SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON I.—JAN. 7, 1912.

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold.—Luke 1: 5-23.

Commentary.—I. A childless home (vs. 5-7.) 5. In the days of Herod the Great, was the ruler, by Rome's appointment, of Palestine, His authority extended over Judea, Saharia, Galilee and the important parts of Parea. Zacharias—The Greek form of achariah, the same name as Zechariah, means "remembered by Jehovah." Course of Abia—Greek form of Abijah. In the time of David the priesthood was divided into twenty-four courses or classes, and each class administered the temple service one week at a time. Elizabeth—Both Zacharias and Elizabeth belonged to the priestly tribe. 6. Righteous before God—A term denoting the highest moral exlence. They were not merely right in the eyes of men, but their righteousness was of the heart, where God alone can see. Commandments—The moral law Ordinances—These included the ceremonies of Jewish worship. Blameless—A lofty tribute is here paid to the character of this devoted family. 7. Had no child. It was considered among Jewish families a serious misfortune to be childless, and was regarded as a moral reproach or a punishment for sin. It meant the cutting off of the family name, but, worse still, it cut off the hope of the birth of the Messiah in that family.

II. A gracious promise (vs. 8-17.) 8. 9. Executed the priest's office—He was performing the duty that fell to his lot faithfully and reverently. 9. His lot was to burn incense—There are said to have been some twenty thousand priests in the days of Christ, and it could therefore never fall to the lot of the same priest twice to offer incense. Hence this would have been, apart from the vision, the most memorable day in the life of Zacharias.—Farrar. It was esteemed an exalted privilege to be appointed to burn incense in the temple. 10. Multitude ... praying—The bleeding victim was upon the altar of sacrifice, the smoke of the burning incense was ascending as a symbol of prayer, and the people were lifting their hearts in prayer to God in keeping with the ceremonies that were being performed by the priests. 11. There appeared unto him an angel—This manifestation came to him while he was busy with the performance of his duties. 12. Fear fell upon him—Not so much alarm or dread of danger as holy awe.—Bliss.

13. Fear not—This expression is used repeatedly in the Scriptures to reassure those to whom divine manifestations came. See Judg. 6: 23; Mata. 28: 5; Luke 2: 10; Rev. 1: 17. Zacharias was encouraged by these words to attend carefully to the message that was about to be given. Thy prayer—It may reasonably be supposed that the prayer of Zacharias was twofold, including a request for a son and a prayer for the coming of the Messiah. John. The very name of the promised son was indicated. The name means 'the grace, or favor, of Jehovah." 14. Joy and gladness—Exultant joy, transports of joy, would be experienced, not only because of the mission that that son would fulfil in relation to the Messianic kingdom. Many shall rejoice—The coming of John was for the purpose of preparing the way for Christ, the greatest gift to all the world. 15. Great in the sight of the Lord—John was to be great in native force, great in integrity, great in his perception of truth, and great in his mission. He was to be "great in the sight of the Lord," even if he was not to be great in the sight of all men. Neither wine nor strong drink—He was to be separated unto his particular mission, and was to be trained in accordance with the Nazarite vow. See Num. 6: 1-5. Filled with the Holy Ghost—He was to be filled constantly during his entire life with the Holy Spirit, that he might successfully fulfil his mission.

16. Israel ... turn to the Lord—It is implied that Israel had need of turning to the Lord. John gained a hearing with the people and pointed them to Christ as their Messiah. 17. He shall go before Him—John was to appear as a herald, or forerunner, of Christ. His mission was to prepare the way for the coming Messiah. He was to be, not Elijah restored to life, but himself possessed of the spirit and power of Elijah. Turn the hearts—See Mal. iv. 6. The work of the gospel, and even the preparation for its coming, is to bring the members of families into their proper relation one to another.

