

Solomon Anointed King—1 Kings 1: 1-12.

COMMENTARY—I. Adonijah's attempt to become King (1: 1-10). David was undertaking at the age of thirty years, and by the time he had reigned forty years he was feeble and did not have the strength and disposition to take an active part in the government. Adonijah was his fourth son, but Amnon and Absalom were dead; and of Chishai no record appears since that of his birth (2 Sam. 3: 3; 1 Chron. 3: 1), therefore it is concluded that he, too, was dead, and that Adonijah was David's eldest surviving son. He was ambitious to become king, and took advantage of his father's feebleness to carry out his plans. It appears that he had not been held closely in check by his father and was prepossessing in his personal appearance (v. 6). He had prepared chariots and horsemen, and footmen to run before him, and had brought to his support Joab, David's military chief, and Abiathar, the priest. He had provided for the celebration of a great feast in the Kidron valley close to Jerusalem. He invited all his brothers but Solomon, and he left out Zadok, the priest, and Nathan, the prophet, and most of David's men of war.

II. His plans frustrated (1: 11-27). Nathan, the prophet, knew of Adonijah's insurrection, and he knew also that David had declared that Solomon should be king after him, for the Lord had designated him for that office (1 Chron. 22: 9). Hence the prophet went to Bath-sheba, the mother of Solomon, told her of Adonijah's plot, and urged her to tell the king about it, that he might declare that Solomon should succeed him in the kingdom. But Bath-sheba obtained a hearing with the king, and a little later Nathan came in and told him all that Adonijah was doing, and asked him if it was his direction that Adonijah was being made king. The prophet knew that David was ignorant of what his son was doing, and he wished to arouse him to instant action.

III. Solomon made king (1: 28-53). 28. Call me Bath-sheba—She had withdrawn from the king's presence when Nathan stood before the king—in an attitude of reverence. 29. As the Lord liveth—This was a usual form of oath or strong affirmation. Out of all distress—David recalled vividly the many distresses which had fallen to his lot, and recognized God's hand in his deliverance from them. 30. Even so will I certainly do—David remembered the promise he had made and the promise which God had given to him and was fully resolved to fulfill what he had pledged. 31. With her face to the earth—This was an attitude of reverence and supplication. Let my lord King David live forever—It was the common Eastern formula. Bath-sheba implied thereby that in her zeal for Solomon's succession there was no desire for David's death, but only that the promise made to her concerning Solomon should not be broken.—Cam. Bib.

32. Bath-sheba—He was a military man and the captain of David's body guard, and later became the leader of his army. They came before the king—Zadok, Nathan and Bath-sheba were the chief men of David's officers. 33. Chase Solomon—To ride upon mine own mule—To ride upon the king's mule was almost equivalent to being crowned. In the Eastern mind it was an honor ever associated with that of wearing the royal apparel and the crown—Whosoever it is said that the man should ride upon the king's mule without his permission. To 64. Men—Scholars differ as to the location of Olives: some suppose it to have been west of Jerusalem, and others east, not far from where Adonijah was celebrating a feast. 34. Anoint him three times over—The anointing was an important part of the ceremony by which one was appointed king. It was a sign that such a person was made king, and it typified the bestowment of divine gifts upon him. Flow ye with the trumpet—To call the attention of the people to the anointing. God save King Solomon—This was to be the public proclamation of the fact that Solomon was made king. 35. Ye shall come in after him—This would denote that they were his supporters. Sit upon my throne—This act would complete the ceremony. His occupying his father's throne by his direction would mean that David handed the reins of government over to him. 36. Amen—St. let it be. 37. Even so be it with Solomon—The prayer of Bath-sheba was comprehensive. David had been great as king in ending the nation's enemies and in enlarging the territory of Israel, but Solomon would be still greater in extending his dominion and in wealth. 38. The Cherubites, and the Pelushites—These constituted the king's body guard. 39. A horn of oil out of the tabernacle—It is clear that the oil used for anointing the priests in setting them apart for their office. 40. All the people and they rallied to the standard of Solomon. Piped with pipes—In 1 Sam. 10: 5 pipes are mentioned as being used by the prophets. They were wind instruments similar to the modern flute. The earth rent with the sound—The rejoicing was so great that the sound seemed to jar the hearts of the people, but they were glad to receive that one of his sons as king whom he should designate. 41-43. Adonijah at once gave up his effort to become king, and sought mercy at the hands of Solomon, who spared his life and sent him home.

