Sunday School Lesson

September 1. Lesson IX—Ezra's Return To Jerusalem—Ezra 7: 6-10; 8: 21-23, 31, 32. Golden Text—The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.—Ezra 8: 22.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE PREPARATION, ch. 7: 1-28.

II. THE JOURNEY, ch. 8: 1-36.

INTRODUCTION—The first six chapters of the book of Ezra tell the story of the return from Babylonian exile, permitted by the decree of Cyrus after his conquest of Babylon in the year B.C. 538 (see ch. 1). The second part of the book (chs. 7-10) tells of Ezra's coming to Jerusalem from Babylon eighty years later (B.C. 458), or, as some think, one hundred and forty years later (B.C. 398). There were three Persian kings of the name of Artaxerxes, and it is regarded as doubtful whether Ezra came in the reign of the first (465-425), or of the second (405-359) of these kings (see Ezra 7: 1, 8). The earlier date is the one generally accepted. In that case Ezra's mission as priest and teacher preceded that of Nehemiah as governor, by fourteen years (see Neh. 2: 1).

It is quite evident from the prophecy of Malachi, from the story of Nehemiah, and from certain chapters of the book of Isaiah, all of which belong to this century, that conditions in Jerusalem and Judah had become very bad. The rulers were corrupt or incompetent, the priests were ignorant, the mixed population of the neighboring provinces was hostile to every attempt to establish the Jewish community in its former strength and purity, and was at the same time, through trade and intermarriage, very influential in Jewish social and religious affairs. The Jewish schools in Babylon had preserved the ancient tradition, studied and prepared new copies of the ancient law and ritual, and through frequent communications by travel and by letter were informed of all that was going on in Jerusalem. Ezra came on a mission of teaching and of reform, zealous for the laws and customs of his fathers, and armed with magisterial powers conferred upon him by the Persian court.

I. THE PREPARATION, ch. 7: 1-28.

In vs. y-5 Ezra's genealogical tree is resented, showing him to have been a descendant of Aaron through the family of Zadok, who was a chief priest in the days of David and Solomon. According to the Levitical law only the descendants of Aaron were true priests (Exodus 28: 1). Ezekiel, in the early years of the exile, declared that in the restored temple only the sons of Zadok should minister in the priest's office, because of their fidelity to duty in the temple service "when the children of Israel went astray" (Ezek. 44: 15, 16).

Artaxerxes king of Persia was, probably, the first of that name, the same who commissioned Nehemiah as governor fourteen years later. Ezra was a ready scribe (v. 6), well versed in the art of writing and learned in the ancient law. The author of this book regards the inauguration of his mission, the king's favor, and the success which attended him, as due to the hand of the Lord his God upon him. So it must be always with work done for the kingdom of God.

First of all, Ezra had prepared his heart, that he might know, and observe, and teach the law. Apparently years of study and of preparation of mind and heart preceded the great adventure.

Under the strict rule of the Persian kings permission had to be obtained for such a journey with so large a company. The copy of the king's letter is given (vs. 11-26) in the Aramaic language, a language akin to the Hebrew, which was widely used throughout the whole region from Mesopotamia to Palestine.

The last words of verse 12 should be rendered as in the Revised Version "and so forth." Instead of the usual long list of complimentary titles given to the Persian king at the beginning of official documents this abbreviation is used (see 4: 10, 11). The seven counsellors (v. 14) formed the king's cabinet (see Esther 1: 14). The gifts of the king and princes are represented as very large. The hundred talents of silver alone would equal about two hundred thousand dollars of our money, with a much greater purchasing power. A measure of wheat was equal to about ten bushels, a bath was about eight gallons. The powers given Ezra also seem great, but it must be remembered that they were on paper only and that he had no military or police to enforce them. They were largely, if not entirely, in the way of authority to teach, and disobedience could have been punished only by the instructed community.

The chapter ends with a thanksgiving drawn, apparently, from Ezra's own memoirs, which are continued in chs. 8 and 9.

