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WEEKEND TELY Saturday, June 6

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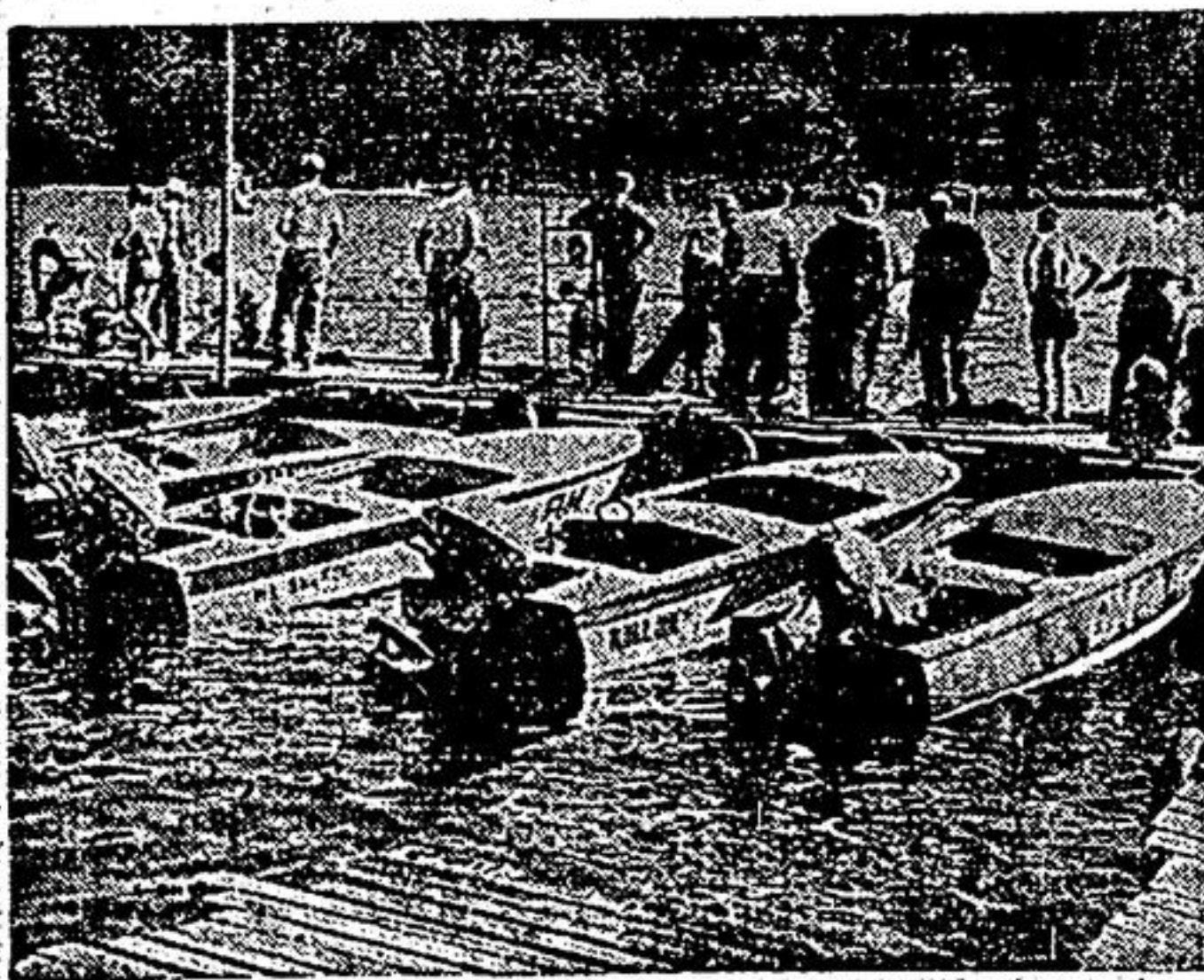
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Conservative Candidate

at the
**COMMUNITY HALL
BROUGHAM**

Friday, June 5th 8pm

Published by the Ontario Riding Conservative Association.

HALF-PAST TEEN



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

A PROPHET DENOUNCES CORRUPTION
(Lesson for June 7)

GOLDEN TEXT — Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness. — Jeremiah 22:13

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE
Approach to the Lesson

The ghastly events described in this lesson took place in the notorious reign of King Ahab (874-851 B.C.) and his heartless queen, Jezebel (1 Kings 21:25, 26).

The trouble was that Ahab, a weak but self-seeking ruler, had time on his hands. Leisure can be a deadly thing. When King David years before had a few idle hours, he beheld his neighbor's wife and became guilty of adultery and murder. When King Ahab had time to spare, he beheld his neighbor's vineyard and became guilty of murder and theft. Woe to those who have a lull in their activities and are out of fellowship with God.