IV. David's charge (2: 1-12). Just before David died he charged Solomon, who was only nineteen or twenty years of age, to obey carefully all the law and to make his business to serve the Lord. David had received the promise that if his children would walk before the Lord in truth with all their hearts, there would always be one of



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their line to occupy the throne of Israel. He charged Solomon to see that the sentence of death was issued upon Joab and Shimei for their crimes, and that kindness should be shown to the sons of Barzillai, for he had aided David at the time of Absalom's rebellion. Barzillai was a wealthy and prominent man, and had furnished supplies to David and his army while they were at Mahanaim. David invited him to go to Jerusalem and live with him, but Barzillai was old and preferred to live his remaining days in his own land and to be buried with his fathers. Shimei had insulted David in his flight from Jerusalem, but had in a sense repented and greeted him when he returned to his kingdom. David refrained from having him executed, but gave direction that he be put to death later. David died after having reigned forty years and was buried in the city of Jerusalem.

Questions.—How did Adonijah seek to become king? What plan did Nathan suggest to defeat Adonijah's purpose? What did David command to be done? How old was David at this time? How long had he reigned? How old was Solomon? Who was Bath-sheba? What dealings had Nathan with David before this? How was Solomon received by the people? What charge did David give Solomon?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—King's David's Proclamation. I. The overthrow of intrigue. II. The succession of kingship. 1. The overthrow of intrigue. Adonijah's declaration, "I will be king," embraced conspiracy, rebellion, intrigue, ingratitude, the defiance of a father, of a brother and of God. His ambition asserted itself with a complete disregard for the rights of others. He was nurtured in defiance of significant warning. His action suited his character. He carried to his logical issue the training which he had received in childhood. His youthful passions were stronger than his principles. His ambition was reckless and not easily thwarted. He saw with secret exultation the visible and rapid decline of his father's strength. He judged that the time had come to seize by force a crown which he could not secure by favor or procure by merit. Adonijah's ambition prompted him to an infringement of the divine ordinance, which was publicly known in the choices of Solomon; yet he influenced as many as he could to join him in his conspiracy and to aid him in accomplishing his intrigue. Nathan, the prophet, and Bath-sheba, the mother of Solomon, revealed the conspiracy, which gave the king time to avert the calamity. David at last held the scepter. He was a king to the last. He wisely and carefully marshaled the affairs of his kingdom when age and death were upon him. He did not directly attack the false kingdom of Adonijah. A few words spoken by him unseated the usurper and placed the child of promise upon the throne. David's method was wisest and surest. It not only removed an evil, but it provided for future good.

II. The succession of kingship. "I go the way of all the earth." These words express the fortitude of a soul which had found a nobler inheritance than earth supplies—a quiet composure and satisfaction a peaceful surrender into the hands of the living God. In death David thought of duty. He took interest in Israel's future, and in the immediate responsibilities of his own house. He was concerned for the piety and prosperity of his son, and through him the piety and prosperity of the nation. He desired that Solomon should be nobler, better happier than he had been. He would have him avoid the errors and evils into which he has fallen. The charge delivered by Solomon to his father was deeply religious in its spirit. Not only was Solomon introduced to a throne, but the book of the law was placed in his hands, to pursue, to understand and apply. Nothing was left to his own invention. The charge was official rather than personal. Even Solomon was to remember that he had a Sovereign over him. David used no vain repetitions when he spoke of "statutes, commandments, judgments and testimonies." The whole law was to be remembered. The important aim of the charge was the right formation and development of character. During his life David had been very zealous for the Lord God of Israel. His great aim had been to keep the law. His ruling desire displayed itself in death. To him succession in piety in living and acting faith, was of greater importance than succession to the throne. He was assured that obedience to the will of God inevitably issued in prosperity in the trust sense of the word. David cared first for character, next for circumstances. He was a competent judge of manliness of character and conduct. When he advised Solomon to show himself a man, he attached no low and feeble sense to the term. He impressed the necessity of personal resolution, self-control, integrity against all bribery

