

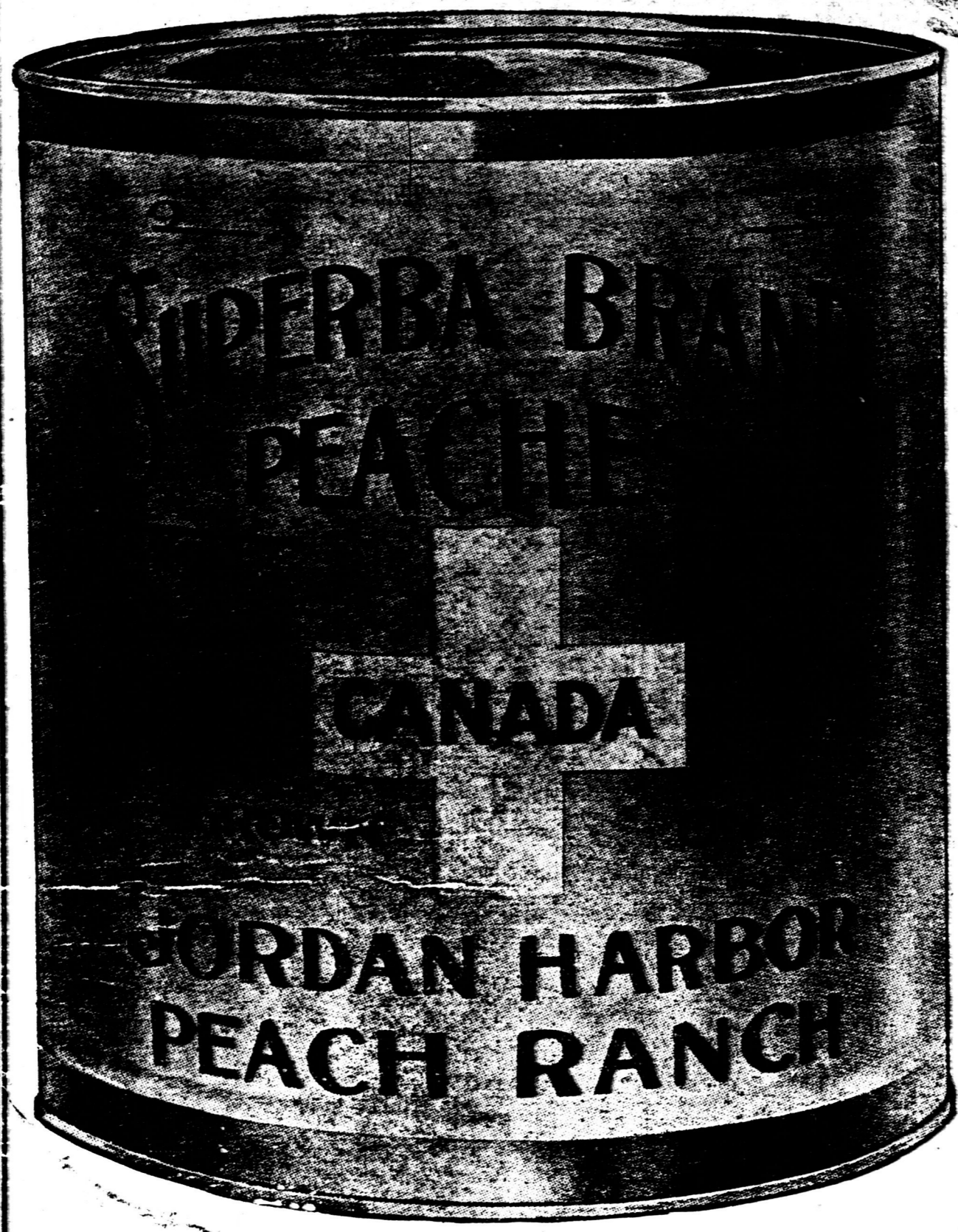
LESSON IX. August 29, 1915. God's Care of Elijah. 1 Kings, 17:1-18.

