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NOTES and COMMENTS

Something for All

A young Toronto girl who came from a displaced persons camp in Europe says she is no longer a D.P. She is an F.P. — a free person.
 Which prompts the Fort William Times-Journal to remark that it might be a fine idea for all of us to add those letters to our names as a reminder of a precious possession we so often take for granted.

Pork Roast, Pan Both Disappear

Somebody with a yen for toothsome vittles went Tom the Piper's Son one better last week. Tom got a whole, uncooked, pig and "away he run" but the modern thief grabbed a cooked pork roast from the back verandah of Mrs. James Hamel's residence in Kitchener.

The roast, a five-pounder, disappeared along with the enamel roasting pan in which it was reclining.

Some distance away on Mill St. the roasting pan was located — empty.

Police fear the modern Tom has probably carried out the next step in the nursery rhyme — that's the one where the "pig was eat."

All they hope is that the verses will run down to the inevitable conclusion. Tom, they point out, "was beat and he went howling down the street."

West Buys from Ontario

Canada has a big farm implement manufacturing industry. It is located largely in Ontario. Last year Canadian farmers dug down in their jeans to buy \$204,000,000 worth of farm machinery. It wasn't all Canadian, of course, but a great part of it was manufactured in Canada. Purchases were up \$57,411,000 over the year 1947.

It's the West that buys the farm machinery. The Prairie provinces bought 62.5 per cent of all the \$204,000,000 of implements bought by Canada in 1948. Alberta bought \$36,000,000, Saskatchewan \$46,000,000 and Manitoba \$23,000,000, against \$38,000,000 for the banner Province of Ontario and \$15,000,000 for Quebec. And, of course, the West paid the freight on the implement shipments many times over what Ontario and Quebec freight charges cost farmers there.

Their Tough Luck

The lesson, long since learned by thousands of taxpayers that you can't ignore a notice from the Income Tax Department, and worse, you cannot connive to escape income tax payment, is being driven home at Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Port Colborne. The sheriff of Welland is simply attaching cars, homes and savings bank deposits. In one case, the sum of \$2,500 was seized.

The victims are commuters. They work in the United States and dwell in Canada. They can hardly plead ignorance of the law which imposes double income taxation. They pay Uncle Sam out of their wages on the other side; Mr. Abbott likewise demands his cut on this side, even if extreme measures have to be taken to get that cut. But Mr. Abbott cannot garnishee wages made by a Canadian worker in New York State.

It is said that the Canadian income tax department is shooting for a total of \$300,000 in this area.

Another hard luck case was that of a local retired farmer in Stouffville. Hard working all his days, he retired back in war time. He had his sale and hoped to live on the savings, as anybody would wish to do. He paid no income tax, and was never bothered by the government. After retiring in town, he went to Ajax to work, and then became entangled with the income department at Ottawa. Result, they traced back, and assessed the farmer \$600 as their cut from his life savings cashed at the sale.

The Indian

Those who speak of the Indian as a member of a "vanishing race" are entirely off the beam.

It is interesting to note from government statistics that the red man is on the increase. Canada's present Indian population is about 130,000, including 8,000 Eskimos who consider themselves quite distinct but are legally grouped with the Indians.

This population now has a higher birthrate and a higher death-rate than the rest of Canada, but the number of births is ahead of the number of deaths. It is estimated that the native population is gaining at about 1.5 per cent per year, despite the fact that up to 400 annually are lost by absorption into the general population by enfranchisement alone.

There was a time when the native populations were on the decline, but the records show that the trend changed in the 1920s.

The Indian is proving a lot harder than those who counted him out prematurely in the early days of man's sweep across the continent.

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(Lesson for January 8)
THE CHURCH EMPOWERED
 Acts 2: 1-41

Golden Text—Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.—Acts 2:38

The Lesson as a Whole
 Approach to the Lesson

Pentecost was one of the feasts of the Lord (Lev. 23:2, 15) celebrated annually fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits (Lev. 23:9-11), which, on the particular year in which Christ Himself fulfilled the Passover type, occurred on the day following the next Sabbath, that is, the first day of the week. Counting fifty days from this would bring one to the morrow after the seventh Jewish Sabbath, and this "first day" was Pentecost. It signified the beginning of an altogether new period of God's ways with men, the setting aside of the old dispensation and the beginning of the new, the glorious administration of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter promised by Jesus (in John 14, 15, and 16), who came in a special way to carry on the work which Jesus began to do (Acts 1:1). The fifth Book of the New Testament is therefore preeminently that of the Acts of the Holy Spirit through certain of the apostles, notably Peter, in the first section, and Paul in the latter part.

The Historical Setting

During the ten days' interval between the ascension of Christ and the coming of the Comforter, the disciples gave themselves largely to prayer and praise (Acts 1:14; Luke 24:52). They spent their time together in a large upper room, where they abode, and in the courts of the Temple. We are not told in which of these places they were when the promise of the Father was fulfilled. Most writers suppose the upper room, but others have thought they were together in the courts of the Temple, where Jesus so often taught.

Verse by Verse

Acts 2:14.—"Peter, standing up . . . lifted up his voice." While all the Eleven had their part in witnessing to risen Christ, Peter stands out prominently as the one to whom the Lord had committed the "keys of the kingdom." Here we see him opening the doors of the Kingdom to Israel, as later on he opened the doors to the Gentiles, in the house of Cornelius.