Later Ahab coveted Ramoth-gilead, one of the ancient cities of refuge (1 Kings 22; Deut. 4). He sought the counsel of his lying prophets, not to secure their advice but their blessing! As ever against false prophets, Elijah and Micaiah had several things in common. First, they spoke as the Lord directed, not as man desired, (1 Kings 21:17; 22:14). Second, they were unafraid of Ahab: Elijah warned the king bluntly that his bloody dynasty would come to a tragic end (1 Kings 21:24); Micaiah, that the royal effort to capture Ramoth would end in disaster. Third, both men stand in sharp contrast to their servile contemporaries. Elijah to the base elders and nobles of Jezebel who cheated and murdered a fellow citizen to satisfy their monarch's whim (1 Kings 21:11-13); Micaiah to the charlatans who "prophesied" to please the king (1 Kings 22:6).

Verse 1—"Ahab spake unto Naboth . . . Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden . . . I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or . . . I will give thee the worth of it in money." Israel was momentarily at peace. Her king had leisure to enlarge and beautify his various properties. His double offer to Naboth seems reasonable, but for the inalienable law of property in Israel.

Verse 2—"Naboth said to Ahab, the Lord forbid . . . that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee." Naboth was not surly or churlish. Even a request delivered in person by his king could not make him disregard the laws of God. Apparently Naboth was among the 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal. (See Lev. 25:23; Ezekiel 46:18).

Verse 3—"Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased . . . he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread." The king's wickedness had been previously revealed. Now his childish weakness comes into view. Denied the "toy" he coveted, he sulks and frets.

Verse 4—"But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said, 'Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?' This unspeakably ruthless and wicked woman, daughter of the king of Tyre and idolatrous leader of the pagan cult of Baal, was stronger than her husband. Ahab's sulking was not in vain. It at least drew attention to the fact that he was unhappy!

Verse 5—"He said unto her, 'Because I spake unto Naboth . . . Give me thy vineyard for money; or . . . I will give thee another vineyard for it; and he answered, 'I will not give thee my vineyard.'" What mean, despicable childishness! His request had been denied. What did he care that the denial was grounded in the laws of God? He had not had his way. He would pout sullenly until his stronger if not "better" half came to his rescue! "Was the man after all a mouse?"

Verse 6—"Jezebel his wife said . . . Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat . . . let this heart be merry . . . I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth . . . Assert yourself, man. After all, are you not king? Mingled rebuke and encouragement are in the queen's tone. Note: she promises, not to buy or exchange Naboth's vineyard, but to give it to her husband. Her wicked and inventive mind works very quickly. Her scheme is clear: Naboth must be eliminated. Think this through: "Rejoice, husband of mine, a dastardly murder is about to be committed!" What depths of degradation!

Verse 7—"Arise, go . . . meet Ahab . . . he is in the vineyard of Naboth . . . he is gone down to possess it." The wicked king had come in person to take over his ill-gotten property. The prophet would not let him at the very scene of his crime.

Verse 8—"Thou shalt speak unto him . . . Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? . . . In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood . . ." Ahab was to be accused of his double offense and warned of his coming doom. The "place" means not the identical geographical location, but the spot outside a city where executions usually occurred (1 Kings 18:17; 22:38).

Verse 9—"Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? . . . he answered, 'I have found thee . . . thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord.'" Compare 1 Kings 18:17. Ahab, not Elijah, was the "troubler" of Israel. His real "enemy" was not the prophet, but his own warped conscience. Elijah had not only found him but also found him out. The king's sin may have appeared smart to men; but it was evil in the eyes of God.

Verse 10—"The writer of 1 Kings is careful to remind us that Ahab was in a class by himself when it came to wickedness and idolatry. "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness . . . he did very abominably in following idols . . ." (1 Kings 21:25, 26).

Verse 11—"Ahab broke at least five. He was guilty of making and worshipping graven images, of

ing, of instigating false witness and murder, and of stealing. How many of the other commandments he shattered is not known!

The lesson emphasizes three basic truths:

First, the potential wickedness of the human heart. When strange idols occupy the throne of the soul and the inhibitions of the Lord are removed, there is no limit to the violence and deceit which may follow. By nature, man is no beautiful flower growing in a garden of love, needing only the water of education and the sunlight of culture. The natural man is a weed that needs to be killed and reborn by the miracle of regeneration!

Second, the certainty of divine judgment. The Almighty will not permanently tolerate crime. Naboth perished. But so would his royal murderer. Not even a king may ignore the laws of God with impunity, nor expect that his evil deeds will be undetected and unpunished. God is no respecter of persons. His laws are just and His will inflexible. A soldier drew his bow "at a venture." But the arrow flew inexorably to its target and Ahab perished.

Third, the courage of dedicated men of God. Allow your heart to thrill at the sheer boldness of Elijah and then of Micaiah. They were not overwhelmed by Ahab's regal prestige, nor by the criticism of false prophets, nor by the danger of possible reprisal. They walked with God and spoke for God. They were imperturbable in the presence of wicked, even hostile, men. Their names are inscribed in the roster of brave heroes of faith.

