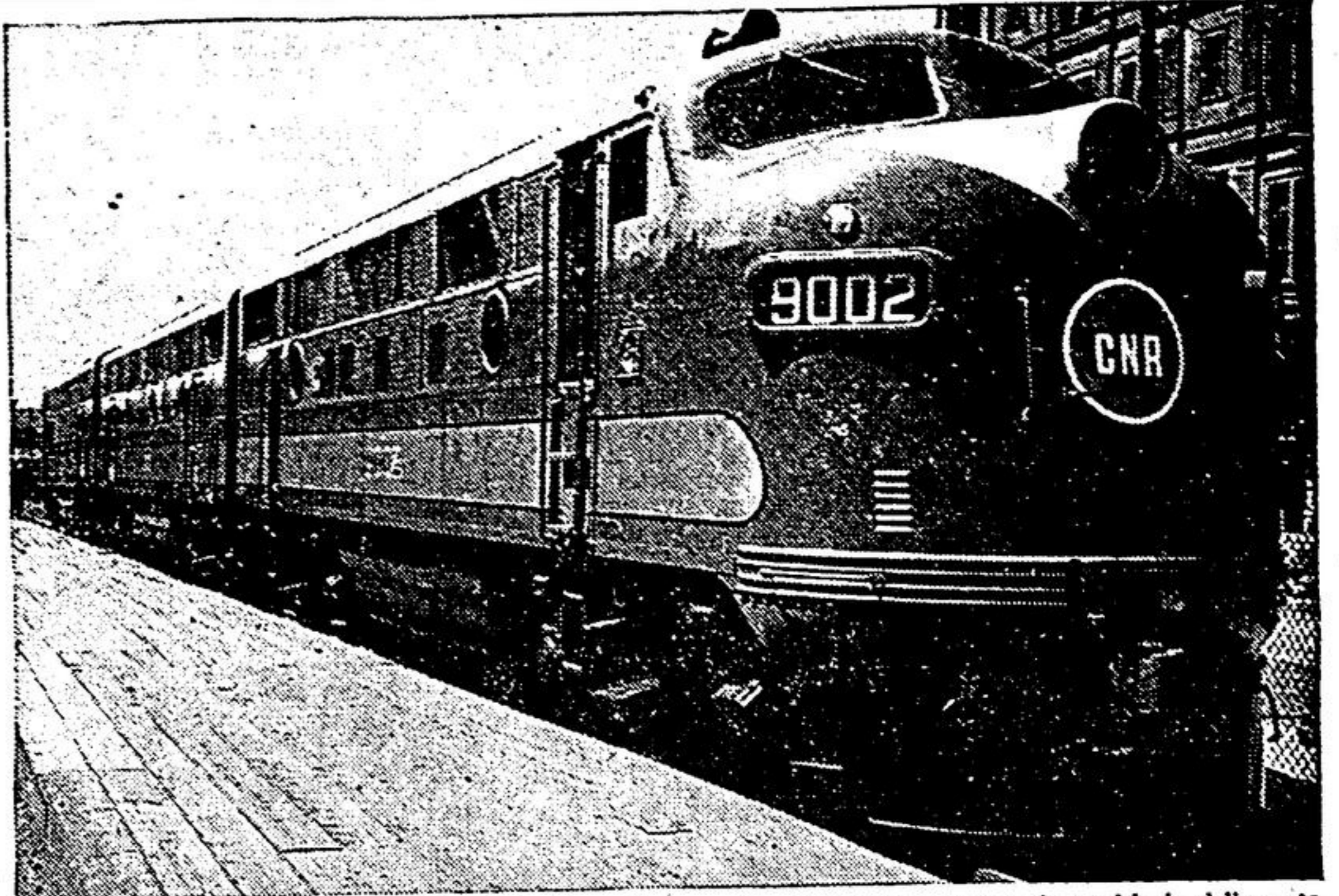
Verse 26.—"There shall be showers of blessing." Not only will great material good accrue to the people

of the world in Messiah's day of power, but it will be a time of wonderful spiritual refreshment, when the whole world will know and worship the Lord.

Verse 27.—"They shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke." Israel, freed from Gentile tyranny, shall realize that God has vindicated His name and fulfilled His promises in thus giving them deliverance from their foes and bringing them again into happy relationship with Himself.

Verse 28.—"They shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid." Settled in their own land, under Jehovah's protecting care, the long, weary years of oppression will end in gladness as the restored nation, having been regenerated by the Word and Spirit of God, will enjoy a security they have never known since the days of King Solomon's peaceful reign.

