

Sunday School Lesson

September 8. Lesson X.—Nehemiah
Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem.
Nehemiah 4: 6; 15-21. Golden Text
—The people had a mind to work.
—Nehemiah 4: 6.

ANALYSIS

- I. THE SURVEY BY NIGHT, CH. 2
- II. THE BUILDING OF THE WALL, CH. 3
- III. THE OPPOSITION, CHS. 4, 6: 1 TO 7: 4.
- IV. A SOCIAL PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION, CHAP. 5.

INSTRUCTION—There was probably more than one attempt to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, which had been broken down by the Chaldean army in B.C. 586. A brief note in Ezra 4: 6 refers to some accusation, having to do with building, which was made against the Jews in the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes, B.C. 485-464). A story is told in the same chapter (vs. 7-23) of a building enterprise in the reign of Artaxerxes which was stopped by a letter of protest sent to the king by hostile neighbors. The letter said that the Jews "are building the rebellious and the bad city, and have finished the walls and repaired the foundations." The king's reply contained a decree to put a stop to the building, and these enemies of the Jews immediately hastened to Jerusalem and "made them to cease by force and power." It is likely that the work of the builders at this time was undone and the wall again broken down. At any rate, travelers from Jerusalem to Babylon in the twentieth year of reign of Artaxerxes reported that "the remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach; the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof burned with fire." It was reported that caused much grief to the king's cupbearer, a wealthy Jew named Nehemiah, and around in him the patriotic desire to go to Jerusalem and do what he could for the city of his fathers (see ch. 1).

I. THE SURVEY BY NIGHT, CH. 2

Nehemiah, much distressed by the news which he had heard waited for a favorable opportunity to make his request to the king. Fortunately, we have the story told in delightfully simple and graphic style by Nehemiah himself, whose memoirs for a considerable part of his book (1: 1-7: 5 and 13: 4-31). The opportunity came when the king observed his sadness and asking the reason. It is quite characteristic of the capricious weakness of Artaxerxes that he should now authorize his favorite, Nehemiah, to do what he had forbidden others to do a short time before. So, Nehemiah says, it pleased the king to send me. He was like Ezra, provided with letters to the governors beyond the river, that is, west of the river Euphrates, ordering them to further him on his journey; and to keeper of the king's forest; that he give him from the Lebanon forests the timber he would require for his building. Two men of rank and influence, enemies of the Jews, Sanballat and Tobiah, heard the news and it grieved them exceedingly, that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Evidently there were influences at work in Jerusalem itself to any strengthening of the Jewish people, or to giving the appearance of a separate and independent state. The new governor's plans were, therefore made quickly and secretly. By night he surveyed the ruined walls; in the morning he summoned the people to build. But Sanballat and his allies laughed them to scorn.

II. THE BUILDING OF THE WALL, CH. 3

The work of building was carefully planned and organized. The leading families, the guilds of workmen, and even the priests, were allotted their respective tasks. The fallen debris and accumulated rubbish were removed; the foundations laid bare, and on all sides at once the building proceeded. There was work for all, and there were no slackers.

III. THE OPPOSITION, CHS. 4, 6: 1 TO 7: 4.

Opposition did have its baneful effect upon the minds of some of the faint-hearted or half-hearted, people of Judah (4: 10), but it stimulated most to greater effort. Sanballat of Beth-horon was a Samaritan leader who feared the growing power of the Jewish state. His name indicates

that he may have belonged to an Assyrian or Babylonian family which had made its home in Palestine. His daughter was married to a grandson of the Jewish high priest (13: 27). He chose to cover his fear by an appearance of scorn. What do these feeble Jews? "A fox could break down their wall," said his friend and ally, Tobiah. Nehemiah's prayer for their discomfiture can be readily understood (vs. 3-4). He adds, very simply, "So built we the wall...for the people had a mind to work."

The middle clause of verse 7 seems to mean that the wall in all its sections was built to half the required height. Such was the wrath of Judah's enemies that they conspired all of them together, to come and to fight against Jerusalem. Nehemiah's conduct of affairs at this crisis was admirable. He says, "We made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night." For their adversaries were planning a surprise attack (v. 11). Nehemiah had to guard against foes from without and strengthen faint-hearted workmen at the wall. To make matters worse, Jews who lived in or near the enemy's country, and who knew what was going on there, came ten times to persuade their friends and relatives who were working on the wall to quit and return to their homes (v. 12, Revised Version). Nehemiah's courage and firmness prevailed. Half of the people were armed and ready for battle at an instant's call. The half who worked carried each man his sword by his side. By the leader's side was the trumpeter to sound the alarm. "Be not ye afraid of them; remember the Lord," was Nehemiah's word to the rulers. The enemy heard that God had brought their counsel to nought.