Plaxton Details Wintermeyer Program

In a free wheeling speech to an enthusiastic Thornhill rally on Monday, Liberal Candidate Don Plaxton gave details of Leader John Wintermeyer's program for Ontario.

"Our party platform, as presented by Mr. John Wintermeyer, offers a program for dealing with the most serious of the immediate problems facing this province. Methods of financing education, highway construction, and low cost housing of course take a high priority. Mr. Wintermeyer proposes measures with the province sharing heavily in the cost of education to the individual student at college level as well as to the municipalities.

A comprehensive, self-supporting road construction program, financed by a highway authority is advocated; toll roads are implied. The provision of homes at a down payment of as little as \$500 would also be a step in the right direction.

Of special interest is the proposal that compulsory automobile insurance be required by the province. At the moment, insured carriers are subsidizing the uninsured, through contributions to the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund. This is an injustice. Moreover, compulsory insurance would undoubtedly create pressure for better driving standards.

Other proposals have been made before by Mr. Wintermeyer: a transferable pensions plan—an idea that has already won widespread approval, for its benefits are obvious as it would create greater labor mobility; an attack carried out through provincial sponsorship on the problem of automation and the training of workers; and extension of the Ontario Hospital Insurance plan to cover the chronically ill and convalescents. These plans when translated into policy by a Liberal Government, will directly benefit thousands of people at relatively little cost.

The education proposals remain of paramount importance. This year, the province did not raise taxes. But most municipalities did, and in most cases, because of rising education costs. The Frost government has, in effect, forced the home owner rather than the general taxpayer to bear the whole of the burden of rising education costs. The result is a distortion in the tax structure, and rising pressure within the municipalities to reduce education costs and standards. The temporary class-

rooms being erected in many Ontario communities represent the kind of improvisation that results from the Frost government's policies.

The electorate has received from Premier Frost statements indicating that complacency with his record is all he has to offer. He has no new ideas. In its place Mr. Wintermeyer is proposing a platform of necessary reforms in such crucial areas as education, housing, highway construction, labor problems and welfare.

After 16 years of Tory rule, it's time for a change—a change for the better.

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GREENWOOD

The afternoon W.A. will meet in the Sunday School room on Tuesday, June 5th at 2 o'clock. Group 2 has the worship service, and the Roll Call is "Forgiveness." Please note change of day.

The W.M.S. for the circuit meet on Thursday of this week at Mrs. Geo. Wilson's, Mount Zion.

Our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. John Middleton in the passing of her mother, Mrs. K. Beelby, this past week.

The Evening W.A. had a very successful Bazaar last Saturday afternoon, the proceeds amounting to somewhere around \$140. Mr. and Mrs. Percy Clarke attended the wedding of his

nephew last Saturday at Hamilton. Les and Mrs. Wilson and girls had last Sunday dinner with Milton and Mrs. Pegg and family. Mrs. Bob Litster (nee Jean Pegg) is convalescing at the home of Mrs. M. Pegg.

Rev. T. Fleetham is exchanging pulpits with the minister of Emmskillen, this being their anniversary services there.

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NOTICE RE WEEDS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners and occupants in accordance with the Weed Control Act, Ontario, Sections 3, 7, 10 and 12, that unless weeds growing on their lands within the Township of Markham are cut down by SATURDAY, JUNE 20, and all throughout the season, the Weed Inspector of the Township of Markham may enter upon said lands and have the weeds cut, charging the cost against the lands in the taxes, as set out in the Act. The co-operation of all concerned is earnestly solicited.

H. C. T. Crisp, Clerk,

E. L. Clubine, Weed Inspector, Telephone Gormley 5429.

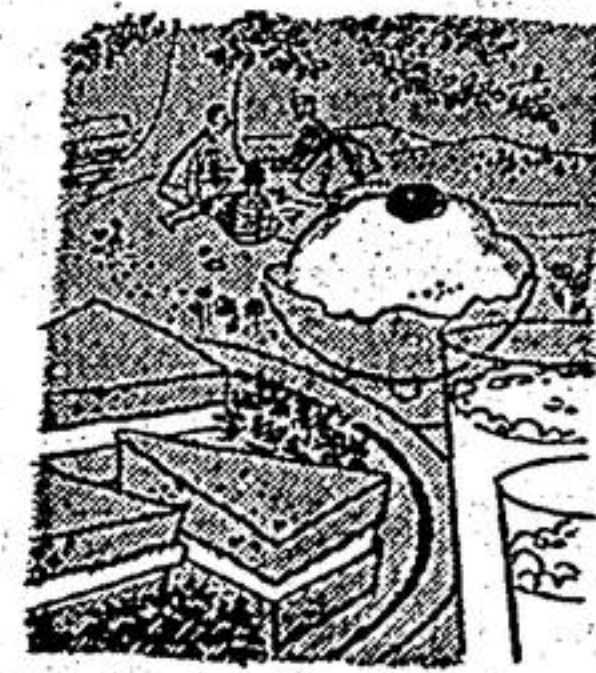
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