Dan. 7:13.—"One like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven." To this aspect of His coming our Lord refers in Matthew 25:31, and the Spirit of God reaffirms it in Revelation 1:7. The



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Son of man will receive the Kingdom, not from man, but from God the Father, and will appear in power and glory to usher in the long-expected era of peace and righteousness.
Verse 14.—"His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away." Messiah's authority will never come to an end, and His Kingdom will never be superseded by another, for even when the Son delivers up the mediatorial Kingdom to the Father, "that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28), it will still be the Kingdom which Christ Himself established.
Zech. 9:9.—"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion... behold, thy King cometh unto thee." This verse was fulfilled literally at Messiah's first coming, when He presented Himself to the people of Jerusalem as the promised King.
Verse 10.—"He shall speak peace unto the heathen; and his dominion shall be from sea to sea." This part of the prophecy has not yet been fulfilled and awaits the return of Him whom the nation of the Jews and the Gentile rulers rejected when He came in lowly grace.
Chap. 12:10.—"They shall look upon me whom they have pierced." When Jesus comes again He will be recognized by Israel as their Messiah, and they will bow in repentance at His feet as they mourn their former rejection of His claims.
Chap. 13:1.—"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David... for sin and for uncleanness." Notice, it does not say, as so often quoted, "a fountain opened in the house of David," but to the house of David. When Israel turns to the Lord as they behold Him when He comes again, their sins and iniquities will be forgiven them, and they will find cleansing from their uncleanness. That fountain is open now for all who will avail themselves of its cleansing efficacy, but it will not be until His second advent that Israel will enter into the truth of it.
The Heart of the Lesson
 Messiah's coming to earth is brought before us in the Old Testament prophecies as occurring in two distinct advents. The prophets speak of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow

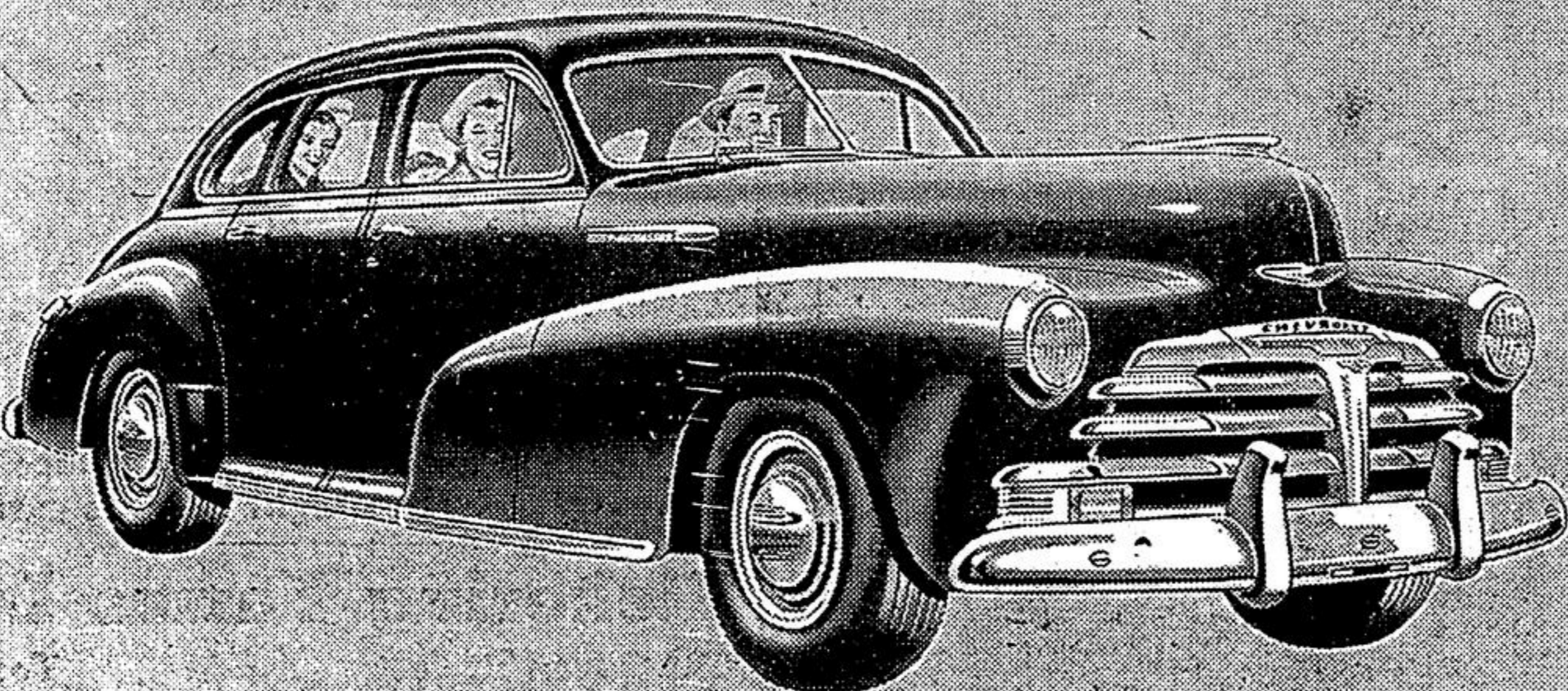
PISTOL MISFIRES



Toronto police said two sheriff's officers fought a "life and death" struggle on the Montreal train recently with David Nolan (above). They were taking him to Kingston, Ont., penitentiary to serve 15 years. Nolan, feigning illness, was taken to a washroom shackled to Terrence O'Reilly. As the train sped on, he seized a hidden automatic pistol and pulled the trigger. The gun clicked but failed to go off. It is said that Nolan struggled with the two officers, trying to hold on to the pistol. Only the fact that the gun was loaded incorrectly saved the sheriff's officers from being shot. The officers and Nolan fought for several minutes before the convict was felled with a blow to the jaw.

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