What they failed to accomplish by force the enemy now sought to do by guile. They invited Nehemiah to meet them in one of the country villages. "They thought," he says, "to do me mischief." Wisely, he declared himself too busy to go. See the fable story of deceit and guile in ch. 6.

IV. A SOCIAL PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION, CHAP. 5.

The age-long problem of rich and poor presents itself, and, like all that Nehemiah attempts to do, is dealt with in a large and generous way. In verses 14-19 we have Nehemiah's comments upon what was done written twelve or more years later.

Gold Bullion at Bottom of River

French Plane Carrying Gold Crashes in Kent

A French bullion aeroplane carrying gold to the value of \$500,000 from London to Paris had a forced landing here recently, crashing into some trees in a field at Vesper Hawk Farm, at the edge of the River Kent.

The under-carriage of the machine was torn off and two boxes with some \$55,000 worth of gold inside were hurled into the river. Immediately the aeroplane came to rest the pilot and the mechanic, who were uninjured, jumped out and in a state of the greatest anxiety concerning the safety of their precious cargo sought for assistance in its salvaging.

The bullion boxes were eventually raised from the river bed by Mr. Palmer, the owner of the farm and some others by means of grapples. The boxes were then with the remainder of the gold sent by lorry to Lympne aerodrome where a relief machine conveyed them to Paris.

The gold was in the field for an hour before its removal. During that time it was guarded by the pilot and mechanic was away obtaining help, by the pilot alone.



"Have you seen anything of Madge this afternoon?"
"I'll say I have—almost all of her there is."



Laid down in your backyard, with garage complete, for \$200, this tiny car, built for two, forms the latest angle of the motor car problem.

Farm Notes

Grades of Market Hogs

... Grades of market hogs has gone through several stages, each change bringing the grading system into more nearly perfect relationship with the conditions and needs of the industry. The grades, which are now nine in number, and designated as Select Bacon, Bacon, Butchers', Heavies, Extra Heavies, Lights and Feeders, Roughs, Sows, and Stags, are clearly defined in a new pamphlet, No. 40, of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. The grading of the hogs is done by official graders at stock yards, abattoirs, and at such other points as may be found necessary from time to time. New swine grading points or centres may be established on the recommendation of a provincial swine breeders' or provincial producers' association who find that the centres already in operation do not adequately serve the territory in question. The utmost care has been taken by the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture to meet every contingency that may reasonably arise in order to give effect to proper grading, which at all times gives first consideration to the rights of hog raisers. This pamphlet, numbered 40, which is a handbook on the bacon hog and hog grading, describes and pictures the different breeds, suitable for bacon, and good, bad and indifferent types of market hogs.

Transplanting the Iris

Among the herbaceous perennials no class has made greater progress in recent years than the iris. The bearded iris in particular has been developed, improved, and multiplied at its rapid rate. No garden is complete without a few iris plants which, when once given a good location, rapidly multiply into good large clumps. There are many shades and combinations of color in the iris. Bulletin No. 113 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, entitled "Herbaceous Perennials," contains a list of thirty-five varieties, including early and late bloomers and many colors, and names the best colors. The twelve best varieties, according to Miss Isabella Preston, the author of the bulletin, are Albert Victor, Alcazar, Flavescens, Kaysna, Lohengrin, Mrs. Alan Gray, Opera, Parc de Neuilly, Prosper Laugher, Quaker Lady, Sherwin Wright, White Knight. The iris season, which commences in early June, lasts about one month, and during the few weeks many of the blades fading out into a brown wilted condition. It is when this stage is reached that the plants may be divided and set out in new quarters. This bulletin, published by the Department of Agriculture at Ot-

tawa, gives corresponding information for practically all of the worth while herbaceous perennials as they are found to prosper in each of the provinces of the Dominion.

Dressing and Cutting Lamb Carcasses

The killing of a lamb is an operation to shrink from by those who have not had experience with it. It is, however, an operation necessary in the economy of providing meat food. A lamb for killing should be fasted for at least thirty-six hours but may be given a plentiful supply of water to drink during that period. The equipment for slaughtering consists of a pulley, a killing cradle which resembles a sawhorse, saw, knife, steel, two pails, three feet of strong cord, and a plentiful supply of pure water. Skewers and backsets, which may be readily made from a piece of soft wood with a pocket knife, also form part of the equipment. Pamphlet No. 8 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa describes in detail the various processes and shows by illustrations how it is carried out until the carcass is cut into pieces ready for the hands of the cook. A matter of importance, according to the author of the pamphlet, is not to wash the carcass, but to use a damp cloth to wipe away minor bloodstains. The carcass should then be suspended where the air circulates freely for a period of twenty-four hours. It is then ready for splitting and cutting up into such pieces as may be desired and are suitable for the requirements of the family.

