

The Stouffville Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and the Ontario-Quebec Newspapers Association.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Authorized as second-class mail, Postoffice Dept., Ottawa.

Issued every Thursday at Stouffville, Ont.

In Canada \$3.50

Elsewhere \$4.50

C. H. Nolan, Publisher

Jas. Thomas, Associate Editor

The Wild Plum

The wild plum is a little tree and is inconspicuous save in early spring and fall.

In late April or early May its black branches are covered with a white lace of blossom. In the fall the tree, which is hardly more than a shrub, carries yellow or red plums.

The blossom of the white plum is quite lovely, but were the tree to bloom at the same time as do the pear and the cherry little heed would be given it.

But the wild plum carries its flower early. So early, indeed, that most of the earth looks forlorn while a bouquet which seems like nothing else than magic stands against the sombre trees surrounding it whether the plum stands at woodland's edge or along the roadside.

We shall be seeing it shortly, a flash of white to the driver of a car and a gracious, fragrant glory to someone who takes time to look at it closely.

Farm Industry Is In Transition

Adjustment and change are inevitable in a dynamic expanding economy such as that of Canada today.

Yet without such adjustment and change progress itself would be halted. Canada's economy would become static and living standards would suffer.

Nowhere is this more apparent than on the farm.

Canada is in the midst of an agricultural revolution—a revolution in which farm units, for obvious economic reasons, are becoming larger, in which the size of the farm labor force is steadily shrinking, and in which small and inefficient farming operations have increasing difficulties to survive.

It is this latter group of small and inefficient producers of farm products which is most vocal in demands for government assistance.

From their spokesmen come the pleas that farming as a "way of life" is in jeopardy and must be rescued. Subsidies, support prices and restrictive marketing arrangements are put forward as panaceas for the supposed ills of agriculture as a whole.

A timely warning against the dangers of this attitude of mind comes from Dean A. G. McCalla of the University of Alberta's faculty of agriculture. Farmers, he says, have no right to expect the general public to support them. Instead, the public has a right to expect that agriculture will be operated as an efficient, economical industry.

The Senate committee appointed to investigate agricultural operations would be well advised to invite the more detailed views of Dean McCalla. In doing so, they could render a great service to Canadian farmers and to the public.

LAFF OF THE WEEK



"I said, HELLO LITTLE GIRL... IS YOUR MOTHER HOME?"

From our EARLY FILES

Town Clerk John Urquhart made his first appearance at the office on Monday morning, following his severe illness of the past couple of weeks. Although able to be about, Mr. Urquhart feels quite shaken up, and Mr. Dougherty will likely be acting clerk for a time yet.

At a meeting of the Board of Health held on Thursday afternoon, A. V. Nolan was again elected chairman for the current year.

Maurice Gillion has sold his house and four acres of land on the 9th of Markham to Clarence Barkey of the 8th concession of the same township.

Wilbur Burnett has joined the local staff of the Standard Bank.

Farmers report the ground as seldom in such good condition for spring work as this year.

Fred Thompson who recently went to Newmarket when his parents moved to that town, has returned to Stouffville and taken a position with C. Cadieux on the local express delivery. Fred says that Newmarket is a fine town, but as for a place to live in just judge by his actions.

Mr. Richard Stadler, opposite the public school, has the largest family of live stock in town, consisting of about 600 little chicks.

Newspapers record the fact that 75,000 girls sent in orders through the mails during 1924 for the book advertised entitled, "What Every Girl Should Know Before Marriage." Each of the girls received a book. On a four wrote from Stouffville, while 31 books were sent to Uxbridge.

UNITED CHURCH TO HELP WITH TECHNICIANS

A growing interest in technical assistance projects was reflected in the annual meeting of The United Church's Board of Overseas Missions held in Toronto. Two agriculturists, a sanitary engineer and other technical workers were included in the Board's official recruiting list for the coming year. Special scholarships are being offered for training indigenous leaders in technical fields.

This is in line with the Board's policy, and their money on what brings them most satisfaction. When mother and dad look back on their childhood, and compare it with their children's lives, today's world is a different less leisurely one. A generation ago there was no T.V., much less radio listening and movie going. But if in their youth, parents gained a love of books, they will want to pass on to their sons and daughters this great source of joy.