III. The promise confirmed (vs. 18-23). 18. Whereby shall I know—This bold putting the angel to proof was a want of proper faith. The fact that the angelic visitant knew his prayer, the splendor of his person, and the tremor of Zacharias, were vouchers sufficient.—Whedon. Zacharias realized that the natural difficulties were great, and his looking unduly at them led him to distrust measurably the words of the heavenly visitant. 19. Angel answering—The priest's question did not so displease the angel as to cause him to leave him, but he lingered to satisfy the query of Zacharias. Gabriel—"Hero of God." The only other angel or archangel named in the scriptures is Michael (in Dan. x. 21). Stand, etc.—The attitude of one who serves another. Sent .... to show thee—Gabriel explains to Zacharias his nature and office and declares the authority with which he has spoken. 20. Dumb—The word in verse 22 rendered "speechless" implies inability to hear as well as inability to speak, and Zacharias was probably deaf as well as dumb. This was the sign to sent Zacharias in answer to his question (v. 19). 21. Marvelled that he tarried—He had remained longer in the holy place than usual. A sacred awe moved the priests to complete their work and retire promptly from the place, and when Zacharias tarried long the people feared that some harm had befallen him. 22. A vision—He made it known in some way to the people that a supernatural manifestation had come to him. 23. Days of his ministration—Seven days.

Questions.—Who was Zacharias? Who was ruler in Palestine? When did the events of this lesson occur? What was the character of Zacharias and Elizabeth? What lack was there in their home? Describe the experiences of Zacharias as he burned incense in the temple. What degree of faith did Zacharias have? What sign was given him? What were to be the character and work of John?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic—Answered prayer.

I. completed domestic felicity.

II. Fulfilled prophetic claims.

II. Produced perfect resignation.

Human life is intended to be the realization of a heavenly plan. The lesson before us is a beautiful exhibition of personal and family religion, sincere, irreproachable, practical; a very beautiful view of human life which has in it all the elements of an excellent completeness—righteous before God, blameless before men; inwardly and uniformly righteous, the same in every situation. "Both righteous." The union cemented by affection, was strengthened by piety. "No child." Here was desolation without murmuring. Yet the answer to all true prayer must come. Delay is not denial. Were the answer immediately to follow prayer, Christians would come to look upon their prayers as being the cause of the answer without any reference to God's will. The messenger of joy to Zacharias began with the mention of accepted prayer. His great and official prayer was that the expected Messiah might come. His personal prayer had been for a son. The angel-messenger promised a son, gave him a significant name, foretold for him a specific office, but greatest of all he proclaimed the longer-for coming of the Messiah, whose forerunner the child was to be. Though affected by the presence of the angel, Zacharias was prepared for it by the sanctity of the place, by the solemnity of the service which he was about to perform, by the sympathy with those who prayed for national deliverance and by the sense of his own domestic trial. Zacharias was a good man living under a bad government, a good man retaining his rectitude amid corrupting influences, a good priest among a degenerate priesthood. When the promise of actual parenthood was decarled to Zacharias he scarcely realized its meaning. Instead of speaking praises to God, he asked a sign and received it in a long-continued dumbness. Elizabeth found joy in the promise.

II. Fulfilled prophetic claims. Not only was the household to be blessed by the advent of a son, but the nation would be affected by God's gift to his devoted children. John was to be God's ideal of true greatness, born to serve his generation. He was to be God's chosen human instrumentality. An era of new and fuller grace was to begin with John. He was the morning star of the gospel dispensation. He was by stern and moral grandeur to bring the people to a sense of sin, and thus prepare the mfor the advent of the Savior. He was to reclaim the nation from its departure from God, to preach repentance, to proclaim the approach of the kingdom of heaven, to usher in a new dispensation. John's whole soul was to concentrate in his object. Men were to recognize in John the power of mastery, which is always granted to perfect self-denial. John was to place the people in a position that they might know and recognize Christ when he came, and thus to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

III. Produced perfect resignation. The aged priest and his wife seem to have kept up the form of prayer for a son long after they had ceased to expect such a gift, but God marked their integrity to him. He would have every child possess the great inheritance of godly parentage, and so choose Zacharies and Elizabeth to be the parents of the great herald of Christ. Zacharias had indulged in reasoning and questioning from a human standpoint, thus limiting the power of the Holy One of Israel. Such skepticism deserved chastisement rather than sympathy or endorsement. Elizabeth's barrenness necessitated the annunciation and made known God's design for her. Zacharias was not permitted to speak of his joyous prospects to the people. He received the chastisement and devoutly continued his minstrations in the temple, trusting God and continuing in duty. He acquesced in the divine will. —T. R. A.

