

The Stouffville Tribune

Established 1888
 Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association
 and Ontario-Quebec Newspapers Association
 Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Paid-in-Advance Circulation as of March 31, 1948, 2,597
 Issued every Thursday, at Stouffville, Ontario
 In Canada \$2.00 In U.S.A. \$2.50
 A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

NOTES and COMMENTS

Neighboring Paper Scorns the Budget

Our neighboring newspaper, The Oshawa Times-Gazette says: "It may be a little late in the day to comment on the Abbot budget but at least we have the advantage of following the popular—or unpopular—appraisal of what is generally considered one of the unpleasant high spots of the Dominion government."

For the worst part there seems to be a sad admission that we cannot expect relief from taxation for the time being. Which, in view of all the benefits we ask from day to day, is not to be wondered at. There is also the mighty army of the Ottawa penpushers to provide for, as they make little black marks against the gimmicks and the taxation apportioned thereto.

But this kind of statement we resent. "With lessened taxation there would be more money burning holes in people's pockets, there would be frantic bidding for goods in short supply, the value of the dollar would shrink and the U.S. dollar shortage would become worse and worse."

Don't they know, those editorial writers, that the purchasing power of the dollar has already shrunk to the point where the mother of a family tears her hair and nags her husband every pay day? Don't they know that the everlasting nibbling of income taxation has cut the quantity of work done in Canada to the bone? (It isn't the actual tax, it's the idea that hurts.) Don't they know that incentive is at an all time low—and not only the incentive to start new enterprises, the incentive even to build a house? Don't they know that the termite of apathy is gnawing day by day at the very foundations of Canada? In short, don't they know nothing?

To Mr. Abbott we will vouchsafe sympathy in large measure. His is no mean task. But for anyone who thinks that a bit of extra money would burn holes in pockets in this day of high beef, high pork, high real estate and high clothing we have nothing but scorn.

Farm Convenience, Farm Comfort are Subjects of Research

A scholarship provided by the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating and Ontario Pump Manufacturers worth \$1,200.00 per year, plus expenses, is announced by President W. R. Reek, Ontario Agricultural College.

"The Institute is interested in encouraging research into the problems of modernizing farm equipment and farm homes", explained J. L. Demers, president of the Institute. "This scholarship is part of a broad program designed to assist farmers in their planning and installation of plumbing equipment."

"It is hoped that this scholarship will assist in furthering this important work, particularly in respect to economic aspects such as savings in time, labor and costs."

The research work of this scholarship will be directed by the Agricultural Engineering Department, as part of the general program of Research of the Ontario Agricultural College.

The graduate of 1948 chosen for this scholarship, on the basis of his high scholastic standing is T.R.C. Rokeby, a native of Port Rowan, Ontario and for two and a half years a member of the R. C. A. F.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Micaiah, A Prophet of Israel
 Golden Text—As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak.—1 Kings 22:14

The Lesson as a Whole

In order to appraise the attitude of Micaiah aright we need to familiarize ourselves with the story of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, as recorded in 1 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 17 to 20, inclusive. While his was, in the main, a life of obedience yet the Spirit of God directs special attention to the outstanding weakness of this otherwise great king, rather than to his general trend of devotion to the will of God. For there was one particular in which Jehoshaphat was sadly lacking—he did not seem to be able to say "No." Amiable, kindly, pious, and desiring to please God, nevertheless he failed to maintain that holy separation from fellowship with the ungodly which would have been his strength and would have glorified the Lord far more than mere pas-

sive obedience.

The seventeenth chapter of 2 Chronicles is indeed a delightful account of devotion to God on the part of this earnest and gifted ruler. But the eighteenth chapter (of which 1 Kings 22 is largely an exact duplicate) tells a very different story. It shows Jehoshaphat entangled in an unequal yoke with the godless king of Israel, Ahab, against whose unholy ways he had strengthened himself in the earlier years of his reign (2 Chron. 17:4). The fact that his son married the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel is a sad commentary on the state of his home. It was an alliance that had very sad results later on (2 Chron. 21:6; 22:2, 3, 10).

The unyielding, uncompromising stand of Micaiah appears in vivid contrast to the weak and vacillating attitude of Jehoshaphat, and doubtless, had an effect upon that king for good in the years following Ahab's unhappy death.

Verse by Verse

1 Kings 22:5—"Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the Lord to-day," Jehoshaphat, who had fallen

into a snare by promising to go out to battle against the Syrians as an ally of Ahab, king of Israel, was uneasy in his conscience. Fearful that he had made an agreement too hastily, he asked that they seek counsel of the Lord through a divinely inspired prophet.

Verse 6—"The king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men." These were all professional seers, who were linked with the mixed Baal and Jehovah worship, for which Jezebel, Ahab's idolatrous queen, was responsible to a great degree. They readily acquiesced with Ahab's plans, assuring him that the Lord was with him and would enable him to defeat the Syrians.

Verse 7—"Is there not here a prophet of the Lord?" Jehoshaphat was not satisfied with the four hundred, in spite of their unanimity. He wanted to consult with one who was definitely known as a prophet of Jehovah.

Verse 8—"There is yet one man, Micaiah, but I hate him." Ahab knew Micaiah to be uncompromising enemy of the order he and Jezebel had established in the northern kingdom. He complained that he never prophesied good concerning Ahab's plans or purposes, but only evil. However, Jehoshaphat realized this was just the type of prophet he wanted—a man who feared not man because of his unfaithfulness to God.

Verse 9—"The king of Israel called and said, Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah." Although he disliked to do so, Ahab felt bound to accede to Jehoshaphat's request; so an officer was dispatched to bring the detested Micaiah into the royal presence.

