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NOTES and COMMENTS

Why Annual License Plates?

Highway officials in British Columbia are investigating the proposal to use permanent automobile license plates. Most motorists of that province will hope that action follows, says the Financial Post.

The move would save a substantial sum of money for the taxpayer and for the car owner the messy annual job of struggling with rusted bolts and discarding a set of perfectly good plates and replacing with another.

In the neighboring state of Washington, points out the Vancouver Province, an annual saving of \$200,000 has been reported from the use of semi-permanent plates.

If there is any good reason for maintaining the policy of annual changing, the authorities certainly have kept the secret well. Car thieves like it but the honest motorist does not. As for giving work to our reformatories, which make the plates in certain provinces, surely there are more useful tasks waiting for these institutions.

It should be no more difficult for the highway authorities to keep tabs on the annual tax paid by the motorists in this way, than it is for municipal officials to make sure that the taxes are paid on real estate. Under the present system a car owner hardly gets to the stage where he can remember the number which has been assigned to his vehicle, before it is necessary to secure and start memorizing another.

Sunday Observance

The City Council of Toronto has stepped outside the field of municipal jurisdiction in providing that the electors of that city shall vote on whether they are in favor of legislation to make amateur, professional and other forms of commercial sport legal on Sunday. The question to be put before them on January 2 next is whether the city of Toronto should seek legislation towards this end.

The placing of this question before the Toronto electors seems to take it for granted that this can be made a question of local option for each municipality to decide. There is no such provision in the Lord's Day Act, which is a Dominion statute. If any change is to be made in the law, it will have to be made by the federal parliament. We cannot conceive of parliament passing such legislation to suit the whims of a single Ontario municipality.

The situation is very much like that which developed two or three years ago, when the Toronto City Council sought to take a plebiscite on the question of liquor sale. The courts decided that such a question was beyond the cope of municipal jurisdiction, so the plebiscite was abandoned. It would seem as if this present question is in the same category. In any event, a vote in Toronto could not possibly be regarded as being representative of public opinion through Ontario, or throughout the entire Dominion.

It is our firm belief that the great majority of Canadians are in favor of retaining Sunday on its present basis, as a day of rest protected by the Lord's Day Act. To relax that legislation at the request of one municipality would be unthinkable.

Jurors Over Sixty

Last week at Battleford the chief justice of the Court of King's Bench was embarrassed. Through no slip or fault of his own he was obliged to do something distasteful to himself. Because the law which he has served with distinction for a great many years, and which he still serves well, had written something with which he totally disagreed he was required to ask a jurymen to step out of his seat in the jury box. With courtesy and graciousness, yet with admitted embarrassment, as one gentleman to another, he apologized to the jurymen for following a course of action wherein he had no alternative.

The case was Rex vs. Michael Hydukewich, a trial for manslaughter. The judge was Hon. Chief Justice J. T. Brown. The jury had been empanelled and the trial had proceeded through its first morning's hearing when the chief justice learned that one of the jurors might be over the legal age for jurymen. After the mid-day recess he put the question to them. He told them that the age limit was 60 years and one of them immediately rose and said that he was 65 years of age. He added that he was not aware of this age limit or otherwise he would have informed the sheriff. The chief justice replied that he readily accepted that statement. He could have added, had he wished, that no one was more aware than he of the efforts many people exercise to be excused jury duty and of the oft-times shallow excuses offered.

"I consider that the law which will not permit a man to serve on a jury after he has passed 60 years," he said, "is absurd. Men do not reach the peak of acumen or of their abilities until they have reached 60. But this is the law and I have no choice but to follow it. I apologize to you, sir, and to the jury, for any inconvenience that this may cause you." It was handsomely done.

This newspaper and the public will agree. Only last week the editor of this paper, acting in the capacity of Reeve of Stouffville, was called upon to assist in naming about twenty citizens who would be eligible to act as jurymen. We decided on two men who were later stricken from the list because they were between sixty and seventy years of age, yet they were, in our opinion, perhaps the most capable men to be found among the whole twenty chosen.