and corruption, and a vital identity with the enduring interests of the people. Solomon was thus exhorted to prove himself wise, valiant, virtuous, and, above all, loyal at heart to God, not distorted, crooked or perverted by sin, not boastful or self-confident. Such manhood implied struggle, conflict with self, resistance of evil influences, coupled with the assurance of blessedness. The occasion was most serious, the cause most impressive. It was an aged man addressing a young man; a king his successor; a warrior addressing a man of peace; a man of action addressing a man of wisdom; a dying man addressing one on the threshold of an earthly career. It was a father's bequest to his beloved son.

IMPROVED HIGHWAYS

The Hon. G. F. McDermid, Minister of Public Works and Highways in the Ontario Government, has issued a pamphlet containing much information concerning the new Act dealing with the improvement of the public highways. It says that the whole scheme of highway development, as set forth in the new Act, is based on two main classes of roads, namely, county or market roads and township roads. It is chiefly for the benefit of these classes that the Government programme has been designed. The Highway Improvement Act was originally passed in 1911, was consolidated and revised in 1917; important amendments were introduced in 1912, and the new Ontario Highway Act passed in 1915. The general basis is as follows:

1. A county council is authorized to assume a system of roads for construction and maintenance.
2. A by-law adopting such a system may be passed by a two-thirds majority of a county council, representing at least one-half of the equalized assessment of the county.
3. Failing to receive a two-thirds majority of the county council, it may be carried by a simple majority of the council, and confirmed by a majority vote of the ratepayers.
4. The roads assumed are to be such as will accommodate the greater part of the local market travel, creating a system of main market roads.
5. The roads are to be built in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Public Works and Highways.
6. The direction and superintendence of the work is placed in charge of a county engineer or capable superintendent appointed by the county council. A committee of the county council should co-operate with, advise and direct the road superintendent.
7. The system of roads assumed and the by-law fixing the plan of improvement are subject to approval by Order-in-Council.

When considering the adoption of a county system or the framing of a by-law, the county council should communicate with the Department of Highways in order that their plans may be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The most of roads varies with local conditions. The mileage of roads assumed also varies, but is usually from 12 to 15 per cent. of the total road mileage of the county. Gravel roads are commonly built at a cost of from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per mile; broken stone roads from \$2,500 to \$4,000. The length of wagon haul is an important factor.

Suburban roads, for the most part, are sub-divisions of the market roads. They are simply market roads entering the larger cities and to which the cities should contribute. The classification of suburban roads is a means of assisting the farming communities to build their market roads by calling upon the cities to pay a fair share of the cost. This is rendered all the more necessary now that traffic from the cities takes advantage of the county road systems for motor travel, both for pleasure and commerce.

To promote the construction of county or market roads the Government under the new legislation has increased the amount of the Provincial contribution from 37.5 per cent. to 49 per cent. of the cost of construction. Having regard to the importance of maintaining such roads to a high standard, and to insure a proper system, Government will pay 20 per cent. of the cost of maintenance, and any county that has adopted a by-law under the Highway Improvement Act. With regard to suburban roads, the Act provides that upon application of any county roads, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall direct the appointment of a committee to determine suburban areas to be served

by a proposed system of suburban roads; such commission to be selected by the councils of the city and county. The board so appointed shall be empowered to lay out and construct the roads, which shall continue to be county roads under the jurisdiction and control of the county council, the work to be under the supervision of the county engineer, but subject to the direction of the board appointed for that purpose.