Commentary.—I. Elijah, God's messenger to Ahab (v. 1). Elijah the Tishbite.—The name means, "Jehovah is my God." The prophet is suddenly introduced. No information is given regarding his ancestry. Authorities are not agreed as to why he is called the Tishbite. It is commonly held that he was a native of a place called Tishbe, or Tishbe, in Naphtali, and removed eastward across the Jordan, and became an inhabitant of Gilead. Others believe that he was a native of a place called Tishbe in Gilead. In his disposition he partook of the rugged, mountainous character of the region in which he lived. His dress was a mantle of camel's-hair cloth or sheepskin worn with the wool outside, and gathered about the loins with a leathern girdle. Such was his appearance as, having left his rugged, mountain home, he appeared at the splendid palace of Ahab. Said unto Ahab—The Lord had a man in training, under his own direction, for this important mission. The prophet appeared unheralded and abruptly began to deliver his message. As the Lord God of Israel liveth—"As Jehovah liveth" was an ancient form of oath in Israel. Ahab had undertaken to put away the worship of Jehovah and had denied that he was Israel's God. Elijah as once affirms the existence and power of Jehovah. Before whom I stand—As a servant stands before his master and waits to do his bidding, so Elijah waited to do Jehovah's bidding. Not be dew nor rain.—To the people of that country the withholding of the rain meant famine. The rainfall was comparatively scanty at best, and no more than was necessary to produce the crops. A long drought would result in great suffering. Dew is very essential in that country to the growth of crops. The dew is so abundant upon Mount Carmel that vegetation there is green during the hot, dry summer, while in other parts of Palestine it is parched. These rains—Three and one-half years. See Luke 4:25 and James 5:17.

II. Hiding at Cherith (vs. 2-7). 2. The word of the Lord—God gave directions to Elijah, but we do not know how. We know that the prophet understood them. 3. Eastward—From Ahab's palace in Samaria. Hide thyself—Since Elijah was the apparent agency in bringing about the drought, the wicked Ahab would naturally seek his life. And it was prudent that he should conceal himself. By the brook Cherith—Many scholars fix the location of this stream east of the Jordan from the expression, "before Jordan," which, they say, has that signification. The brook flowed into the Jordan, but whether from the east or the west is uncertain. Elijah was in hiding from Ahab, and it would seem that he would be less likely to be found if he should go to some point east of the Jordan, than if he remained nearer Samaria, but tradition locates Cherith as a wadi, or ravine, extending from the hills of Judea eastward toward Jericho. The walls of the ravine at the point shown as Elijah's hiding-place are almost perpendicular and very high. 4. Drink of the brook—This was to be his water supply. I have commanded the ravens—Much has been said against the idea that unclean birds brought food to the prophet, and attempts have been made to substitute the terms, "merchants," "Arabians" or "Orbites" for ravens, but there is no reason why we should not accept the literal meaning of the text. 5. He went and did—His act shows faith in God and obedience to His command. 6. Ravens brought him bread and flesh—As the feeding of Elijah during this period was miraculous, it is needless to conjecture as to the source from which the ravens procured the supply. Morning, evening—Two substantial meals a day sufficed the prophet during the time of famine. 7. The brook dried up—it was probably from six months to a year that Elijah hid at the brook because of the lack of rain caused it to cease to flow. See 1 Kings, 18:1, compared with Luke 4:25, and James 5:17.