A Lamb Circle

Neighboring farmers who keep sheep may have fresh lamb as a change in the meat diet without haying, improved, and multiplied at its own killing. Beef rings have been operated for many years and now once given a few iris plants which, when lamb rings are recommended for farmers and villagers. A very suitable lamb ring may be made up of eight members. A ring of this size can operate without special delivery, as in the majority of cases boys or girls could call for the meat after school hours. A lamb ring may be operated within a beef ring when eight members desire to use mutton instead of beef. The operation of a lamb ring is described in Pamphlet No. 8 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. Members in turn supply each a lamb which is taken to be killed and cut up by one of the members who has been accustomed to this kind of work. This pamphlet, which is obtainable from the Publications Branch of the Department, recommends the splitting of the carcass and cutting each side into four portions, namely, the leg, the loin, the rack, and the shoulder. The cuts should be made so that the portions are divided as equally as possible in weight and in proportion to cheap and choice meat. The pamphlet contains a chart that

may be used by eight members each of whom receives a change of cut each week for four weeks, which uses one side of the carcass, and repeated for the second four weeks, using the other side.—Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Women Educators Seek All-India Fund

Bombay—The Education Friends' Association has organized in India to promote women's education. The president of the association is Lady Irwin.

For many years women in India, both Indian and English, have been education. Gradually the idea has been evolved that some all-India recognition of the problem is essential and that funds to back the demands for suitable education are imperative. The All-India Women's Conference at Delhi adopted a resolution that an all-India fund for the education of girls be established and a committee was appointed to draw up plans.

The constitution has for its object the administration of a fund to promote women's education, including the institution of propaganda for that purpose. The first general meeting of the association will be held in Bombay in January.

Well Well

There was a young lady named Jenny
Who right down a well dropped a penny.
And as that, I've heard say,
Was the last of her pay,
It's certain she now, hasn't any.

Turnips and Men
It is a truth beyond our ken
And yet truth that all may read,
It is with turnips as with men—
If let alone they'll go to seed.



Wife—"When he gets indigestion, what makes John rush around and bile?"
Friend—"The gas in his stomach, dear."

Urge Control of Beam Wireless

Canberra, Australia.—Wireless stations in Australia, should all be controlled by the Government; overseas telegraphic communication should be Government-controlled; and cable and beam wireless services are equally reliable. These are the main findings of the select committee which was appointed to investigate the possibilities of a rate of two cents a word for beam wireless messages from England to Australia.

The committee recommended immediate adoption of a rate of three cents a word for beam wireless messages, with a minimum of 16 words. There was no doubt! If the beam wireless rates were reduced the cable rates would follow suit. The committee declared.

The committee also urged that the Government should thoroughly discuss the whole matter before ratifying the Imperial merger of cable and wireless communications, which would tend to delay the coming into force of cheap communications, in its view.