The section of the public that was in that Battleford courtroom last week would be the first to agree with our view. Chief Justice Brown, himself is many years past sixty, yet he was to be in charge of that jury, and was expected to enable them to get a good grasp of the case. If the law is right that a man's thinking power lessens after sixty, then why not remove all the judges. Fact is they all render their best service after that age. A lawyer usually reaches his fame after sixty, yet other people are expected (according to this law) to deteriorate.

Canada's Sheep are Fading Out

(From the Lethbridge Herald)

Canada's sheep population has been a war casualty. Before the war Canada had some 3,500,000 sheep. Today the population is down to about 2,500,000. We haven't as many sheep in the whole of Canada as are to be found in the State of Montana. We have a million less sheep today than we had at the time of Confederation 82 years ago. It's a sad story.

One of the reasons for the decline in our sheep population is that labor was hard to get during the war and sheep ranching requires specialized labor. Another is that the government at Ottawa, for war reasons, stepped in during the war and, through the wool board, bought wool at practically a fixed price. It was a low price, so low, in fact, that the Alberta government felt impelled to give a wool bonus of some four cents a pound to keep the industry alive.

Canada, being in the north temperate zone is a heavy user of wool. Our annual needs are around six pounds per person, or about 75,000,000 pounds. Last year we produced only 14,000,000 pounds. For an agricultural country that, indeed, is a sad story and one which evidences lack of national understanding.

Before the war south Alberta, with its short grass country, part of which is particularly suitable for sheep production, used to ship between 2,500,000 and 3,500,000 pounds of wool annually. Sheep ranching was big business in certain areas where sheep could process the native grass better than any other class of animal. Today there are very few of the big flocks to be found and unless something occurs to give the industry a fillip it threatens to die out altogether, which would be an even sadder story.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for October 23

Golden Text—I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song.—Isa. 12:2

Approach to the Lesson

Although Isaiah, like all the rest of the goodly company of the prophets rebuked sin sternly and declared in no uncertain terms God's indignation with idolatry and His detestation of hypocrisy in all its forms, he nevertheless never lost the sense of the glorious vision of the final triumph of righteousness and the extension of the Kingdom of God in manifest power over all the world. Because of this, he exhorted Israel and Judah to "walk in the light of the Lord" (Isa. 2:5), to trust even when the darkness seemed greatest and when all hope seemed in vain. God had not abrogated His throne as the unseen ruler of the universe, and the day was soon to come when redemption would be accomplished and God's righteousness be vindicated. No matter how difficult the times, or how present circumstances might try the soul, there was no need to be cast down in despair. The one who knew God could look up in faith, assured that he was ever concerned about His own and overruling all for their good.

Faith is just taking God at His Word, resting on His promises, knowing that He cannot deny Himself, and therefore "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (Rom. 11:29). His Word abides as a sheet anchor to the soul, enabling one to say, "I will trust, and not be afraid" (Isa. 12:2), or, if fear still assails because of the frailty of the flesh, to declare, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psa. 56:3).

In a day like the present, when men's hearts are failing them for fear (Luke 21:26), they who know God as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ need to exercise the same confidence in His unchanging purpose that sustained the saints in Isaiah's day.

The Historical Setting

The twelfth chapter, from which the first part of our lesson is taken, was part of a somewhat lengthy prophecy embracing chapters 9 to 12, given in the days of the ungodly King Ahaz—about 748-B.C. It is not possible to decide definitely on the time of chapters 26 and 30, but Ussher's chronology suggests 712 B.C. for both.

Verse by Verse

Isa. 12:2—"I will trust, and not be afraid." Fear, often unreasonable and unfounded, is at the root of much mental distress. The cure for fear is implicit confidence in God. When we know Him as the one in whom we have found our salvation, we can look up in confidence, knowing that He who redeemed us will undertake for us in every hour of trial. Confidence in God is never misplaced, nor will it ever be betrayed.