The expenditure upon roads within any suburban area shall be borne as follows: 50 per cent. by the county, 30 per cent. by the city or town, and 40 per cent. by the Province; but the amount to be contributed by the city shall not exceed the proceeds of a rate of one-half mill on the dollar of the assessment. The expenditure for maintenance and repair shall be borne by the city and the county in the ratio of 40 per cent. each, the Province paying 20 per cent. Where the population is over 50,000 the commission shall consist of five persons, two each from the city and county, and one by agreement as before.

The Act provides that a township council may appoint a road overseer or foreman, who shall under the direction of the council, lay out and supervise all work and expenditure on roads within the exclusive jurisdiction of the township council, and the Province will pay 25 per cent. of the salary for three years of such overseer or superintendent up to \$3,000 per year.

In a system of highways, main or interurban roads form an essential part. Under the Act the portion of three-fourths of the municipalities interested in the construction of a main road will enable a start to be made. When in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, it is in the public interest to build such a road, a board of trustees of five members shall be appointed. The Minister may procure for the board a report by the Engineer of the Department on the proposed work, with plans, specifications and estimates, together with a suggested distribution of cost, and the board may proceed with the work making such revision of the estimates as may be necessary after hearing representations from all parties interested.

As in the case of other roads, the Province will contribute to the cost to the extent of 40 per cent., but in any event the Provincial grant shall not exceed \$4,000 per mile. The money required for the repair and maintenance of any such main or interurban road shall be levied by the board annually on the various municipalities involved in the proportion set forth in the approved report of the Engineer of the Department, and these moneys shall be a debt of the municipal corporation due the board, and shall be payable at such times as the board may determine.

To prevent the unsightly marking of the landscape with sign boards, power is given to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, to make regulations for the erection of signs or other advertising devices, and for fixing a fee to be charged for erecting any sign or sign board of other advertising device, and this same power is to be exercised by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council so directs. Widespread complaints have been made of the defacing of the roadside in other communities by the erection of unsightly advertising devices, and to prevent this provision has been deemed advisable and timely. At the same time a system of licensing advertising signs would produce a revenue for road maintenance.



RAISING SQUASHES FOR MARKET.

Squashes can be raised with less hand labor than any other vegetable. They can be grown as a second crop after peas, early cabbage and any vegetable that can be marketed before July 15.

Squashes can be sown until a profitable market is open, for these reasons they are a favorite crop with market gardeners. It is an excellent crop to raise on land not in suitable condition for market gardening, or in orchards where the trees are small or so scattered as not to overshadow the crop. Squashes will always fail to give satisfactory returns if planted in turf land by cutting out a circle two or three feet in diameter and manuring liberally. But they can be successfully grown in tillage land badly infested with twigs, grass or the cultivator is so frequently used as to torment the seed, till it gives up the ghost.

In the mature plant and cultivator the hidden squash crop. Freshly-broken turf is preferable, such land being less infested with bugs. For the lighter soil of the farm is preferable

red; for the darker-colored, such as Hubbard, Delicata and Bay State, the heavier soil, but it should be free of clay. Plow in spring as deep as good soil goes and apply the manure, roll the cords to the surface, and the surface, and wheelbarrow in until the surface is as fine as possible to make it.

In making the hills, furrow and cross-furrow, have them eight feet square for the yellow varieties and nine feet for the dark ones. Excavate a shallow hill where the furrow crosses and throw a heaping forkful of rich manure into each. Draw the surface over it, so that the seed, when planted one and a half inches below the surface shall be a little above the general level. Plant eight to ten seeds, and just before runners show, thin to three plants, scatter the seeds well over the hill when planting.

As soon as young plants begin to break ground scatter over them some good bug protector, such as plaster, with a little paris green well mixed with it. Dispersure is excellent. This protects from the yellow-striped bug. The most effective way to dispose of the large brown or striking bug, is to stick pieces of an old shingle, slanting toward the ground, about each hill. Go out in the morning and crush those that have taken shelter there during the night.

One good hand-hoeing close to the hill is all the crop should need, the cultivator run both ways close to the hills doing all the needed work. Keep the cultivator active, especially just as you begin to see signs of runners, for after that, in a very few days, the vines will take ground and it will be too late. If a runner is interfered with by the cultivator it will be apt to be rolled over by the first high wind, and the crop from it will amount to nothing.

The king of squashes to raise will depend on your market, if you have one in your vicinity, or they may be shipped by the carload. Crops vary from five to eighteen tons per acre. For the earliest market the Dunlap Marrow, with its varieties, is a favorite. For the late-fall market the Warren is excellent, and for winter and spring markets the Hubbard and Bay State are favorites.

For early use for fall and early winter nonpareil to compare with the Delicata, as hundreds who have enjoyed it well know. This does not crop quite as heavily as most sorts, but its superior quality should insure its bringing an extra price, sufficient to fully offset the difference.

For keeping purposes, handle your squashes like eggs. Pile them two deep, having plenty of air in your squash house until too cold; then keep the thermometer about 40 degrees.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

For footrot in the sheep flock there is nothing better than this treatment: Pare away all dead hoof and apply blue vitriol, nitric acid and red lead, equal parts, mixed.

Science indicates that one may plant and care for his crops with every method known to man, but if the seed is not good the crop will fall short of expectations. More depends on the seed than most of us realize. We think that proper cultivation will work a miracle out of anything we plant. It will not. Get good seed first, and then give it all the advantages.

Work horses should have very little hay at morning or at the noon feed. Plenty of grain is better, and their greater service will compensate for the extra grain allowance.

It is very provoking to have a horse on the farm that is shy and hard to catch. The trouble is often the result of improper training when the animal is young. Kindness is necessary in order to break a horse of this habit. Never hit him when he is caught. A good plan is to feed him something every time he is caught. It is a good plan occasionally to bring the horses in from pasture and put them in the barn when there is no work for them to do, as it requires a good deal of patience to cure a horse of shyness, but it pays.

Noise has a frightening effect on some horses, and simply an exciting effect on others, especially the trained ones, who, being well-mannered, remain under control whatever may be their feelings in the matter.

Grass is nature's feed for the horse, and it seems cruel to keep a work-horse up in a hot barn when he could just as well be out in the cool night air browsing grass. Another thing we like to see is to have a horse take a good roll after a hard day's work. Have you ever noticed that the first thing a horse will do after being turned out is to roll? It always seemed to us that a good roll is to a horse what a bath is to a man. If they are kept up at night, it is best to allow them at least an hour or two in an open lot during the evening.

Butter made from cream which has been allowed to remain too long before being churned never keeps well; in addition to this, its flavor is never what it ought to be.

"Fertilize the soil, not the crop." is the slogan of the soil fertility experts of the College of Agriculture, Ohio State University. They say it is a mistake to talk about a "corn fertilizer" and "wheat fertilizer." Experiments have shown that an application of phosphorus on some soils, for instance, will largely increase the yield of every crop grown, and not only the one immediately following application. All crops will be good, say these men, if the soil is supplied with the elements of plant food which it lacks.

A cow with a tail that reaches the ground Gives plenty of milk the year round; Also the cow with a forehead wide And a slender neck and a thin, soft hide Hips that are large and an under low, So little light is seen below; There are the signs that often tell The cow that likes to give milk well. But better than forehead, hip or tail Is the good she gives you at the pail.



TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.	
Eggs, new laid, dozen	0.27
Butter, choice, dairy	0.22
Spring chickens, dressed	0.25
Chickens, yearling	0.20
Dressed, lb.	0.20
Dressed, Spring, lb.	0.22
Chickens, Cash, 1-lb. basket	0.20
Potatoes, new, bbl.	2.75
Onions, Bermuda, case	1.25
Strawberries, box	0.20
Rhubarb, dozen	0.15
Asparagus, basket	0.75
Tomatoes, basket	0.25
Cabbages, Cash, bushel	0.25

MEATS—WHOLESALE.	
Beef, forequarters, cwt.	\$10.00
Do, hindquarters	10.00
Do, choice sides	12.00
Do, common, cwt.	8.00
Veal, common, cwt.	7.00
Do, prime	12.00
Sheep, hogs	12.00
Do, heavy	12.00
Spring lambs	20.00
Mutton, light	12.00

SUGAR MARKET.	
Sugars are quoted as follows—	
Extra granulated, Redpath's	0.17
Do, 2-lb. bags	0.18
Do, 5-lb. bags	0.18
Loaf, granulated, 100's	0.17
Do, 25-lb. cartons	0.17
Do, 50-lb. cartons	0.17
Do, 100-lb. gunnies	0.17
Do, 50-lb. gunnies	0.17
Do, brilliant yellow	0.17
Do, St. Lawrence, No. 1 yellow	0.17
Acadia	0.17
Dominion crystal, 100 lbs.	0.17

LIVE STOCK.	
Receipts—125 cattle; 130 calves, 2,300 hogs; 1,250 sheep.	
Butcher cattle, choice	9.25 to 9.50
Do, medium	7.25 to 7.50
Do, common	6.75 to 7.00
Butcher, cows, choice	7.25 to 7.50
Do, medium	6.00 to 6.25
Do, common	4.00 to 4.25
Do, bulls	7.00 to 7.25
Feeding steers	6.50 to 6.75
Stocks, choice	6.50 to 6.75
Do, light	6.00 to 6.25
Milkers, choice, each	50.00 to 55.00
Springers	50.00 to 55.00
Sheep, ewes	6.00 to 6.25
Bucks and culls	4.00 to 5.00
Lambs	10.00 to 12.00
Hogs, off cars	9.40 to 9.50
Hogs, f. o. b.	8.90 to 9.00
Calves	9.00 to 10.00

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNEPEG GRAIN OPTIONS.	
Wheat—Open.	High. Low. Close.
July	1.33 1.33 1.30 1.30
Oct.	1.04 1.04 1.02 1.02
Dec.	1.04 1.04 1.02 1.02
Jan.	0.97 0.97 0.95 0.95
Feb.	0.97 0.97 0.95 0.95
Mar.	1.51 1.51 1.51 1.51
Apr.	1.54 1.54 1.54 1.54

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.	
Minnesota—Wheat—No. 1 hard, 1914-15	\$1.25 to \$1.30
No. 2 hard, 1914-15	\$1.20 to \$1.25
No. 3 hard, 1914-15	\$1.15 to \$1.20
Oats—No. 1 white, 1914-15	\$0.75 to \$0.80
No. 2 white, 1914-15	\$0.70 to \$0.75
No. 3 white, 1914-15	\$0.65 to \$0.70
Barley—No. 1, 1914-15	\$1.00 to \$1.05
No. 2, 1914-15	\$0.95 to \$1.00
No. 3, 1914-15	\$0.90 to \$0.95

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.	
Duluth—Wheat—No. 1 hard, 1914-15	\$1.25 to \$1.30
No. 2 hard, 1914-15	\$1.20 to \$1.25
No. 3 hard, 1914-15	\$1.15 to \$1.20
Oats—No. 1 white, 1914-15	\$0.75 to \$0.80
No. 2 white, 1914-15	\$0.70 to \$0.75
No. 3 white, 1914-15	\$0.65 to \$0.70
Barley—No. 1, 1914-15	\$1.00 to \$1.05
No. 2, 1914-15	\$0.95 to \$1.00
No. 3, 1914-15	\$0.90 to \$0.95

THE CHEESE MARKETS.	