Board officials announced that a new project is to be developed soon in Korea to help Korean farmers in the processing of Ramli fibre. The fibre is now being extracted from the Ramli stalk by a laborious and time-consuming process. The idea of the new project is to mechanize this process by introducing a machine recently developed in Japan. The project will get under way as soon as the required personnel can be found. An agricultural extension along with the Ramli project.

An agricultural engineer is listed for Angola to augment the staff of two Canadian agriculturists already working there. Also requested is a sanitary engineer to strengthen the Church's extensive public health program in Angola, Korea and India.

In India there is a plan to introduce modern methods of tanning among certain Christian groups who make their living in the leather-working industry. A many-sided program of village extension services is now in operation as an integral part of the Church's work. Canadian staff includes two men trained in agriculture, a specialist in manual arts, a printer, a woodworker and an expert in co-operatives.

Since 1948, the American Heart Association, its affiliates and chapters have channeled almost \$20,000,000 into research largely looking toward discovery of the basic causes and controls of rheumatic fever, high blood pressure, and hardening of the arteries, which together account for more than 90% of all heart diseases.

positions involving heavy responsibilities and exacting work such an occupation would seem ideal for retirement. The real work of Adam, made in the image of God and given dominion over all the realm of nature, was surely to know God, worship God, obey God, and the garden provided the ideal setting for this in the days of his probation. Adam's ability to name the animals indicated that he was on the way to the exercise of that sovereignty which God intended for him.

But sin entered, and soon man, ordained to sovereignty, became a slave to evil passions, evil desires, evil imaginings. There can be no doubt that the path of discovery upon which Adam had already entered, was effectively barricaded by sin, and science has been slow, painful toll ever since, with many a blind alley and many a fruitless search. But more tragic was the spiritual effect, barring men from communion with God and embarking them on a current of iniquity which soon called for judgment. Minds that were made capable of the highest, holiest thoughts were filled with vile imaginings, and men polluted the very earth with their violence and uncleanness. The deluge was God's answer of judgment, by which He cleansed the corrupted earth.

Verse 7—"I will destroy man... from the fact of the earth; both man, and beast... it repenteth me..." The lower animals were involved in man's judgment as being under his dominion.

Verse 8—"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." "In wrath remember mercy," prayer Habakkuk. So God acted in the days of Noah to save the human race. A remnant as always, was found to perpetuate God's purpose.

Chap. 8:20—"And Noah builded an altar... every clean beast... offered burnt-offerings..." This altar was built primarily for burnt offerings in gratitude for the great deliverance and in token of Noah's desire to be a man of God. This is the first altar mentioned. For clean beasts see 7:2.

Verse 21—"And the Lord smelled a sweet savour... I will not again curse the ground... the imagination of man's heart is evil..." The "sweet savour" was not the smell of burning flesh, but the grateful consecration of Noah, expressed in the smoke of the sacrifice. The wickedness of man would seem a strange reason for God's oath not to smite! The sense seems to be that man's innate evil will not again be visited with such a divine judgment so long as time endures. Till then, forbearance would mark God's attitude.

Verse 22—"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest... and day and night shall not cease." The sequence of the seasons is promised as an unending ordinance of nature to the end of time. This is part of the Noachic covenant.

The Heart of the Lesson
The simple and delightful task assigned to Adam at first—that of tending the Garden of Eden—can hardly be taken as a criterion of the essential dignity and the ultimate destiny of man. To many who spend their lives in

FOR PARENTS ONLY

Books in Your Budget

Are there books in your family budget? If they have no definite place, they are apt to be crowded out by other leisure activities and other demands on your purse. Young Canada's Book Week in November is a good time for parents to discuss with each other and their children this vital topic.

Most people spend their time on what they really want to do and their money on what brings them most satisfaction. When mother and dad look back on their childhood, and compare it with their children's lives, today's world is a different less leisurely one. A generation ago there was no T.V., much less radio listening and movie going. But if in their youth, parents gained a love of books, they will want to pass on to their sons and daughters this great source of joy.

Regular visits to the public library are valuable. A teacher who is enthusiastic about books may stimulate a child's reading. But there is no substitute for parents who love books and take time themselves to read. Fathers and mothers who believe that a good book is always an excellent investment are likely to have children to whom books matter.