III. Sustained at Zarephath (vs. 8-16). 8. The word of the Lord—The prophet had believed God, and had been receiving food just as it was needed. One has said, "From hand to mouth is a comfortable way to live if it be from the hand of God to the mouth of God's child." He was not surprised to receive further directions from the Lord. 9. Get thee to Zarephath—A village north of Israel, between Tyre and Sidon, now known as Sarepta. Ahab had not yet been able to discover his hiding place, and now he passes out of his jurisdiction into a Gentile nation dwell there—This was Jezebel's native country, and it was supporting and harboring the destroyer of Baal. 10. The gate of the city—All villages and cities were then defended by walls. widow gathering of sticks—It was the widow to whom the prophet was sent, and the respects for entertainment were by no means flattering, a little water—it is always acknowledged as a duty to give water to the thirsty in the East, even to sharing the last drops. She at once started to fulfill the request. 11. A morsel of bread—A large demand to be made of a widow in time of famine. 12. thy God—She was a Gentile, yet she acknowledged the God of Elijah, whom she probably recognized as a prophet. 13. fear not—The prophet spoke words of assurance as well as authority. His command was a severe test of faith. If she should provide food for Elijah, she and her son must be under penalty. 14. Thus said the Lord of Israel—He declared the authority upon which he spoke. meal shall waste neither—All fall—Here was to be a miracle continuing as long as the famine lasted. 15. she went and did—Here was faith on the part of a Gentile woman in this same region (Matt. 15:23). did eat many days—on two and a half to three years, nourishing Elijah she saved herself and her son. 16. wasted not—The

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meal and the oil multiplied, not in the hearing, but the spending—Henry. Questions.—When did Elijah appear to Ahab? Describe Elijah's appearance and character. What was his message to Ahab? Why was this famine sent upon Israel? What reason was there for Elijah to hide himself? Where was he directed to go, and how was he supported? How long was he there before the brook dried up? Where was he sent from there? In what direction? What requests did he make of the woman? What miracle was performed?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Divine sovereignty vindicated. I. In the confusion of idolaters. II. In the safety of God's servants. 1. To the confusion of idolaters. The revolt of the ten tribes had not altered the fact of God's supremacy in Israel. Though Ahab had raised a temple to Baal and though Jezebel had gathered around her an army of false prophets, and though the God of Israel will to have it so, the God of Israel had in reserve a man trained and willing to go forth to proclaim His sovereignty to that crooked and perverse nation. Never was reformation more called for, and never were supernatural works more necessary. Great miracles were necessary because of great and general apostasy. The appearance of such a champion as Elijah, armed with high credentials and wielding great power, marked a crisis in the history of God's ancient church. A great struggle was impending. The very existence of the church was at stake. Elijah was summoned to the court to declare God's judgment against Israel. Drought was one of the punishments declared by the law if Israel forsook God. Elijah went directly to Ahab, who could avert the calamity by his repentance. Elijah's message threatened a terrible plague, long and protracted suffering, a great national calamity. This appalling message invited the wrath of God. The material elements were orphaned by the heathen and at this time by Israel. While the God who made them was forgotten, it was meet that men who practically denied the living God should be practically reminded of their dependence upon him. It was well that those who held Baal to be lord of nature, should be left to discover his impotence. Elijah trusted in the wisdom of God and obeyed His command. He recognized himself to be God's representative and as such manifested utmost fidelity and loyalty. He spoke under inspiration. Looking upon the scene, we recognize the value of one noble witness in the midst of public corruption and decay, and the grandeur, as well as the necessity, of a distinct personal profession of godliness. The issue was not a combat between Elijah and Ahab. It was right against wrong, faithfulness against treachery, purity against corruption.

11. In the safety of God's servants. God made his own selection among men to meet the demand at that crisis. Elijah was in the right attitude of preparedness for his work. He had placed himself absolutely and directly under the guidance of God. Strict, implicit and instant obedience characterized his life. He went forth into the busy, wicked world to the anxious and dangerous work of a prophet. He acted promptly, faithfully and with courage. He then followed the word of the Lord and went into hiding in silence to be prepared for his future