Verses 15, 16.—"These are not drunken." As the apostles proclaimed the Gospel in different languages as the Spirit gave them utterance, their words seemed to those who did not understand these languages like the incoherent speech of intoxicated men. This supposition Peter repudiated as he drew their attention to a prophecy, written centuries before, by Joel. He declared, "This is that," thus identifying the power of the Spirit with what Joel had predicted.

Verse 17.—"In the last days . . . I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." These words await their complete fulfillment in the Kingdom age. What took place at Pentecost was of the same character as that which will take place immediately following the second advent.

Verse 37.—"Now when they heard this." That is, when the multitude heard Peter's sermon, in which he showed that Jesus was the expected Messiah of Israel and that He had been rejected and crucified, but that God had raised Him from the dead and confirmed Him as Lord and Christ, many were conscience-stricken and convicted by the Spirit, and in agony of soul, cried out, "What shall we do?" Was it too late to avail themselves of the Saviour they had rejected, or was there hope for them still? If so, on what terms?

Verse 38.—"Repent, and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ." To repent is to change one's attitude completely. They were called upon to own their guilt and be baptized as recognizing the authority of the one they had spurned, in order that through His name they might have remission of sins and receive the promise of the Spirit.

Verse 39.—"The promise is unto you, and to your children"; that is first of all to Israel — but also "to all that are afar off," namely, the Gentiles (See Eph. 2:17), even to all to whom the call of God should be extended through the Gospel.

Verse 40.—"Save yourselves from this untoward generation." That unbelieving generation was now exposed to the judgment of God. By heeding Peter's word they would become identified with the One whom Israel refused, and so they would escape the governmental dealings of God with the people who had failed to recognize the time of their visitation.

Verse 41.—"The same day there were added . . . about three thousand souls." The one hundred and twenty believers constituted the nucleus of the church. They were baptized into one body (though the revelation of the body was not yet given, but awaited the conversion of Saul of Tarsus) and immediately began to witness to the risen Christ. By nightfall three thousand who received the Word and were baptized, were added to their company. This was the birthday of the

Poll of Editors Names Mrs. Drew Woman of Year

The woman of the year in Canada, according to a poll of newspaper editors conducted by British United Press, is Mrs. George Drew, wife of the Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House.

Their selection paid tribute to the political campaign in which Mrs. Drew accompanied her husband from one end of the country to the other, speaking at scores of rallies and meeting scores of people personally.

It paid tribute, too, to her acceptance of political defeat and taking her place in Ottawa as a gracious hostess.

Mrs. Drew, who was formerly Miorenza Johnson, daughter of Edward Johnson of the Metropolitan Opera, and the former Viscountess D'Arniere of Portugal, was picked last year as one of Canada's 10 best dressed women, but she said on that occasion that she would rather be regarded as a housewife than a clotheshorse. She said she dressed on a budget and delighted in good clothes, but disliked the time spent shopping to get them. Other women fighting in the poll were Senator Cairne Wilson, Donna Grescoe, violinist; Barbara Ann Scott, figure skater, and Margaret Munn, Miss Canada of 1949.

ATHA

(December 29)

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tran and family were Christmas dinner guests on Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Silverthorn of Mongolla.

Mr. and Mrs. Powell and family spent Christmas day in Toronto with her father, Mr. Gillespie and sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Dunkeld and family, Ellis Milton, Mrs. T. Dunkeld, had Christmas dinner on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. James Milton at Burkton.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Walters of Toronto were guests over the holiday with Mrs. L. Hoover and Vern.

Mr. and Mrs. Gren Draper and Marie had Christmas dinner on Monday in Stouffville, with Mrs. Zeller and daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Dunkeld and family were entertained to Christmas dinner on Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wagg, Leaskdale.

Miss Ella Whitson, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Draper and Walt, were dinner guests on Christmas night with Mr. and Mrs. F. Draper.

Guests who celebrated Christmas on Monday at Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Wideman's home, were Mr. and Mrs. Percy Wideman and Marie, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilcock and son Ian, Miss Addie and Will Coates, Mr. John Forgie, Mrs. B. Reesor and Blake, Mrs. John Soden and Milton Campbell, also the Caruthers family.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace had the family home for Christmas dinner. They were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pugh and family of Claremont, Eric and Jack of Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald entertained their daughter and son-in-law from Toronto on Christmas day.

Mrs. Willis is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Sheridan, over the holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and son Jack, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey of Agincourt, on Christmas.

Church

The Heart of the Lesson

The Holy Spirit is here on earth to glorify the risen Christ. He indwells all believers (Rom. 8:9) and is the power of the new life, enabling them to triumph over sin (Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:16) and to bear witness to a lost world of the saving-grace of God. Apart from the Holy Spirit, the Christian Church would not be able to carry out the great commission entrusted to it. But through this divinely given unction men are convicted of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and led to personal faith in the crucified, risen, and glorified Saviour, who saves to the uttermost all who come to Him in repentance. Nor is this all. It is by the Spirit that believers are united to Christ and baptized into one body. Before Pentecost men were saved simply as individuals. Now all who believe constitute the Church of God, the Body of Christ.

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