II. THE JOURNEY, ch. 8: 1-36.

The names of the heads of families, or family groups, who accompanied Ezra are given in vs. 1-14. Where Ahava, or the river that runneth to Ahava, was, is not known. The same is true of Casiphia. The mission was constituted by prayer and fasting "before our God," Ezra says, "to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance." Ezra frankly admits that he would have liked to have had a band of soldiers and horsemen to help him to guard the company against enemies on the way, but was ashamed to ask, because he had declared to the king that their God would take care of them (vs. 21, 22). The enormous value of the treasure which they carried is told in vs. 24-30, and may be reckoned at about five millions of dollars.

So the journey was made in safety, the treasure was all accounted for and delivered at the temple, and the king's letter was shown to his lieutenants and governors on the way.

DEFINITELY SMART

It's definitely new and smart, and immediately gives impression of chic individuality. It's the fashionable tunic silhouette all Paris is talking about. It is a slender type with gracious flare that doesn't interfere in the least with the slenderness of figure. The left side of tunic dips the hem just slightly, an interesting means of adding length. The surplice closing detracts from width of bodice. Style No. 593 is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48 inches bust. It is lovely and cool and so entirely smart in pin dotted cotton voile in green and white with white voile vestee. Printed lawn, sheer linen in orchid shade, printed tub silk, sun-tan beige georgette crepe, flowered chiffon and navy blue georgette crepe are ideal selections. Pattern price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you wan. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail,

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Pat was up in an airplane for the first time. The pilot took a nose dive and laughed. Turning to his passenger, he said, "Fifty per cent. of the people down there thought we were coming down." Pat replied, "Fifty per cent. of the people up here did ,too."

From the bedroom of the twin boys came the mingled sounds of loud weeping and hearty laughter, so father went up to investigate. "What's the matter up here?" The joyous twin indicated his weeping brother. "Nothing," he chuckled, "only nurse has given him two baths and hasn't given me any."

Style Notes Of Paris Salons

A Few Models From the Various Leading Dressmakers Are Described

SKIRTS LONGER

A brief discription of the latest styles from the centre of dress-making activities, Paris, France, is given in part as it appeared in the Montreal Star and should be of interest to our readers.

Joyous in Color

Chanel's sports group is joyous in color and includes among other interests blouses buttoned in front. A definite rejection of anything but arresting color contrast is noted in this group made up largely of tricots in novel patterns and jersey. Some of Chanel's color schemes are brown with blue, orange with black, mustard and brown, grey with red and much black and white.

In her more formal ensembles she makes use of much fur, especially on princess coats with cape collars. These coats are of cloth and worn with flat crepe dresses. Some coats have fur capes and deep fur cuffs. Fur trimmed evening dresses are another innovation, one at least of these being completed by fur bordered velvet knickers, this particular model being in turuoise blue velvet with mink. Net is also prominent with this couturiere. The evening silhouette is ankle length, molded to the figure well below the hips and flaring at that point. Many lace dresses are made with three graduated flounces, the first placed below the hips, the bodice being molded.

A series of black woollen dresses featuring pique is also shown. Among the novelties is a crinkled velvet.

The Worth Collection

The Worth collection numbered over 300 models and exploits fur trimmings, lingerie details, beads for evening, matching hats and several other interests, including "peasoup" shades. Fur berdered skirts for afternoon gowns with tuck-in blouses are sometimes topped by fur hats.

One of the startling accessories peculiar to this premiere is the use of red suede or kid elbow length gloves worn with evening dresses, red shoes also being worn. Bright red is advocated for evening, alsa several greens, black, white and grape with multicolored effects in patterned fabrics, such as brocades. Beading is played up on nets, sequins also being used. A feature of the evening group is the transparent hem from knee to ankle, while long flying panels are also used. For day wear Worth favors a slightly irregular hemline, the general effect being of neat lines.

The Molyneux collection occasioned great surprise by its disregard for the new silhouette advocated at other houses. Molyneux retains the low waist line often using a double girdle, and adheres to straight lines, preferring box and other pleats to circular skirts.