PRACTICAL AND CHIC

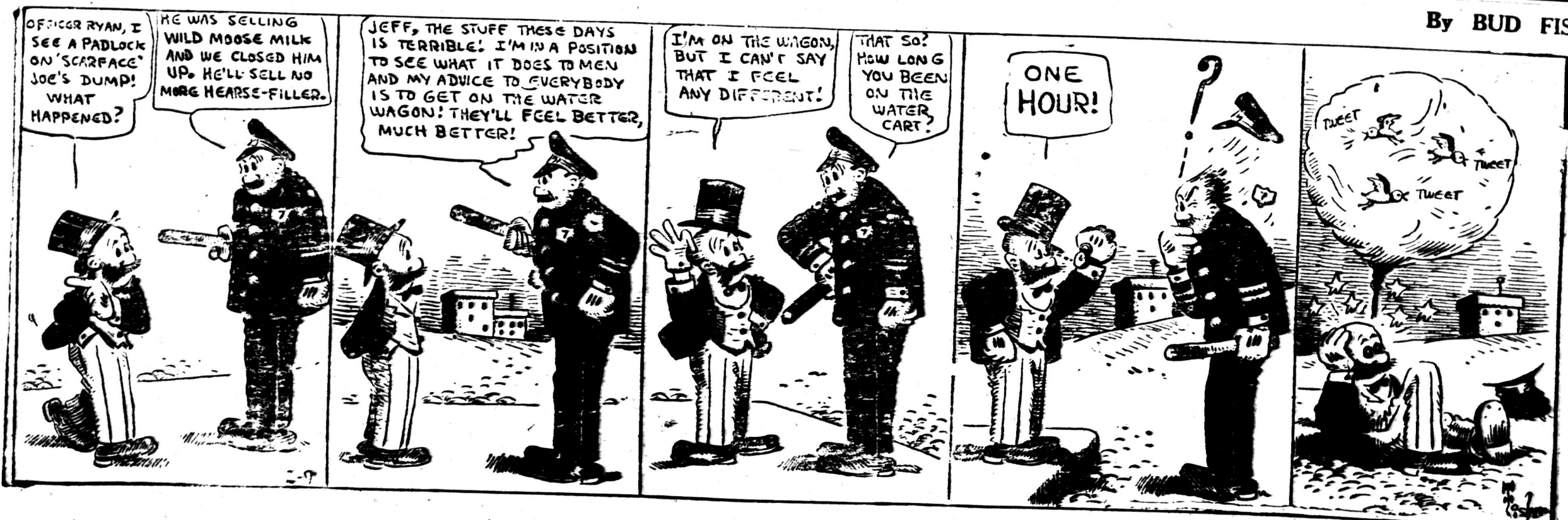
A printed silk crepe whose wearability makes it an economical choice for Spring wardrobe. Its lines are slender and straight; so becoming with lightweight woolen or silk crepe top coat. The neckline is smart and comfortable for all-around wear, with revers collar and scarf tie of plain harmonizing silk crepe. The box-plaits across front of skirt are youthful fashion Style No. 479 can be had in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust, and is made with 3 yards of 40-inch material with 3/4 yard of 36-inch contrasting in the 36-inch size. It is an excellent model for tennis made with short sleeves, or sleeveless of printed flat silk crepe or linen. Printed cotton foulard, georgette crepe, and featherweight woolen fabrics are also suitable. Pattern price 20 cents in stamps or coin (coin is preferred.) Wrap carefully.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. 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.

"Pa, what is a rare volum?" asked Clarence. "It's a book that comes back after you have loaned it," replied Pa.

MUTT AND JEFF—



By BUD FISHER

OFFICER RYAN, I SEE A PADLOCK ON 'SCARFACE' JOE'S DUMP! WHAT HAPPENED?

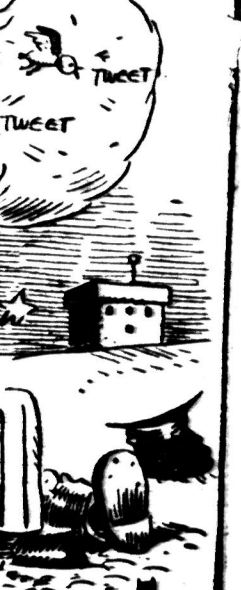
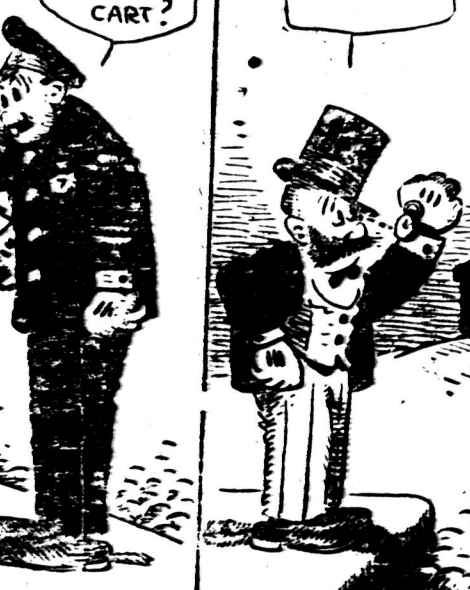
HE WAS SELLING WILD MOOSE MILK AND WE CLOSED HIM UP. HE'LL SELL NO MORE HEARSE-FILLER.

JEFF, THE STUFF THESE DAYS IS TERRIBLE! I'M IN A POSITION TO SEE WHAT IT DOES TO MEN AND MY ADVICE TO EVERYBODY IS TO GET ON THE WATER WAGON! THEY'LL FEEL BETTER, MUCH BETTER!

I'M ON THE WAGON, BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT I FEEL ANY DIFFERENT!

WHAT SO? HOW LONG YOU BEEN ON THE WATER CART?

ONE HOUR!



L FOR... Ask You... Sho... 10 we... GIRL... WE OFFER... Toronto 137 Avenue