Verse 10—"The messenger spake unto him saying, Behold now the words of the prophets declare good with one mouth; let thy word be like the word of one of them." It was a veiled warning to acquiesce in the verdict already given; otherwise one might get into serious trouble.

Verse 11—"Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak." It was a notable utterance and revealed a spirit subject to the divine control. Micaiah felt he dared not tamper with the truth in order to gain popular favor or to save himself from suffering.

Verse 12—"So he came to the king, who put the question direct, inquiring if the Lord would prosper the expedition against Syria. Knowing the answer that Ahab desired, as

Micaiah replied, "Go, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king." The words were spoken ironically, and Ahab sensed it at once.

Verse 16—"I adjure thee ... tell me nothing but that which is true." Thus challenged, Micaiah could do no other than proclaim the mind of God, however unpopular it might be to the haughty, godless king.

Verse 17—"I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd." It was a clear prediction that defeat and death awaited Ahab as a result of the proposed conflict.

Verse 18—"Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? Ahab had demanded the truth, but he resented it bitterly when Micaiah declared, as many others have done before and since who professed to desire the will of God, but who were set upon doing their own will after all.

Verse 20—"Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city." He was thus placed under arrest because of his faithfulness to the truth and his loyalty to God.

Verse 21—"Put this fellow in prison ... until I come in peace." The prophet was to be kept in jail so that he might have no opportunity to flee elsewhere or to connive with any seeking to compass Ahab's death, while that self-willed monarch went forth in vain confidence to carry out his plans.

Verse 22—"If thou return at all in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me." It was a keen parting shot that ought to have given both Ahab and Jehoshaphat to reconsider and call off this projected military campaign before disaster befell them; but neither seemed to realize the full import of the words.

The Heart of the Lesson
 Three men stand out in this lesson: Ahab, a godless, insubordinate king, determined to carry out his plans at all cost; Jehoshaphat, a godly ruler, but weak and vacillating at times, and easily persuaded into a course against which his own conscience protested; and Micaiah, Jehovah's faithful servant who dared to speak the message given him by God whatever the results might be as to his own fortunes and comfort. It is men such as he whom God honors. Even

Hydro and Politics

To say the least the announcement last week that hydro rationing would be in effect again this fall came as a shock since only a few weeks ago, the H.E.P.C. were boasting about the large number of new rural customers they were making way for this year. That boast was made during the provincial election period, of course.

Many persons who had their wiring done, were denied power and light during the emergency last spring, but the general public had a right to assume that the shortage had been overcome when the Commission made frequent statements about the new services they were providing for, which no doubt made people feel that the shortage was a thing of the past.

Now the boastful announcements will be put down to political influences, and that is too bad. Politics can and will ruin the work of the H.E.P.C. and any government that persistently drags the great public utility into the political arena, should be roundly condemned.

Milking Cows

Mr. E. U. Allard, head of Quebec's municipal milk inspection system, makes a suggestion which could revolutionize the dairy farm industry. It will at least give dairy farmers something to think about.

Generally, Ontario's dairy farmers have done well, but many agriculturists shy away from this type of farming. One of the principal reasons is the early hour at which dairy farmers have to arise to feed and milk the cows. They have to get up at 4.30, five or six o'clock, to get their milk ready for the trucks to pick up to take to the city.

Mr. Allard's remedy is simple. Instead of having the cows tied in stalls, he would tear out all the stalls and mangers, simply place the fodder in the corner of the stable and let the cows come and get it when hungry. So, the farmer wouldn't have to get up early to feed them.

As to the milking, he cites the example of Holland, where there are journeymen milkers who go from one barn to another, milking as many as 200 cows each morning. The owners of the cows can sleep as long as they wish. The journeymen milkers, travelling in a jeep, make good money from their work, and the farmers get their sleep.

If some such system can be devised in Ontario, it would take the curse off dairy farming.

Beware of Cheque Forgers

If you are expecting a cheque through the mail, you had better make every effort to see that it doesn't fall into the wrong hands. Forgers and cheque raisers are busy these times and if they happened to get hold of your cheque, it may cause you a lot of delay and trouble before you get the matter straightened out and get your money.

The possibility of loss is greater for the city apartment dweller, whose mail may not be fully protected; but anyone may be a victim, including farmers on rural routes, where many names are duplicated. Jos. Smith on R.R.1 and Jos. Smith in the city.

While forgers and cheque-raisers apply their ingenuity to all kinds of cheques, they seem to prefer those sent out from government sources, bankers say. Cheques for refunds of income taxes, family allowances, etc., are especially favored by the crooks at present. But they also find it easy to commit frauds on veteran's gratuity and pension cheques, etc. Compulsory savings refund cheques were sent by registered mail which lessened the chance of wrong persons getting them. Bankers say, however, it is too early yet to say to what extent payee's names may have been forged or figures raised.

One reason there are so many frauds in connection with government cheques is that often the payee does not know they have been sent out and is not expecting them on a certain day. For example, you may have applied for the income tax refund or be expecting repayment of compulsory savings. You don't know just when the cheque will come however.

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



though they may be hated and persecuted, they may be assured of the divine approval, which is of far more value than the shifting favor of men of the world.

Send The Tribune to absent friends.

MENNONITES REACH WINNIPEG IN FIRST LEG OF JOURNEY

Winnipeg, June 23—The first leg of their journey to new homes in Paraguay, 414 Manitoba Mennonites left here yesterday aboard a special Canadian National Railways train for Wolfe's Cove, Que.

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