Skin-Tortured Little Ones

Mothers! Are your little ones suffering from itching, burning eczemas, or other torturing, disfiguring skin troubles? Are you, yourself, worn out with long, sleepless nights and ceaseless anxiety in caring for them? Then you should know that, in most cases, a warm bath with

Cuticura Soap

and a gentle application of Cuticura Ointment bring immediate relief, the little sufferers sleep, tired, fretted mothers rest, and peace falls on distracted households.

Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold by druggists and dealers everywhere, a postal to "Cuticura," Dept. 2M, Boston, U. S. A., will secure a liberal sample of each, with 32-p. book on the skin and scalp, and treatment of their affections.

FOR THE FARMER

Agricultural Views of Interest to General Reader.

Co-operation, Steam Plows and Insurance.

The November issue (No. 10) of the Canadian bulletin, "Publications of the International Agricultural Institute" devotes its attention particularly to the work of agricultural co-operation.

With reference to the latest data furnished by the Institute concerning the world's crop production, it may be noted that the production of wheat in Russia is 623,306,000 bushels, compared with 622,300,000 reported last month, and 775,691,000 last year, and the production of rye in the same country is 761,764,000, compared with 804,192,000 reported last month, and 868,626,000 last year. For the countries in the Northern and Central Zones, from which the Institute has so far received reports, the total production of wheat is 3,093,066,000 bushels, compared with 3,086,892,000 for the same countries last year. When the reports of the harvest of the Southern Hemisphere are in, it is expected they will show a decrease in the Australian crop and a large increase in that of Argentina. Recent reports concerning the sowing of winter cereals in Europe are generally favorable. A table giving the world's corn production in 1909, 1910 and 1911 shows the 1911 crop to be 300,000,000 bushels less than 1910. This is explained by the falling off of the crop in the United States where three-fourths of the world's corn is produced.

Concerning co-operation it is pointed out that in Germany there were at the beginning of the present year 2,265 co-operative purchase societies and 15,616 rural co-operative credit societies. To effect the utmost economy and uniformity of method, central purchase societies have been organized, of which there are twenty in Germany. These are constantly in contact with each other and always act in common accord in their business relations with supply syndicates. The total value of goods purchased by these societies in 1908 was $24,166,181. The co-operative purchase societies have at their disposal large sums of money as working capital. Working expenses are low, amounting in 1908 to 2.7 per cent. of the amount of goods purchased. It is not the mission of these societies to realize large net profits, their essential duty being to supply their members with good merchandise at small cost. Bonuses are returned to members in proportion to their individual purchases.

In Germany, it is pointed out, there were in operation in 1910 3,300 steam plows. It is admitted in that country that a steam plow cannot be owned and operated profitably when less than 2,500 acres are to be plowed. For those plowing land of less extent, the use of a steam plow is only profitable by hiring or else through the medium of a co-operative society. Such societies are, as a rule, based on the principal of unlimited liability and the shares of members are from $120 to $600. It is established that for a certain number of acres to be ploughed a share must be bought, and it is stipulated that the members' liability should be for ten times the amount of their shares in order that the society may obtain the necessary credit.

Agricultural organization is spreading rapidly in Great Britain. Among other organization for the advancement of agriculture there is held, in the county of Essex, a series of cock-crowing competitions. It is believed that such matches will do much good to the cause of better poultry, as it has been noticed again and again that the young cockerels which crow first are usually the strongest and by using the strong birds the stamina of poultry can be augmented in a few seasons.

An article dealing with organizations in the United States gives the membership of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Union, which was formed in texas some eight years ago, as 6,000,000. One of the division of this organization, known as the Pacific Northwest Farmers' Union, is stated to have decided to send a representative to England to investigate the wheat situation with a view of selling direct to the consumer. He will endeavor to establish a market not only for grain; but for fruit and whatever other farm products the Farmers' Union members may produce.

While Denmark has occupied the foremost position in the world in regard to agricultural co-operation, she has no law governing companies limited by shares nor any special law on so-operative societies. A bill has, however, been carefully drawn up by members interested in agriculture and the co-operative movement, aided by a committee appointed by the Minister of Customs and Navigation. For the guidance of Canadians interested in securing better laws relating to co-operation, the text of the Danish bill is given in full.

Under the head of insurance, it is stated that the condition of cattle intended for slaughter in Germany is governed by the civil code, under which the seller is liable, in the case of horses, asses, mules, horned cattle, sheep and swine, only for certain definite defects and only when these manifest themselves within a definite period. A list and description of the defects, terms, etc., are given.

In the rank of Prussia alone more than 20½ companies insure butchers' beasts, of which there were insured in 1901 some 3½ million animals. With the exception of 27 societies, all were founded on the mutual principle.

A number of useful articles on the high cost of living are published. As a relief, co-operative and other measures are recommended and methods of procedure are described.

Other interesting articles, taken from bulletin of the International Agricultural Institute and publications which have been reviewed in the Canadian office, make up an exceedingly useful number, copies of which may be obtained free on application to T. K. Doherty, chief officer, publication branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

PRINCE LUITPOLD

Fell From Horse and Now In Serious Condition.

Munich, Bavaria, Jan. 1.—Prince Regent Luitpold, of Bavaria, now in his 91st year, it is feared, is suffering from serious injuries. The Regent, while riding in a hunt fell from his horse. Since then he has shown symptoms which have given the attending physician much concern. An official bulletin issued last night concerning his condition is couched in terms that may be taken to indicate that the Prince's injuries are graver than has been generally believed. The bulletin says:

"The condition of His Royal Highness unfortunately has not changed in the last few days. The Prince Regent still walks with the greatest difficulty in consequence of a laceration of a muscle of the right thigh."

SICK BEES.

Can be Cured By the U. S. Agriculture Department.

Washington, Jan. 1.— How to doctor a sick bee can be ascertained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, for its latest publication is "The Treatment of Bee Diseases." Many farmers have been losing their colonies of bees, the latest report showing a loss of 800,000 colonies on the farms of the country. This loss can be checked, the department declares, "provided the beekeeper knows how to treat the disease," knowledge of which can be ascertained.

Let "Dick" Choose

Fill your bird's seed dish afresh with the seed you have been using, then put some of BROCK'S within reach, and see how quickly Dick picks out "Brock's".

Feed him for a month on

Brock's Bird Seed

—let him enjoy the cake of Brock's Bird Treat that comes in every box—and notice the improvement in his plumage, health and song.

Let "Dick" try this Bird Tonic at our expense. Mail us the coupon below, filled in, and we will send you, absolutely free, two full-size cakes of Brock's Bird Treat. 45

NICHOLSON & BROCK
9-11 Francis St., Toronto.

For this coupon please send me, free of charge or obligation on my part, two full size cakes of Brock's Bird Treat, and oblige.

Name _____

Address _____

He (innocently)—"Golf certainly keeps you in good shape." She (suggestively)—"Literally speaking!" He (pushing up)—"Oh, figuratively."—Princeton Tiger.

ACCUSED OF BIGAMY

Scotchman Alleged to Have Left Family Behind.

Second Wife Believed He Was a Single Man.

Toronto despatch —Charged with bigamy and deserting his wife and five children, Alexander Taylor Sturgeon, 35 years old, of Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland, was arrested yesterday by Detectives Wallace and Newton at the instance of the Chief of Police at Edinburgh. The young woman with whom he is said to have eloped was brought to the detective office and afterwards handed over to the care of the Presbyterian Moral Reform Association. Sturgeon, who was a motorman in the employ of the Toronto Railway Company, will be deported as an undesirable character by the Dominion Immigration Department. Sturgeon and his second wife occupied apartments on King street west. Before coming to Canada two months ago the accused man was attached to the police force of Edinburgh, Scotland.

According to a marriage certificate produced by his second wife, they were married on October 4 last by a Sheriff in Scotland, sailing for Canada the following day. The young woman told Inspector Duncan that Sturgeon had assured her he was single. She had given up a good position when he suggested that they be married "in haste," given as a reason the fact that he had been offered a more lucrative positon in Canada. When they reached here she discovered that conditions were not as he had represented them, but as she was in a strange country she decided to remain with him. Sturgeon denied the charge, but when shown a group photograph of himself and family, also a certificate of his first marriage, he admitted having made false representations to his second wife. He also admitted having intercepted several letters forwarde to her by her parents, all of which were found in his possession.

No charge will be pressed against the young woman.

AT HIS OWN FUNERAL.

Minneapolis, Jan. 1.— To be chief mourner at the funeral of part of himself is to be the novel experience of John Moes, of this city, who was run over by a street car and injured so severely that the amputation of his right leg was necessary. By Moes' direction the limb will be placed in a casket today, taken to a vault at a local cemetery and when he has recovered it will be interred with customary burial rites.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

FARMERS' MARKET.

Dressed hogs	$ 8 75	$ 9 00
Butter, good to choice	0 30	0 35
Eggs, new-laid, dozen	0 50	0 55
Chickens, lb.	0 13	0 15
Ducks, lb.	0 13	0 15
Fowl, lb.	0 10	0 12
Turkeys, lb.	0 21	0 24
Geese, lb.	0 12	0 14
Apples, bbl.	2 50	4 50
Potatoes, bag	1 30	1 50
Cabbage, dozen	0 50	0 60
Beef, hindquarters	9 50	11 00
Do., forequarters	6 50	7 50
Do., choice, carcase	9 00	9 75
Do., medium, carcase	7 50	8 00
Veal, prime	10 00	12 00
Mutton, prime	7 00	8 00
Lamb, Spring	11 00	12 00

SUGAR MARKET.

Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows:

Extra granulated, St. Lawrence	$ 5 75
Do., Redpath's	5 75
Do., Acadia	5 60
Imperial granulated	5 50
Beaver granulated	5 50
No. 1 yellow, St. Lawrence	5 25
Do., Redpath's	5 25

In barrels 5c per cwt. more; car lots, 5c less.

LIVE STOCK.

Toronto despatch: Trading at the western market is a shade stronger this morning. The cattle offered are not very choice but their prices are fairly steady. Sheep and lambs show nothing extra in prices. Receipts, 25 cars, 460 cattle, 229 sheep, 100 hogs and 51 calves.

Latest quotations: Export cattle, choice $6.35 to $6.75; do., medium, $5.90 to $6.25; do., bulls, $4.75 to $5.75; butchers' cattle, choice, $6.20 to $6.50; do., medium, $5.50 to $5.65; do., common, $5 to $5.35; butchers' cows, choice, $5.25 to $5.70; do., medium, $4.50 to $5.10; do., canners, $2 to $2.25; feeding steers, $4.75 to $5.30; stockers, choice, $5.25 to $5.40; do., light, $3.25 to $3.75; milkers, choice, each, $45 to $75; springers, $3 to $1; calves, $5 to $8.

Hogs—Fed and watered, $6.20; do., f.o.b., $6.50.

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKET.

	Prev. Close.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close
Wheat—					
Dec.	93¾	93¾	94¼	93¾	94¼
May, old	98¾	98⅞	99¼	98⅞	99¼
May, new	98	98¼	98⅞	98¼	98¾
Oats—					
Dec.	36¼	..	..	..	37¼
May	38¾	..	..	..	39⅝

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Minneapolis—Close—Wheat—Dec., $1.04-3-8; May, $1.06 3-8; July, $1.07 1-2; No. 1 hard, $1.07 1-4; No. 1 northern, $1.06 1-4 to $1.06 3-8; No. 2 northern, $1.04 to $1.04 3-4; No. 3 wheat, $1.01 3-4 to $1.02 3-4.

Corn—No. 3 yellow, 58 1-2c to 59 1-2c.

Oats—No. 3 white, 44c to 45c.

Rye—No. 3, 87 1-2c to 88 1-2c.

Bran—$23.50.

Flour—First patents, $5 to $5.30; second patents, $4.60 to $4.90; first clears, $3.50 to $3.85; second clears, $2.40 to $2.80.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.

Duluth—Wheat — No. 1 hard, $1.06 1-4; No. 1 northern, $1.02 1-4; No. 2 northern, $1.00 3-4; No. 3 do., $1.00; Dec., $1.04 1-4 bid; July, $1.06 3-8 nominal.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.

Wheat—Spot, steady; No. 2 Manitoba, 7s 9d; futures, firm; Dec., 7s 4 7-8d; May, 7s 4 3-8d; May, 7s 2 7-8d.

Corn—Spot, steady; American mixed, 6s 6 1-2d; futures, weak; Jan., 5s 9d; Feb., 5s 7 5-8d.

Flour—Winter patents, 27s 6d.

Hops—In London, Pacific Coast, £11 11s to £12 5s.

Beef—Extra India mess, 95s.

Pork—Prime mess, western, 92s 9d.

Hams—Short cut, 52s 6d.

Bacon—Cumberland cut, 26 to 30 lbs., 44s 6d; short ribs, 16 to 24 lbs., 48s; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs., 46s 6d; long clear middles, light, 28 to 34 lbs., 49s; long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 lbs., 47s 6d; short clear baks, 45s 6d; shoulders, square, 11 to 13 lbs., 45s.

Lard—Prime western, in tierces, 46s 9d; American refined, in pails, 47s.

Cheese—Canadian finest, white, 71s 6d; do., colored, 72s.

Tallow—Prime city, 25s 6d.

Turpentine spirit—57s.

Resin—16s.

Petroleum—7d.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Cattle receipts estimated at 18,500; market steady to 10c lower.

Beeves	$4.35	$8.80
Texas steers	4.20	5.70
Western steers	4.30	6.60
Stockers and feeders	3.25	5.75
Cows and heifers	2.00	6.15
Calves	4.75	7.25

Hog receipts estimated at 30,000; the market slow, strong to 5c higher.

Light	$5.80	$6.25
Mixed	5.90	6.40
Heavy	6.00	6.40
Rough	6.00	6.15
Good to choice hogs	6.15	6.40
Pigs	4.80	5.80
Bulk of sales	6.10	6.35

Sheep receipts estimated at 25,000; market weak to 10c lower.

Native	2.50	4.25
Western	2.75	4.25
Yearlings	4.50	5.50
Lambs, native	4.25	6.35
Western	4.50	6.30

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

East Buffalo despatch — Cattle — Receipts 50 head, steady.

Veals—Receipts 50 head active and 25c higher, $5.50 to $9.75.

Hogs—Receipts 1,000 head, active and 10c to 15c higher, heavy and mixed $6.55 to $6.60; Yorkers, $6.45 to $6.55; pigs $6.40 to $6.45, roughs $5.85 and $6; dairies $6.25 to $6.50.

Shee pand lambs—Receipts 7,400 head, slow; sheep steady, lambs 5c higher; lambs $3.50 to $6.40.

JAPANESE DIET

Mikado Deplores Chinese Trouble—Jap Finances.

Tokio, Jan. 1.—The Emperor personally opened the Diet to-day. In his speech he deeply deplored the disturbances in China and hoped for a speedy restoration of peace.

The budget for 1912-'13, which was submitted, shows the following estimates, a yen being equivalent to about 50 cents, Canadian money:

Revenues—	Yen.
Ordinary	503,555,805
Extraordinary	70,286,191
Appropriations—	**Yen.**
Civil list	45,000,000
Foreign	46,191,181
Home	33,229,016
Ministry of Finance	226,900,305
War	93,450,630
Navy	92,037,311
(Increment not included).	
Justice	13,125,067
Education	10,496,560
Agriculture and commerce	16,034,031
Communications	77,846,986

The railway account, which is independent of the general budget shows a deficit of 40,000,000 yen. This will be met by a loan.

COMING HARVESTS

The Outlook Bright in British Columbia.

Other Provinces Look Forward to Good Crops.

Toronto, Jan. 1.—The outlook for agriculture and fruit raising is exceedingly good in British Columbia, says Hon. Richard McBride, in an article contributed to the annual number of The Monetary Times. The northern part of the province is coming to the front and in all the lines of industry the situation is much hopeful. Hon. Walter Scott in the same paper, says that his fellow Canadians in other provinces may rest content that Saskatchewan will continue to confront with resolute courage any and all obstacles. Saskatchewan sees no reason to look forward to 1912 with other than hopeful sentiments.

Sir Lomer Gouin is convinced that Quebec agriculture, commerce, dairying and manufacturing, forestry and mining industries, will maintain their onward march during the coming year. He talks of the happiness and the content of the intelligent, industrious and frugal population of that province.

Hon. A. L. Sifton details the factors of progress in Alberta and says that this desirable state of affairs, combined with good immigration, cannot do otherwise than maintain and enhance the present undoubted prosperity of the province.

Our people are hopeful and the future looks bright, writes Hon. J. K. Flemming of New Brunswick. The harvest in that province was bountiful and good prices prevail for farm produce.

Manitoba is lengthening her cords and strengthening her stakes every year, says Hon. R. P. Roblin, and Manitoba will become a healthy rival to any of the other provinces that form a part of this splendid Dominion of ours, he adds.

Hon. Mr. Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia, reports that the resources of that richly endowed country were utilized to advantage by a hard-working and thrifty people, with results that assist materially in establishing a sound basis for future prosperity. Although the past year was the most generally profitable in Nova Scotia's history it is only the forerunner of a greater one in 1912.

The conditions in Prince Edward Island this year were favorable, writes Hon. J. A. Mathieson, the Premier. The prices of farm products were generally good, trade prospects are satisfactory and the outlook for next year encouraging.

Sir James Whitney tells The Monetary Times that Ontario is advancing in every line of production with steady and continuous strides. New plans are being matured for the promotion of agriculture, road building and immigration in co-operation with the Dominion Government. After dealing with the progress in the old Province during the year, he says:

"If these are sufficient reasons for us to regard the past with satisfaction, they are still greater and the more inspiring reasons for us to look to the future with confidence."

FARMERS BANK

West Zorra Lost $30,000 and Wants to Borrow.

Toronto despatch: Application has been made to the Legislature by the township of West Zorra for power to issue debentures for $30,000, for the purpose of making up the loss of that amount of money in the collapse of the Farmers Bank. Col. James Munro, president of the defunct bank, lived in the village of West Zorra, where he had a private bank. All the funds of the township, as well as the savings of the farmers in the district, were deposited in his bank, and when it was amalgamated with the Farmers Bank the funds were allowed to remain there. With the collapse, however, all the money was lost. The taxes collected by the township during 1910, amounting to $23,043, were deposited in the bank, together with $9,957 in promissory notes, given by the township. It is for the purpose of raising this amount to carry on the business of the township that the Legislature is asked to give its permission for the issue of the debentures.

The town of Oakville is applying for the right to assess all frontage where new sewers have been laid at $81.45.

Arnprior and Dundas are applying for permission to consolidate the floating debts of the two towns.

JAMES BAY SLOPE

And Other Territories to be Explored Next Year

Toronto, Jan. 1.—Further exploration of the James Bay slope of Ontario, as well as the Moose River estuary and the James Bay shore, will be undertaken next spring under the direction of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Commission, the Canadian Press understands. The expedition will probably be in charge of Prof. Ellis, of Ottawa, who headed the expedition that conducted the exploration along James Bay this summer.

Prof. Ellis' report of his last expedition is now in the hands of the Government and is an interesting chronicle. As an official account of a new country it will be a state paper of more than ordinary value.

TONS OF DIRT.

Sixteen hundred cartloads of dirt and mud are removed daily from the streets of London.