Reference books such as a good dictionary, Rodget's Thesaurus, Bartlett's Quotations, etc. should have their own place. Then they can be found quickly when any member of the family wishes to check on a fact. A number of homes also have a section in the family library for plays, for poetry and for other types of books. The supplementary reading list for the schools offers a wide range of titles in various classifications. These frequently give guidance in the purchase of a book.

Not long ago a librarian mentioned that she had often seen an adolescent discover the fascination of biography in reading one of these prescribed books. She added "once a reader of bi-

ography, always a reader of biography."

We agreed with her and we recalled that Archer Wallace, when he was a guest in our home years ago, was asked "What is a good rule in choosing a book?" He answered, "You'll never go wrong on a biography". This stimulated us to explore more faithfully this fascinating field.

Don't reserve buying books, just for Birthday and Christmas gifts! Give them the place they deserve in the family budget!

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Getting On With People

I have crossed the Atlantic several times and met many interesting people, and others a little difficult. Even a ship is a small space where one lives with strangers for seven or eight days, seeing them constantly. There are those who are emphatic in their views and express themselves about politics, religion and a dozen other subjects without reserve and expect to be taken very seriously. The most thoughtful people are generally reserved and at least inclined to air their views. I have often remembered the saying of a famous man: "The most difficult of all sciences is the adjustment of human relationships. To say of a man that he gets on well with others is to pay him a high compliment. Those who have self-control and good manners are the pleasantest to meet; who are tolerant and of goodwill."

This is a true story of a man who got into a crowded street-car in a hurry. There is nothing unusual about that; most of us have to ride sometimes on crowded streetcars, and we generally squeeze in as best we can. But this man accidentally trod heavily on another passenger's toes. It was an accident, but that didn't help very much. Before the injured man had time to utter a word of protest—probably in anger—the offender said: "I beg your pardon, sir. I am very sorry. I hope you will forgive me for my clumsiness." Then a strange thing happened. The victim stared at the man and said: "You are a gentleman to apologize like that. Everything is all right, and you can walk on my toes all you like."

Perhaps he didn't quite mean it, but he was touched by the other man's politeness and consideration. Let us just suppose what would have happened if the offender had acted differently. If, when he trod on the other's toes, the offender had said: "Serves you right; why didn't you keep your big feet out of the way?" that would almost certainly have started a quarrel which might have had serious consequences.

There is a passage in the Bible which reads: "A soft answer turneth away wrath." The truth of that statement is borne out every day. The angry person thinks he is living in a bad-tempered world. Everywhere he goes he meets irritable and cross people, and he never stops to consider why this is so. The truth is that anger stirs up anger just as a good-natured person finds the world full of good-natured people.

Not long ago newspapers carried a story about a ten-year-old boy who was severely injured by an automobile. After several weeks' treatment in a hospital he recovered from the accident, but it left him in an unfortunate condition. His face was injured, and the muscles which made it possible for him to laugh were destroyed. He may see things or hear things which are very amusing, but he will never be able to laugh or even smile. The boy's parents took the case to court, and the judge awarded the boy five thousand dollars damages. It was not a cent too much. It is hard to imagine a greater calamity coming into the life of a healthy, normal, good-natured boy than to have to go through life without showing a smile.

There are many things in the world which get people down, but every good-natured, cheerful person is a lifter and a gloom-chaser. We should imitate the man who, when his toes were stepped on, said: "You can walk on my toes all you like," even if he did not altogether mean it.

Our quotation today is an old saying: "Pebbles become smooth by rubbing against other pebbles."

Seek 26 New Missionaries

Twenty-six new missionary recruits will be sought by The United Church's Board of Overseas Missions during the coming year it was announced recently by Rev. D. H. Gallagher, Board Secretary. The official recruiting list as approved by the Board at its annual meeting includes: eleven ministers, five doctors, 2 educationalists, one theological teacher, two social

workers, two agriculturists, one sanitary engineer and two other technical workers. These new workers have been requested by the local Church authorities with which The United Church co-operates in Angola, Northern Rhodesia, Korea, Japan, India and Trinidad.

The breakdown by countries is as follows: for Angola—two ministers, one social worker, one agricultural engineer, one sanitary engineer, one doctor. For Northern Rhodesia—two ministers; for India—one theological teacher, two doctors, one leather worker; for Korea—3 ministers, two doctors, one educational worker, one agriculturist, one technical worker to develop a new project in the processing of ramli fibre; for Trinidad—two ministers; for Japan—two ministers, one teacher, 1 social worker.