great and solemn mission in the overthrow of idolatry and the vindication of the worship of the true God. For three and one-half years Israel heard no more of him. That he must hide so long showed how great was the danger to which he was exposed. Elijah's food was supplied by the ordering and special providence of God. There was positive divine interposition in Elijah's preservation. His needs were provided for, though no man knew his dwelling place. Irrational creatures were divinely directed and engaged in the service of man. The infinite Father knew his servant's destitution and sent relief by the most unexpected and seemingly impossible conveyance and as surprising to Elijah as his presence had been to Ahab. The brook dried up only to give place to greater marvels. Elijah was then sent to what seemed to be the most dangerous of all places, the territory of Jezebel's father, and to one who was an object for charity, a widow needing help. Elijah was to find a refuge and welcome. The widow was to receive temporal support and spiritual blessing. God honored the widow with his command to feed his prophet. He saw that she would believe on him if only she had a promise to authorize her faith. She was given a share of faith and trust. She was to perform a generous act toward a stranger, a pious act toward a servant of Jehovah. She had to make a sacrifice and trust to a promise which seemed least likely of fulfillment. She gave her only meal to the prophet and proved God's sustaining care through two years of famine. She was a striking example of obedience and submission.—T. R. A.

CROP CENSUS

Latest Bulletin as to Wheat, Hay, Clover and Alfalfa.

The Dominion Census and Statistics Office issued recently a bulletin giving a preliminary estimate of the yield of fall wheat, of hay and clover, and of alfalfa, based upon appearances at the end of July, as estimated by correspondents, and a report on the condition of other field crops at the same date. Fall Wheat, Hay and Clover and Alfalfa.—The preliminary estimate of the average yield per acre of fall wheat in Canada for 1915 is 23.10 bushels, as compared with 21.41 bushels last year, and with 21.73 bushels, the average of the five years 1910 to 1914. The harvested area of fall wheat in the five provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia amounts in 1915 to 1,268,700 acres, as compared with 972,300 acres in 1914, and the total estimated yield to 33,567,300 bushels, as compared with 20,537,000 bushels in 1914, an increase in total yield of 63 per cent. In area harvested, in average yield per acre and in total yield the fall wheat harvest of 1915 is therefore expected to be the largest on record. In Ontario the total estimated yield is 27,030,000 bushels from 372,000 acres, an average of 27.56 bushels per acre, and in Alberta the other large fall wheat province, the total yield is 6,255,000 bushels from 215,700 acres, an average of 28.96 bushels per acre.



USING POOR SEED CORN.

Bad germination in seed corn, combined with prolonged cold weather at time of planting, has been the cause of much disappointment this season to ensilage growers. The seed corn growers of southwestern Ontario were almost equally disappointed, through being unable to find a market for their thoroughly-dried corn of strong vitality. Many samples were taken by seed inspectors, and the investigations made indicate clearly that at least 75 per cent of the cause for a poor stand can be traced to the ensilage growers buying low priced seed. Unfortunately, high priced seed is not always a guarantee of high quality, but low priced seed is possible only with corn that has had no special care in curing for seed. The farmer who gets \$1.50 per bush of 70 lbs. on the ear for corn taken out of his corn crib in the spring has more profit than the farmer who receives \$2.50 for a bush of 70 lbs. on the ear for corn that has been kiln-dried or rack-dried in special corn-drying buildings. If harvested in dry weather and kept in narrow cribs through the winter, the cheap corn may give a fairly satisfactory stand of plants with thick seedling and good soil and weather conditions. But too many farmers have learned to their sorrow the very serious risk they take in using corn wintered in this way. It is always advisable for growers to procure seed corn on the ear during moist weather when it will absorb moisture and mold within a very few days, thus destroying its vitality. Seed Branch, Ottawa.