Printed velvets and interesting woollens are salient features of this conservative showing. Coats are also straight of line, there being a partiality for black trimmed with broadtail. Some capelets are shown and fur collars are upstanding.

Pajama Costumes

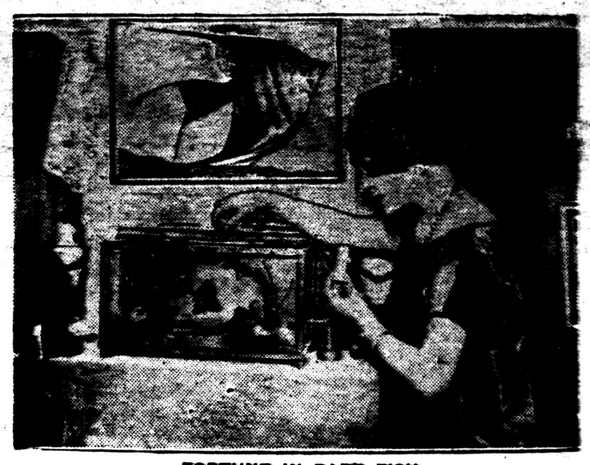
Callot as usual is among the last to show and included in this large collection are interesting lounging pajamas and several culotte costumes. In a rather large group of sport wear a leather costume stands out, this having a flaring skirt, jacket and hat all of leather. Raincoats are also included 1 nthis group.

Callot has not added many inches to her silhouette of last season. Princess lines rank high for evening and there are several models distinguished by drapery at the hipline. The characteristically Callot bouffant tulle frock is repeated with variations while other frocks follo wslim lines, the draperies being tight to the body.

Greens, notably myrtle, cedar and bottle are endorsed, while dahlia and cyclamon are favorites for evening. Evening coats are sumptous chez Callot. They are developed in exquisite lame fabrics heavily bordered with fur, but otherwise untrimmed. The three quarter coat is approved.

Let us plant and rear all tender thought, knowing surely that those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

A Strange Water Dweller



FORTUNE IN RARE FISH

Mlle, Sein, Paris, feeding her telescopic fish and acclimatizing them to any known climate. Inset—A "Pterophilum" of Brazilian waters.

Even For Dinner

Mary Notwitsky's showing was made up largely of pajamas for all occasions, including dinner.

One of these dinner pajamas is developed in pink georgette, the trousers widened by exaggerated godets and the jacket on bolero lines. A point is made on having the trousers contrast with the jacket in most of the models shown, and there is of course a great variety of fabric and a most fascinating array of bright colors. The trousers, wide in themselves, are exaggerated greatly by the godets which are placed at a low line. Moire and velvet is one distinguished pajama combination, other models are of bordered crepe and still others of faconne and printed velvet.

The daytime sports costumes at this establishment are inclined to light colored tweeds and diagonals. The tuck-in blouse is repeatedly used. Sports dresses are in small allover patterned jersey. A series of beach costumes concluded this collection.

Paul Poiret

Paul Poiret stresses medieval types in his presentation modifying this note for day wear, although the princess line is used throughout. For the evening ensembles it is noted that coats follow the identical line of the dress, and a great deal of lame in large indefinite designs is employed. Poiret has always shown a preference for long skirts, and takes advantage of this opportunity to exploit them, some of the formal afternoon dresses being below the calf.

O'Rossen follows the general trend by dropping his skirts to about 15 inches from the floor. The waistline is definitely placed at normal. Tweeds in chevron effect for morning suits and velvety velours for formal ones give an indication of the trend in fabrics, mannish worsteds being well to the fore. The tuck-in blouse is worn slightly bloused over the skirt band at this house. Faconne crepe casauins as well as gilets in woolen lace are incidental.

Trousers For Tennis

The Schiaparelli opening was held in enlarged qaurters and consisted of some fifty sport models, the straight skirt being emphasized. An innovation was a tennis costume without a skirt. This consisted of a white silk jersey top with straight hanging trousers. The sleeves were elbow length.

Suede accessories such as belt, bags and gloves were shown with some sports costumes and the trousers idea was carried into this group. An effective union of tweed with a matching knitted top was applauded. Tuck-in blouses while of contrasting fabric nearly always matched the tweed skirt with which they were shown.