The essential cause of cancer is unknown. Many factors are involved, but the most common is some form of chronic or prolonged irritation. This irritation may be of several kinds, as mechanical, thermal (heat), or chemical, as friction.

Pantry and Hungry Lad

Even if they don't build houses today with pantries, seems to us that the word deserves more than a description as a "room or closet where bread and other provisions are kept." Half a century ago the pantry was a natural and constant focal point of interest to a lad who felt he needed to keep up his strength between meals.

We are not antagonistic to bread when we say that the staff of life was of minor concern—so far as the pantry was concerned. A thick slice of hot, fresh-baked, fragrant, generously buttered bread covered with plenty of tangy, old-fashioned molasses was very acceptable. But the pantry was more concerned in a boy's thinking with such essentials as gingersnaps, mincemeat-filled cookies, butter-milk doughnuts, apple, mince, cherry, or chocolate pies, and triple-layer chocolate cakes with frosting thick on top and drooling down the sides.

A pantry had shelves and cupboards. A good housekeeper took pride in her foresightedness and always planned to have the makings on hand for a quick meal if friends or relatives dropped in and could be persuaded to stay for a meal. Some who read this can remember the barrel of flour that sat on a swinging frame; some can remember the big box that held a hundred lbs. of sugar.

Modern merchandising in attractive small packages has proved its worth. Modern homes do not have spacious pantries. The countryman does not pretend to know just when the progressive debilitation of modern society began. But many a lad with watchful sisters has learned valuable life lessons of both caution and initiative, as he extracted nutritional needs from the pantry. —Ottawa Journal

Watch yourself on that income tax report! Untold wealth can get you into trouble.

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Gen. 1:27—"So God created man... in the image of God... male and female..." Two facts are emphasized by repetition: that man is a creation, and that he bears the image of God. Notice also that man consists of male and female.

Verse 28—"And God blessed them... Be fruitful... and have dominion..." Procreation is God's intention for the human race. The word translated "replenish" simply means "fill," not "refill," as of that which had

The Sunday School Lesson

GOD'S PLAN AND MAN'S RESPONSE (Lesson for May 5) Genesis 1:27, 28; 3 to 9

GOLDEN TEXT—Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.—Isa. 55:7 THE LESSON AS A WHOLE Approach to the Lesson

The first two chapters of Genesis present a scene of wonderful promise. The world order is pronounced, "very good" by the Creator, and creatures made in the image of God are living in conditions of unshadowed joy. The possibilities for such beings in the realms of knowledge, dominion, and fellowship with God are unmeasured.

But the picture quickly changes, and soon we are reading God's estimate of man, that "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Frustration seems to be written across the whole purpose of God. Darkness and destruction replace light and progress. One's first impression is of God taken by surprise, leaping into the confused situation, and desperately trying to save what He can from the wreckage.

That, however, is not a true statement. God is not taken by surprise. God never acts impulsively or in desperation. "Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." (Acts 15:18). God's purposes are sure, and all the seeming frustrations become channels along which God moves to bring to pass His ultimate purpose. Our lesson shows us the renewed face of the earth, with Noah offering sacrifices to God which are well-pleasing to Him. This is a prophecy and a symbol of the final triumph, when sin will be fully swept away from the world, and God's redeemed people will serve Him in holy worship.

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, in his "Analyzed Bible," gives this outline of Genesis: Generation (Gen. 1 and 2) Degeneration (chaps. 3 to 11) Regeneration (chaps. 12 to 50) This could well describe the whole Biblical story. See if you can apply it to our lesson portions.

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once been full and had become empty. The term "subdue" suggests that man's dominion would not be unopposed.

Chap. 6:5—"And God saw that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." A far cry from being created in the image of God. Not only was man's outward conduct wicked, but the inner springs of conduct were thoroughly perverted and base.

Verse 6—"And it repented the Lord..." It grieved him at his heart. God's repenting does not indicate changeableness in God, but rather the proper attitude of an unchangeable God to a changed situation. His repenting is explained in the following phrase, "grieved him at his heart." If God had not "repented" in this situation, it would have indicated a change in His character from perfect holiness to a tolerance of evil.

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