FROM HON. DUFF'S REPORT. Farmers' Clubs in Ontario now total 30. Ontario's Horticultural Societies have 14,000 members enrolled. Crion Smut is reported in Ontario for the first time, and means have been adopted to keep it under control. Foul Brood among Bees, while held in check by the methods of the Department, does not seem to be disappearing. Seventy-five per cent of the farm help placed through the Ontario Department of Agriculture have been placed on yearly engagements. Yellow and Little Peach disease have been practically eliminated in Ontario, and measures have been adopted for the control of the cherry fruit fly. Alfalfa is being grown in various parts of the province under the direction of the department, in order to supply farmers with seed suited to this climate. In the acre-profit competition last year 501 bushels of potatoes were raised on one acre by a Middlesex competitor at a cost of \$32.62, and with a net profit of \$167.18. The average net profit of the five coming highest last year in the acre-profit competition for potatoes totaled \$124.06, and that of the lowest five was \$18.49. Vegetable growers in Ontario are warned of the necessity of developing a home seed supply, since the former sources of supply, chiefly Germany and Holland, have been cut off. There were 992 dairy factories in operation in Ontario in 1914, with 33,092 patrons; 161 creameries, with 36,624 patrons, and a total output of about 23 million pounds of butter. In the dairy herd competition, conducted by the Dairy Farmers' Association of Western Ontario in 1914, the first prize herd produced 7,923 pounds per cow for the six months from May to October. Experiments at the Ontario Agricultural College continue to show that the variety of oats known as O. A. C. No. 72 is still at the front in all tests and is being more generally grown by the farmers of the province. To clear Ontario of "scrubs" and undesirable sires, the Department is proceeding to enforce the law which requires the compulsory inspection of stallions. This law provides that no grade stallion shall be allowed to stand or travel after August, 1913. Farmers' sons take great interest in the Feeding Hogs for Profit Competition, and in the 20 competitions last year the average net profit of the 20 winners was \$6.40, while the average of the first five winners was \$10.10 per hog, and that of the lowest five \$4.65. Experiments being carried on at the Experimental Fruit Farm at Vineland include one to determine the value of plum roots for the peach under certain conditions; another in pruning, in which 200 Spy trees are being used; one to determine the value of dynamited holes; others to test varieties of strawberries, plums, pears, cherries, currants and gooseberries.

GERMAN ATTACK IN RHODESIA. London, Cable—A message, just arrived from Livingstone Post, says that Salisi, on the northern border of Rhodesia, was attacked on July 25 by 2,000 Germans with guns. On the 27th the British possession was surrounded and reinforcements were unable to join the garrison. The attack was continued until Aug. 2 when the Germans retired. The British casualties were eleven, while all of whom were natives.

MARKET REPORTS TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for 'FARMERS' MARKET' and 'MEATS-WHOLESALE'. Lists various agricultural products and their prices.

Table with columns for 'SUGAR MARKET' and 'LIVE STOCK'. Lists sugar and livestock prices.

Wool—Washed combing fleece (coarse), 29 to 41c. Washed combing fleece (medium) 40 to 41c. Washed clothing fleece (fine) 42 to 43c. Tub-washed as to quality (coarse) 39 to 41. Tub-washed as to quality (fine) 42 to 43. Washed rejections, (burry, cotted, chaff, etc.) 33 to 35c. Unwashed fleece combing (coarse) 29 to 31c. Unwashed fleece combing (medium) 31 to 32c. Unwashed fleece clothing (fine) 32 to 33c. Beefhides—City Butcher Hides, green flat 16c per lb. Country Hides, flat cured, 17 to 19c per lb. Part cured, 17 to 18c per lb. according to condition and take off. Deacons or Bob Calf 75c to \$1.10 each. Horsehides—City take off \$4.00 to \$4.50. Country take off No. 1, \$3.75 to \$4.25. No. 2, \$2.25 to \$3. Sheepskins—City Sheepskins, \$1.75 to \$2.50 each. Country sheepskins, 75c to \$2. Spring lambs and shearings \$5 to 90c. Tallow—City rendered solid in barrels, 6 to 6 1/2c. Country stock, solid in barrels, No. 1, 6 to 6 1/2c. No. 2, 5 1/4 to 5 1/2c. No. 3, 4 1/2 to 5c. Horse hair—Farmer pedlar stock, 33 to 35c per lb. Hallam's Weekly Market Report.

Table with columns for 'WINNIPEG GRAIN OPTIONS' and 'THE CHEESE MARKETS'. Lists grain and cheese prices.

Table with columns for 'MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET', 'DULUTH GRAIN MARKET', and 'BUFFALO LIVE STOCK'. Lists grain and livestock prices.

Table with columns for 'MONTREAL LIVE STOCK' and 'CHICAGO LIVE STOCK'. Lists livestock prices.