Chap. 26:1—"We have a strong city." The soul that places its trust in the Lord is as one securely sheltered in a strong-walled city against whose gates and towers the enemy attacks in vain. With God Himself as our refuge, what have we to dread? He is ever on guard to protect His dependent people.

Verse 2—"Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter." The gates that are barred against every hostile power are opened to receive those who walk before God in righteousness. Primarily, Isaiah had in mind the nation of Israel, when in the latter days they shall turn to the Lord, and, forsaking all iniquity, shall cleave to Him in the integrity of their hearts. But the praise goes beyond Israel and can be counted on for the protection of all who obey the Word of God.

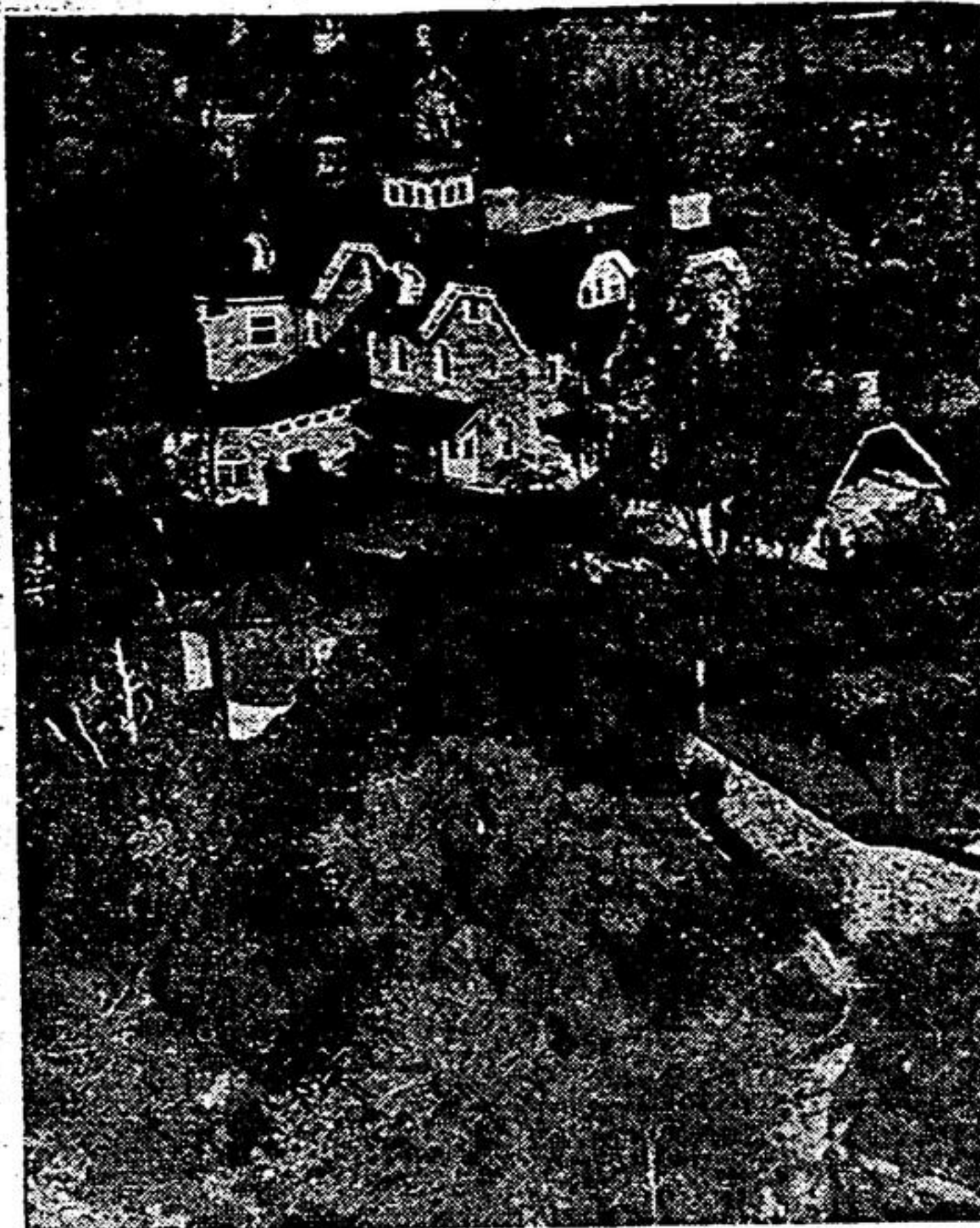
Verse 3—"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." True peace is found as one learns to commit everything to God, knowing that He is ever true to His promises. Link Philippians 4:6 and 7 with this verse. The peace of God garlands the heart of the trustful believer.

Verse 4—"In the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." It is God Himself who is His people's refuge. To know Him and to live in fellowship with Him lifts one above all circumstances and gives strength to overcome in every hour of testing.

Verse 5—"He bringeth down them that dwell on high." God exalts the lowly. He raises up those who are of a humble spirit, but those that walk in pride He abases in due time. Though the enemies of the righteous may exalt themselves and imagine they are immune from all danger, God will bring them down to the dust and give them to realize at last that none can fight against Him and conquer.

Verse 6—"The foot shall tread it down." When the persecutors of the righteous are brought to the dust, the feet of the poor and needy shall tread upon them in triumph, as they realize how marvelously God intervenes on behalf of those who trust Him.

Verse 7—"Thou, most upright; dost weigh the path of the just." When a man is justified by faith, his faith makes him just. Character is developed as one learns to appreciate the grace and power of



Here is the new home of all future prime ministers of Canada. It is the stately Victorian mansion at Rockcliffe, just outside of Ottawa; once the resident of the lumber king, Senator W. C. Edwards. It will now be the official home of Louis St. Laurent, Canada's prime minister. One member of parliament protested purchase on ground that it would become big entertainment house, taking up too much of the prime minister's time.

God. It is He who produces practical righteousness in His people, and He takes knowledge of every step His people take in obedience to His Word.

Chap. 30:1—"Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me." No one has any right to count on God's protection or His loving

care who walks in the path of self-will, taking counsel of his own heart and not of the Word of the Lord.

Verse 2—"And have not asked at my mouth." We may try all kinds of schemes and plans where- by to achieve our own desires, but there can be no real blessing from God until we forsake our

own ways and yield obedience to His holy will.

Verse 15—"In returning, and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." When, wearied of a else, we turn back to God Himself we find Him ready to save, to deliver. It is not the salvation of the soul that is here in view, but deliverance from the trials of the way and from the fears that would crush us down to the very dust. As we learn to wait upon God in quiet confidence we will see how wonderfully He will work out our salvation from those things which seemed so hopeless, depressing and so terribly difficult to face.

Verse 16—"But ye said, No." I their folly and self-will, buoyed up by a misplaced confidence in their own wisdom, Israel refused the path of obedience and so failed to enjoy the rest of heart and mind that might have been theirs. As we not in constant danger of falling in the same way?

Verse 17—"One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one." Because of disobedience there would be no power to stand against the enemy of old God had promised Israel that if they obeyed His Law, or should "chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight" (Deut. 32:30). But now the very opposite was true: because they failed to trust in Him, the living God, and refused to obey His voice.

The Heart of the Lesson

Confidence in the God of our salvation is developed as we walk in the path of obedience to His holy Word and rely upon His faithfulness. He has promised to protect and undertake for His obedient children whatever the circumstances they may be called upon to face. But it is idle to profess to trust Him while refusing to obey His voice. Self-will leads to defeat and disaster. Submission and faith go together and we never fail of reward.

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start...



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