The consensus of opinion of buyers who have carefully studied and compared the many collections is that a new style era is upon us. That it will take two seasons at least to revolutionize present standards is admitted but in the intermediary period in which we are, changes are brought about with considerable discretion. The fragility of some of the fabrics and the general elegance of the mode is not compatable with present conditions i nthe opinion of some but taken on the whole the collections presented wearable and exceedingly attractive costumes.

Calls for Human Aid

C. E. Howard

A giant pelican of Santa Monica, Calif., recently appealed to a man to relieve him from a pain he could not cure himself. After hanging around in the air for some time he finally settled down upon the Municipal pier near Mr. Ed. Hendricks, who was fishing there near a group of other men. They all noticed that the bird was evidently in pain of some sort, and when Mr. Hendricks gently reached out his hand the pelican stood still and let him make an examination. A little exploring discovered a large fish-hook embedded in its flesh and it was necessary in the ensuing surgical operation to us a pair of pliers, to which the bird submitted courageously. Several times it squawked out in pain, but made no attempt to use its huge bill or wings in anger, and when it was over flew away as happy and relieved as a boy would feel after having had a bad splinter removed from his foot.—Dumb Animals.

Gabby Gertie

"A miss in the motor can be satisfactorily adjusted with one hand on the wheel."

Industry

Industry is in itself, and when properly chosen, delightful and profitable to the worker; and when you toil has been a pleasure, you have not earned money merely, but money, health, delight, and moral profit, all is one.—R. L. Stevenson.

"Bertie's school report had just come in. "'I'm losing patience with you!' exclaimed his father. 'How is it young Jones is always at the top of the class, while you are at the bottom?" "The boy looked at his father reproachfully. 'You forget, dad,' he said kindly, 'that Jones has awfully clever parents.'"—Watchman-Examiner.

WINDOWS OF THE SOUL

Let there be many windows to your soul.
That all the glory of the universe
May beautify it.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Traffic Cop: "I'm sorry, Miss, but I've got to tag your car. You know what that means. Sweet Young Thing: Certainly. Now I have to chase somebody else and tag them and then they're it.

Unconscious Humor

A Few Extracts From An African Paper Covering a Variety of Things

In the Gold Coast Spectator, published in Accra, Gold Coast, we find the following items which appeared to be of interest to our Editor. We trust they will be of interest to our Ontario readers.

Saltpond. Girl Kidnapped to Togoland

Coming to town from the village of Crematine, where she had been on a visit to her family, sometime last year, a girl of about 10 years of age, belonging to the household of Chief Korsah's, mysteriously disappeared and all search for her proved unsuccessful. News has just been received by the girl's family that she had been seen at Lome, Togoland, but her phiz had been slightly altered with Togoland tribal marks.

Work on the lagoon has been stopped, with the result that a little shower causes the small drain to overflow, causing damages to nearby houses.

Passengers Not Admitted

At Nsawam railway station one sees the entrance regularly closed lately before the scheduled time for the arrival of trains. This practice started a little over a month ago and coincided with the appointment of the illiterate superintendent-in charge. Passengers are therefore prevented from catching a train for their respective destinations. Probably this is due to an excess of zeal on the part of the new-comer, who does not realize that he is disturbing the earning capacity of the railway by his stupidity, apart from causing grave inconvenience to business men and the travelling public who have to seek other means of transport. Is it necessary for one to be in the compound half-an-hour before a train arrives? Cannot the station master instruct and control him?

Nkronso (Akim)

The "Spectator" can be purchased from Mr. J. B. Koomson, Licensed Letter Writer.

Owing to the constant rainfalls, the Nkronso-Asafo road has fallen into ruin and has therefore been closed temporarily.

The town is infested with desperate robbers, and the police are asked, therefore, to be doubl' vigilant. Sanitation is very bad. The Chief must look into this to improve the hygiene of the town.

"Ohun," the native festival, will be celebrated shortly, and preparations are being made towards it.

Forest Insect Problems

Serious losses occur each year in the forest growths of Canada due to the work of insects. Great stretches of timber have been killed outright and become a total loss. Not does the loss affect forest trees but shade trees and stored wood products suffer serious losses from insect attacks. The problems of forest and shade tree protection are being dealt with by the Division of Forest Insects of the Dominion Entomological Branch, Department of Agriculture, and a force of trained men are constantly working in research, surveys and the discovery of remedies that may be applied with some hope of success.

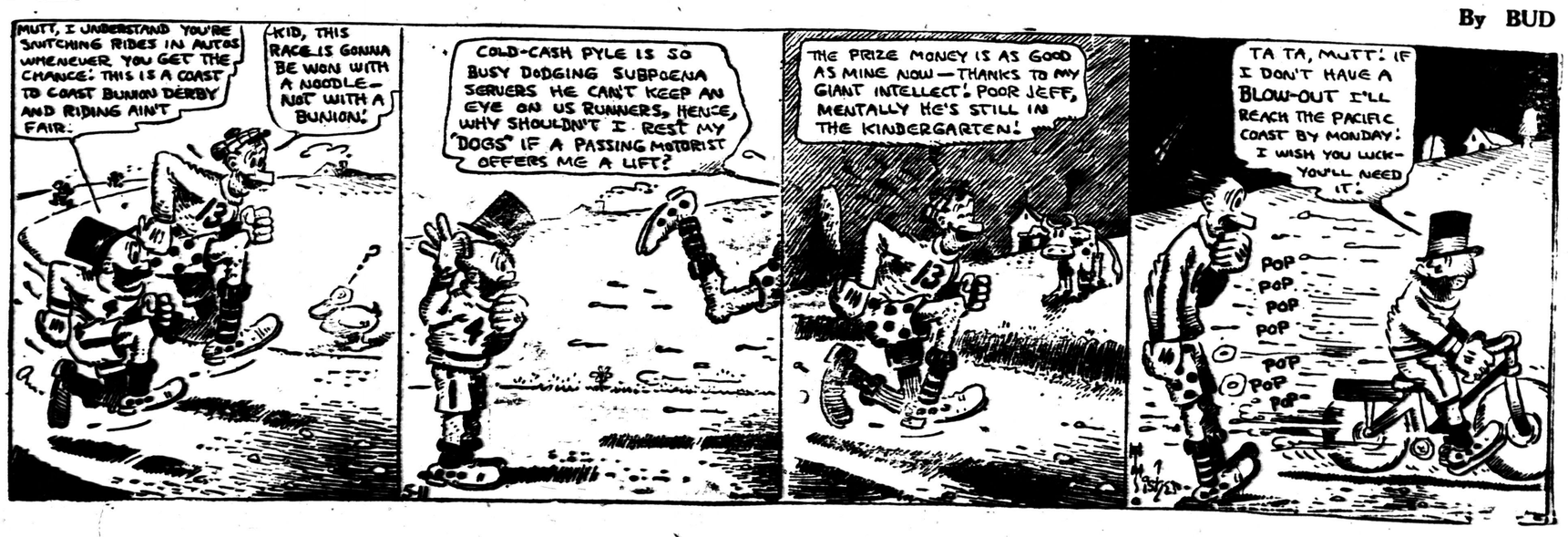
Wide Range of Clays

As might be expected in a country as large as Canada, and in which so many geological formations are represented, a wide range of clays and shales suitable for various uses are found. Aside from the brick, tile, and sewer pipe clays there are deposits of fireclay, stoneware clay, ball clay, and kaolin or china clay.

Canada's Forest Area

The total forest area of Canada is estimated to be 1151,454 square miles. Of this area, 865,889 square miles are productive and accessible; a little over one-third of this area bears timber of merchantable size; the remainder carries young growth not yet fit for use.

POSSESSIONS

As it is the desire of a man to possess what he finds most beautiful, so is it the instinct of the poet, of the painter, of the musician, to express and give again to the world the captured ideal.—Agnes and Egerton Castle.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER