

Mennonite Observer

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1 Cor. 2:2.

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YOUR CHRISTIAN
FAMILY WEEKLY

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Alberta Sunday School Teachers Meet

Coaldale, Alta. — The Sunday school teachers of the Mennonite Brethren churches in Alberta met in the M. B. church here from November 25 to 27 for their teachers' conference.

Present for this three-day conference were Rev. H. Baerg, teacher at the M. B. Bible College, Winnipeg, and Miss Nettie Kroeker, part-time teacher at the M. B. Bible College and writer of Sunday school materials. The lectures covered the whole field of Sunday school work, with both the teacher and the pupil receiving full attention. The emphasis was on gaining all children in the community for Sunday school and keeping them there by a regular visitation program. Sunday school teachers were admonished to consecrate themselves to the task, giving themselves wholly to the task from Monday to Sunday. Well-prepared lessons are a necessity for effective teaching, the lecturers insisted.

D. B. Wiens Itinerary Announced

Saskatoon, Sask. — The itinerary of Rev. D. B. Wiens, who, together with H. S. Bender, returned to Philadelphia, Pa., on December 5 after a 3-week trip to Russia, has been announced by Rev. J. J. Thiessen and Rev. B. B. Janz.

Western Canadian centres in which Rev. Wiens will report before Christmas are Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Coaldale, and a location yet to be named in B.C.

Manitoba Mennonites will hear Rev. Wiens on Sunday, December 16. He will report in the Elmwood M. B. church, 155 Kelvin St., Wpg., at the morning service on Sunday, Dec. 16. At 2 p.m. he will report in the First Mennonite church, Alverstone and Notre Dame, and at 7 p.m. he will speak in the South End M. B. church, Juno and William.

On Monday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m., Rev. Wiens will report in the Mennonite Brethren church in Saska-



These three brethren participated in the dedication service of the basement auditorium of the M. B. Mission at Carman, Man. On the left is H. H. Klassen, Morden, Man., who has served the group since its inception; Rev. H. H. Redekop, Winkler, Man., who frequently serves the group; and Rev. J. H. Quiring, pastor of the Winkler M. B. Church, who was guest speaker at the dedication. See page 4 for report.

Many Dedications at Week-Long Services

Winnipeg, Man. — Rev. J. J. Toews, pastor of the Kitchener, Ont., Mennonite Brethren Church, served at a week of special services in the Elmwood M. B. church here. Beginning on Dec. 2 and continuing to Dec. 9, the services were marked by the dedication of young people to faithfulness to the Lord.

A powerful speaker, Rev. Toews was used of God in a special way during the week to speak to Christians. He reminded them of their spiritual poverty if they did not have intimate communion with God through Bible reading and prayer, warned them against being too busy to fellowship with the

toon (Ave. C and 33rd St.). From there he travels to Coaldale, Alta., where he will report on December 18. British Columbia Mennonites will hear Rev. Wiens on December 20 at a centre to be announced by A. A. Wiens of Yarrow, B.C.

Thereafter Rev. Wiens will return to Saskatoon to spend Christmas with his family.

Offerings will be received at the services in which Rev. Wiens will report, with the money received helping to cover the cost of the trip. Any received above the amount needed for this purpose will flow into the general fund of MCC.

Lord, exhorted them to come all-out for their Lord in full surrender and dedication, and admonished those with sin and "idols" in their heart to come clean for God.

In his evangelistic appeals Rev. Toews sounded out the call of God to sinners to repent and turn to Him. He warned again and again that procrastination was suicidal, that the decision to follow Christ must be made while there is an opportunity. Several followed his invitation to accept Christ as personal Saviour.

Public Confession of Sin

Especially significant for the spiritual life of the church was the "after-service" on Friday night, at which time an opportunity was given for public confession of sin. For about 45 minutes God's people confessed to lack of love to God, to being too busy to do the most important thing—fellowship with God, and to specific sins that had been robbing them of the joy and fellowship in their Christian life.

Saturday night's call to dedication witnessed an unprecedented response, as about 60 young people and young couples registered their decision to be "true to God" and to live for Him faithfully. A similar call to cleansing and dedication on Sunday night again saw many young people going into a room ad-

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acent to the church auditorium, where they yielded themselves anew to God, or sought personal counselling. The prayer meeting at the Friday night dedication service and the testimony meeting Sunday night revealed conclusively that God had spoken very definitely and was gaining the pre-eminence in the lives of believers as a result.

The impact that these services have made upon the church will be seen in the future, but many today are testifying that, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

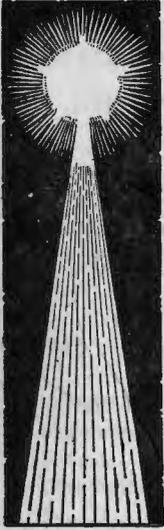
REV. JOHN SCHMIDT SPEAKS AT NORDHEIM MENNONITE CHURCH

Winnipegosis, Man. — A week of evangelistic services were held at the Nordheim Mennonite Church here from November 25 to December 2, with Rev. John Schmidt, director of the Gospel Light Hour, the guest speaker.

The church was filled every night, with guests from the surrounding district and the M. B. mission chapel at Winnipegosis in evidence at the services every night. Rev. H. Janzen, the leading minister, served as chairman for the services, with others assisting. There were several conversions, with others re-dedicating their lives to God and backsliders returning to the Lord.

EDITORIAL

When Christ Came



The profoundest and farthest-reaching transformation in human society came not with the rise of the Roman Empire, with the Industrial Revolution, with the Protestant Reformation, or with the French Revolution. Only the fall of man into sin affected humanity through successive ages on a scale comparable with the coming of Christ, the Saviour from sin.

When Christ came, man's relationship to God was regulated. Before Christ came, there was no absolute forgiveness for sin; after Christ came man could receive full forgiveness. Where sin had been covered through the blood of sacrifices in anticipation of the coming Saviour, it is now covered by the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. Before Christ came, man hoped for the coming of a saviour from the power of sin. When Christ died, He triumphed, and we in Him, over the power of sin and death. Before Christ came, the thought of death filled men with forebodings of the most terrible nature. After Christ's resurrection death is but the portal to eternal glories. Before Christ came, heaven was the abode of God and His holy angels. When Christ was on this earth He said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

When Christ came, man's relationship to man changed completely. Before Christ came, women were considered inferior to men. Christ's birth endowed motherhood with a dignity that later led to the emancipation of women, a process that still goes on where the Gospel of Christ takes hold among heathen. Before Christ came, poverty carried with it a stigma, but after Christ was born in a manger and lived a life of austerity, poverty no longer could be equated with mediocrity. Before Christ came, the servant was but a slave with no rights, but after He lived Who said, "I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister", His children were glad to be called servants. Service gained new significance through the life of Him who "went about doing good". Before Christ came, self-aggrandizement and extortion was the goal of most rulers. After Christ came, the Christian ideals of benevolent administration for the good of all gained ground. Before Christ came, the early Greek democracy was based upon respect for man. When Christ came, the principle of love gave new content and depth to the democratic ideal.

If we really get down to basic facts, where would we be today if Christ had not come? Therefore, let's make this Christmas a time of thanksgiving, making Christ the center.

Christ is Born in Bethlehem

(Luke 2:1-20)

And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.



DEVOTIONAL

"His Name Shall be Called Wonderful"

By John Unger *

Admiration is the keynote of our day. We behold the beauties of God's nature and express our wonder about the way in which they were created. Then we turn to the inventions of "Science" and marvel at the ways in which man has realized the laws of nature and is directing them to useful purposes. Discoveries, improvements: progress and change is evident on every hand. It is wonderful to be living in an age of modern conveniences. Economically and culturally we are living in a golden era. But as we approach the Christmas season, we are reminded of the spiritual condition which characterizes our age, and we ask, "Is it wonderful?"

What's in a Name? It would hardly occur to anyone to call a person "Wonderful". In fact, if someone would be given this name we would possibly criticize the parents for their indiscreetness in the choice of names. Yet this was the name given to the Son of God. Christ Himself chose to be called by that name. In Judges 13:18b we read: "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?" (RSV) When Isaiah prophesied concerning the Christ-child, he said, "And his name shall be called Wonderful" (Isaiah 9:6). Wonderful means marvelous or astonishing.

Nowadays names are given as a matter of arbitrary choice. During Bible times, names were given with the purpose of denoting character. Reflecting upon this thought, we do use names in order to distinguish between individuals. We do not claim to know an individual if we merely know his name, or know him to see him.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly

(Continued on page 4-4)

We say we know a person when we know his attitudes, his behavior and other characteristics which characterize and make him a distinct personality. Actually we too go beyond the name, and like or dislike names because they remind us of certain individuals whose characteristics we approve or disapprove of. In thinking of Christ, is that the reason why sinners flee and saints rejoice when they hear the name, "Wonderful"?

Pilate said, "Behold the man" (John 19:5). He was astonished, not because of the name He bore, but because of the personality which was manifested in Him. We too, will behold the Christ-child lying in a manger this Christmas. In spirit we will be at Bethlehem. In seeing Him we will say He is "Wonderful": wonderful in His condescension; wonderful in His choice of a dwelling-place—"Emmanuel"—God with us; wonderful in His purpose of coming. That is, considering it from our human viewpoint. Viewing it from above, we say it was a sacrifice made on the part of God for the redemption of fallen mankind. It all depends upon our relationship toward Him. We stop fleeing and turn toward Him, when we appropriate His redemption; He becomes more "Wonderful" to us as we daily walk with Him; He will be praised as the "Wonderful" one throughout eternity. May this Christmas truly be a "Wonderful" one.

* M. B. city missionary at Hamilton, Ont.

Mennonite Observer

Our Christian Family Weekly for Mennonites of All Age-groups

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FUNDS NEEDED FOR EDUCATION IN AFRICA

In a letter to the "Männerverein" of the North Kildonan M.B. Church, Rev. Henry Brucks of Africa expresses deep thankfulness for all contributions to missionary education, but also reveals the need for greater support. He writes:

"We thank the Lord for gifts and missionary offerings that make it possible to carry on the work here. At present we have approximately 70 natives out in the various villages as teacher-evangelists. Their allowance per month ranges from \$3.00 to \$10.00 for the older and more responsible men. Then of course we have to provide him with living quarters—a house will cost \$20.00. Such a house will stand only about two years. A permanent house would cost about \$100. Because we are short of funds we have to advance as is possible. Approximately 3,000 children attend our schools in the Kafumba area. We are thankful to the Lord for the many opportunities that we have. We trust that these sacrifices at home and the labor here will result in a harvest of souls."

High Wind and Snow Hit Fraser Valley

Abbotsford, B.C. — Winter hit Fraser Valley residents a triple blow on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 4 and 5, as high winds accompanied a deep blanket of snow and plunging temperatures. Shivering residents found electrical appliances of little value as power services were interrupted at various times.

Winds up to 75 miles an hour tore at the MSA district on Tuesday, and the mercury dipped to 15 degrees and lower in one of the coldest early December storms in years. A blanket of snow six inches deep in all areas, with 8 and 10 inches in some areas, brought blizzard conditions that menaced lives as transportation services were all but halted.

Students Leave Early

Bible and high school students were called home early by worried parents, public school buses had to be dug out by municipal snow plows when stranded while bringing home children, and power and telephone crews were kept busy repairing breaks. Two houses went up in flames during the height of the storm. Hotels did a roaring business as stranded village workers remained in town to wait out the storm.

Transportation services had returned to near normal by Wednesday, with snowplows clearing the plugged roads, allowing milk pick-up trucks to get through and mail-carriers to travel their rounds. The



NATURE'S CHRISTMAS DECORATION

recurrent storms of the last years have provided an incentive to create an efficient snow clearance program.

Farmers were especially hard-hit by the power breakages. Chickens crowded together on some farms and died of suffocation, while the failure of water-pumps created water shortages. Frozen water pipes added to the troubles experienced.

Divine Protection Seen

Unusual incidents are bound to crop up at such times, and the hand of God could be seen clearly in a number of incidents. One farmer was out in his car in the howling blizzard, with visibility cut down to almost zero. Finally he stopped, unable to see the road. When the wind intensity died down a bit, he saw someone standing directly in front of the car. The pedestrian had not seen the car either.

Gratefulness to God fills His people at such a time, for they realize that He cares for them. Gratefulness is also awakened when they think of those who suffer cold and hunger in other parts of the world, with no quick restoration of power, warmth, and food when a storm strikes.

New Seminary President Announced

Chicago, Ill. — A call to serve as president of the Mennonite Biblical Seminary has been accepted by Dr. Erland Waltner, head of the Bible Department at Bethel College, North Newton, Kans., it was announced here following the semi-annual meeting of the seminary board.

As announced previously, Dr. Waltner will join the staff of the seminary in July, 1957. He will assume the presidency when the institution moves to Elkhart, Ind., to become a part of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries.

He succeeds Dr. F. S. Pannabecker, president of the seminary since 1947, who some time ago had asked to be relieved of the duties of president as soon as arrangements could be made for a successor. Dr. Pannabecker will continue to serve as a full-time member of the faculty.

Following the board meeting, Dr. Pannabecker, Rev. R. L. Hartzler, secretary of the Board, and Rev. A. S. Rosenberger, the president, went to Elkhart, Ind., where the purchase of a 55-acre tract directly

south of the Elkhart city limits was consummated. This will be the future home of the Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Associated Mennonite Seminaries.

IMPRESSIVE GERMAN PROGRAM IN SOUTH END M. B. CHURCH

Winnipeg, Man. — The Mennonite Society for the Nurture of the German Language sponsored an impressive program in German at the South End M. B. church on Sunday night, Dec. 16.

A variety program of poems, dialogues and music, both instrumental and vocal, provided those present with an enjoyable evening of good listening. Music was provided by the Strempler instrumental group from the Sargent Ave. Mennonite Church and a violin solo by Hanneliesel Unruh. Solos were sung by John Pauls and Rita Schmidt, while the boys choir from the North Kildonan M. B. Church, directed by Viola Falk, thrilled the audience with their fine singing. A group from the Elmwood M. B. Church also sang.

Rev. Gerhard Fast served as chairman for the program, which was organized largely by Rev. C. C. Penner. Those taking part in the program had certainly put a lot of effort into their presentations.

WIFE OF FORMER CHURCH LEADER PASSES

Matsqui, B.C. — Mrs G. A. Konrad, 58, passed away on December 10 in a Vancouver hospital, where she has been hospitalized for six weeks because of cancer. She is the wife of Gerhard Konrad, formerly church leader at the Matsqui M. B. Church. The funeral services will be held on December 16.

OUR READERS SAY

Continuing to Sow the Seed

Greetings from the mission field with "Lo, I am with you always."

We wish to express our sincere gratitude and thanks for forwarding to us the **Mennonite Observer** and the **Mennonitische Rundschau**. Because of our transfer from Kajiji to Matende, our papers always make a long detour. Our new address is:

A. J. Esau,
Matende via Kikwit,
Congo Belge, Africa.

We are continuing to sow the seed of the Word. His Spirit is working, but help us to pray for a real revival in this Bambunda tribe.

Sincerely in Christ,
Abram and Sarah Esau.

Mission is Result of Many Influences

Carman, Man. — "People today are being pursued by their self-created enemies. They need to know of a place where God is," stated Rev. J. H. Quiring in his dedicatory message at the Carman Gospel Light Mission basement auditorium. "From now on people in Carman may go to this building. May it do for them what Jacob's place did for him when he saw the ladder to heaven. The house of God is where heaven begins."

This service was the result of much work and planning by the group of believers here. On the previous Monday final plans were laid for the service, held on Sunday, Dec. 2, 1956. At that time the reminiscing revealed that God had certainly been working in many different places at the same time with one plan in mind. He had stirred the hearts of believers in Carman; His Spirit had been working in Morden and Winnipegosis; word reached the Home Missions Committee of the M. B. Church in Manitoba—and they sent workers. The visible result is the basement auditorium in the north end of Carman, for which the group is very thankful.

A church building has a dual purpose, Rev. Quiring declared in his message. It is a place where Christians meet other Christians, but it is also a place where God meets His children. The need of the world is also met there, for here the Christian meets sinners, leading them to meet God personally.

We must always be conscious of the holiness of God, even as Jacob was. Today people try to make God common by either elevating man up to God's level ("Every human has a divine spark in him.") or by bringing a grandfather-type God down to our sinful level ("God can condone sin. He knows we make mistakes."), Rev. Quiring continued.

Rev. Peter Penner, who serves at the young people's prayer-meetings, was chairman at the service, while the dedicatory prayers were spoken by Brother Abe Quiring, Hordean, and Rev. J. Neufeld, Grossweide. Others taking part were Brother H. Klassen, Brother A. Peters, and Rev. H. H. Redekop. Throughout the program a highly-talented young people's choir sang praises to God in songs of dedication.

Carman is a dark town. It needs the Saviour to free men from their bondage of self-satisfaction, fear, nominalism, and to answer the deep yearning for peace. Therefore the Gospel Light Mission is not only a good thing, but a desperate necessity.

We have seen how God used men from all over Manitoba to bring

the mission into existence. We still need people all over to pray for further growth and expansion. A wonderful bit of advice is, "If you think about a person, send up a quick prayer for him." It is a wonderful habit to form in relation to mission work, too. Now that the dedication is over and the small group is alone in a big building, we may at first feel deserted and alone, but if God's children pray, He will bless us.

WINS SECOND SILVER MEDAL

Vancouver, B.C. — For the second year in a row, Miss Holda Reimer of Yarrow, B.C., has won the silver medal for the highest marks in voice examinations in Manitoba. In 1955 she was awarded the silver medal and the Frederick Harris Scholarship for the grade 8 voice examination. This year she was

again awarded the silver medal and was also given a \$50 award by the Royal Conservatory Alumni of Manitoba. She is presently studying and working in Vancouver after two years of study at the M. B. Bible College.

GRAHAM FILMS SHOWN AT ABBOTSFORD

Abbotsford, B.C. — Rev George Buhler showed two Billy Graham films in the Grace Church here. A large crowd came to see the films: "Battleground Europe", and "Canadian Crusade". The first picture featured portions of Dr. Graham's ministry in Norway, England, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and France. The Toronto Crusade was featured in the second film.

Rev. Buhler also delivered a message based on II Chron. 7:14. Special singing was provided by a local male quartet.

Announce Program For Bible Conference

Winnipeg, Man. — The Elmwood Mennonite Brethren Church has issued a cordial invitation to all children of God to join them during the three days of the annual Bible Conference, December 28 to 30. The previous dates have been changed so that the weekend can be utilized fully.

Speakers during the services will be Rev. J. B. Toews and Rev. A. H. Unruh. The former is the deputiation secretary of the M. B. Board of Foreign Missions and Rev. Unruh is a well-known Bible expositor. Messages will be in German. The program is as follows:

Friday morning, 10 a.m.

1. The Relation of Conviction to Repentance, by Rev. Unruh.
2. Repentance Cannot Be Circumvented, by Rev. Toews.

Afternoon, 2 p.m.

1. The Nature of True Repentance, by Rev. Toews.
2. Perils That May Accompany Repentance, by Rev. Unruh.

Evening

1. Sanctification, its True Character, by Rev. Toews.

Saturday morning, 10 a.m.

1. Conversion and Regeneration According to the Scriptures, by Rev. Toews.
2. Justification According to the Scriptures, by Rev. Unruh.

Afternoon, 2 p.m.

1. The Sealing of the Regenerated Believers, by Rev. Toews.
2. Abiding With Christ After Regeneration, by Rev. Unruh.

Evening, 7:30 p.m.

1. The Cost of Sanctification, by Rev. Toews.

Sunday morning, 10 a.m.

1. The Fruit of the Spirit, by Rev. Toews.
2. The Fellowship of the Spirit, by Rev. Unruh.

Afternoon, 2 p.m.

1. Growing in the Knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, by Rev. Toews.
2. Waiting for the Appearance of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by Rev. Unruh.

Evening, 7 p.m.

1. The Blessing of a Sanctified Life, by Rev. Toews.

The church choir and other groups will sing. The host church will provide coffee and milk, so bring your lunch and stay for the entire conference.

Pastor, Elmwood M. B. Church.

PICTURED ON POSTAGE STAMP

For the second time in its history the United States has pictured the Bible on a postage stamp.

Issued on Labour Day, 1956, as a special commemorative stamp, it depicts the labourers' appreciation of the Bible.

The design for the stamp was taken from a mural in the new AFL-CIO headquarters building in Washington, D.C. This giant mosaic mural fifty-one feet high and seventeen feet wide pictures a worker with a pick, hammer and hoe over his shoulder, with an arm about his wife. She is seated and is reading to their young son from what the artist's title describes as "The Book of Life".

A spokesman for George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO said: "To us 'The Book of Life' can mean no-

thing other than the Bible. The mural shows the Bible to be the one sure and certain guide we have in life."

The only other such stamp issued in the U.S.A., in 1939, shows Washington taking the presidential oath with his hand on the Bible.

Recently Brazil used a Bible Society poster on a postage stamp. The British and Foreign Bible Society co-operates closely with the national Bible Society there.

GRACE CHILDREN'S HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

Henderson, Nebr. — Damage estimated at \$40,000 resulted from an explosion and fire in the frame administration building of Grace Children's Home here on Nov. 27.

Thirty-six children and staff members had just finished breakfast when the fire broke out, and all escaped unharmed. It is believed the fire originated from the furnace, which was fed by an automatic stoker. An explosion knocked out windows and bulged walls. Fire companies from Bradshaw and Hampton helped Henderson firemen bring the flames under control.

Damage was especially heavy in the dining room and kitchen, the office, the apartment of the superintendent, Rev. J. F. Barkman, and several bedrooms. Children who stayed in this building are being cared for in other buildings of the Home or private homes, and meals are being served to them by mission societies of local churches.

CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

(Continued from page 2-3)

most praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. [But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The concept of discipleship is the most characteristic, the most central and regulative concept in Anabaptist thought, which largely determines all else.

Christmas at Bethlehem

By Leona Yoder
MCC Relief Worker in Jordan

Most precious to us are the little pictures of a frosty night in Bethlehem which each of us holds in his heart: the humble shepherds with their white sheep under the stars, the angels' song, the soft glow of a candle touching the miracle in the stable and the little white road that ran like a ribbon from Jerusalem to the little town among the olives and vines.

It is still there, that little town. And do pilgrims still travel the little white road to the birthplace of the Christ-child? Yes, it is there, grown to the size of a big town now, very modern, bright and business-like in most sections.

But up on the hill the narrow little streets twist and turn between the small stone houses with their high domed ceilings and low doors and finally emerge in the open space before the massive old Church of the Nativity.

This church was built by Constantine the Great in the fourth century and remains more or less as it left the hands of its builders. Massive Corinthian pillars made of some dull red stone hold up the roof and divide the church into sections.

Birthplace

On Christmas Eve this church is dark and quiet as the Eastern Orthodox Church observes January 7 as the birthday of Christ. Tourists, pilgrims and worshipers of all kinds walk quietly about in this ancient church and go down the narrow little steps to the cave below where tradition says Christ was born.

One goes down single file, on each side pressed tightly against the wall are rows of nuns, keeping their all-night vigil. The dozens of little silver lamps hardly lighten the cave because of the cloud of incense. It is just a small cave about 14 yards long and four yards wide covered with heavy tapestry. If one draws this tapestry aside, the rough smoke-blackened stone walls of a cave appear.

Gold and silver ornaments gleam in the pale light of the lamps. On the floor on one side is a large silver star on a slab of marble and around it is a Latin inscription: "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary."

Most of the worshipers bow down and reverently kiss this star. On the opposite side is another marble slab surrounded by lamps where the manger stood. We went up the steps on the other side, walked quietly across the old church, entered a hallway and entered the great and newer Roman Catholic Church.

Such a sight of splendor is dif-

ficult to describe. The blaze of light was focused on the altar where richly-gowned priests were performing a ritual over the image of the Christchild while sweet-voiced choir boys sang in the distance. The church was packed with people from many lands. We felt a bit dazed as we came out again into the cold and misty midnight air.

Other Services

Several Mennonite Central Committee relief workers also attended other services on Christmas Eve.

First there was the Young Men's Christian Association service out in Shepherds' Field. How inspiring it is to stand on those hills in the gathering dusk and sing the familiar carols with Christians from many lands.

One by one the stars appeared, the last light faded from the Mount of Olives and the twinkling lights of Bethlehem brightened the dark town. As the service closed, delicious odors ascended from the cave below where Arab friends had roasted a sheep on the hot stones in the traditional manner. How wonderful the hot sandwiches tasted as we filed through the cave and chatted with our friends.

Later we joined the Presbyterian Mission workers for a service a little closer to Bethlehem in the Fields of Boaz. The children from the school for the blind sang so sweetly of Jesus the Light, lifting their happy faces into the softly falling rain. We accompanied our friends to the mission home for hot cocoa, cookies and fellowship.

Hymns, Throngs

Crowds of people had filled the courtyard of the Church of the Nativity by this time for the Anglican hymn sing, so we stopped once again to lift our voices in joyous song.

We left the throngs of people at the great church and walked for some time through the still, narrow streets to the beautiful German Lutheran Church located high on a hill.

We were early for the service and had the quiet little courtyard to ourselves. Standing there we could see all of Bethlehem around us. As the rain stopped and the moon appeared, the countryside of olives and vines shone softly and kindly as it must have been on that first Christmas eve.

The church was not full, but we knew many of the people. Most of the tourists had been frightened away by the riots of the previous week.

Peace, But Concern

Our talkative group was unusually quiet as our auto wound its way around the sharp curves back to Jerusalem, for the little



DISSONANCE IN HOLY LAND. . . . Unrest and poverty plague the land of Christ's birth this Christmas. Here Arab refugee women gather brush to burn as firewood. This year a dissonant chord of anguish and hopelessness replaces the triumphant notes which announced the Saviour's birth many centuries ago.

National School Opens in Colombia

By Lillian Schafer

"In God I put my trust" seemed to be the confidence of parents as they brought their children for another year of study in the Colegio "Los Andes". After the attacks here at LaCumbre during the vacation months, we expected the enrollment to be affected. But quite to the contrary, we have a larger enrollment than ever.

School grounds and dormitories are again a busy place with 67 lively youngsters. We praise the Lord for the 37 who were happy to return. "I didn't even cry when I left home this time, because I was so happy to return," said Maria

white road lies in Jewish territory and the bitterness of years prevents its use.

We were refugees that night, for the week before our Jericho house had been looted and the warehouse burned. Kind friends in Jerusalem had loaned us their home, our physical needs were being provided, the deep peace which only our Heavenly Father gives was in our hearts.

But what about the hopeless misery of the people around us. The tiny bit of love and hope we can give is only a drop in the great ocean of need. But it is a drop. For this reason we are still here.

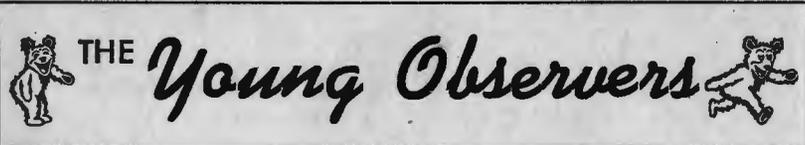
Soon again we hope to make the little Christmas Eve pilgrimage to Bethlehem. If open warfare should prevent our going to Bethlehem, there is still the pilgrimage to the Christ-child in the heart.

who comes from the jungles near Noanama. Then there are 30 new ones this year who come from homes of believers as well as from homes where the Gospel has not been heard.

Our desire is not only to teach them to read and write. We want them to learn to know Christ as their Saviour as He is presented in morning and evening devotions in the dormitories, during each morning chapel in the school, in their religious education classes twice a week and during the Sunday services.

We are grateful for a consecrated staff of workers this year. The national teachers include the following: Irma Agudelo, first grade; Lucila Salinas, second grade; Paulino Trujillo, third grade; Elisa Castellano, fourth grade, and Mrs. Leonilde Agudelo, fifth grade. Sister Kathryn Lentzner supervises the girls' dormitory and Sister Sara Cardona helps her as matron. These two ladies also teach the sewing and cooking classes. Mr. and Mrs. Juan Gutierrez are houseparents in the boy's dormitory and Brother Juan also teaches agriculture and has charge of the school garden. Brother and Sister Ernest Friesen each teach two English classes and Brother Friesen does the purchasing for the school. Lillian Schafer teaches several classes of mathematics and serves as director of the school.

The Lord has richly blessed in securing all the permits to function again this year.



Let's Visit a Minute

Dear Boys and Girls,

This week let's think back to the time and place where a most glorious thing happened. Let us go to Bethlehem, a city of David in Judea, for a short while.

Many people were making their way to Bethlehem, among them Joseph and Mary. It had been a long way from Nazareth and they were very tired and wished to rest. But wherever they knocked the answer was, "There is no room." They finally came to rest in a stable. During the night that most glorious thing happened, the baby Jesus was born.

Out in the field angels brought the message to the shepherds who were looking after the sheep. The angels told them of the Saviour who had been born and was lying in a manger. The shepherds made their way to Bethlehem to see that which the angels had told them. When they had seen the child, the shepherds glorified and praised God for the wonderful thing that had happened.

Truly, boys and girls, that first Christmas many years ago was a wonderful Christmas.

Let's not think only of the gifts we will receive, but let us think of the greatest Gift, which was given to us by God Himself.

At this time let us also think of the song the angels sang at that first Christmas:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Aunt Selma.

Journey to Bethlehem

By Emeka Omora in African Challenge

Little Piero yawned and stretched himself, contented and rested after his long night's sleep. Scratching his side lazily against the stable wall, he ate his breakfast of sweet fresh hay.

Piero was just a donkey, an ordinary grey donkey—the kind that no one ever noticed—but he did not mind. He worked hard each day, carrying heavy loads into Nazareth; but he was glad to do it, for his master was kind and good to him. Today he would probably take another load into the city.

But suddenly, as he thoughtfully chewed his hay, Piero heard voices approaching the stable. He pricked up his ears as he recognized the familiar voice of his master. But there was also a stranger's voice.

"Yes, Joseph," he heard his master say just outside the door, "my donkey is strong and willing and very gentle. Piero will be just what the lady needs for her journey to Bethlehem."

The two men entered the stable. Piero turned his head to see this man, Joseph. Looking up into a pair of friendly eyes in a smiling, bearded face, he felt a firm hand on his back.

"I like this man," Piero thought as he ate some more hay. While the two men bargained for his price, the little donkey finished his breakfast and stood quietly as his master brushed him. And then the kind stranger led him away.

Piero willingly followed Joseph through Nazareth's narrow, winding streets until they came to a small, white-plastered house, neat and well-kept. Joseph tied the donkey to a post near the door and went inside.

Soon he came out, followed by a pretty lady, dressed in warm clothes for travelling. "She seems kind like her husband," Piero thought. Joseph was speaking to her quietly.

"You need not fear this little one, Mary," he said, patting Piero's head. "Piero is very gentle."

Mary smiled and put out her hand. The donkey moved toward her and pushed his nose gently against her arm.

"Here, Joseph," she said, holding out a small parcel. "My bundle is ready. I have made it as small as possible. I am ready to start now."

Gently, Joseph lifted his wife in his strong arms and set her on the donkey. With Joseph walking beside them, they slowly turned and headed south out of Nazareth.

The streets of Bethlehem were filled with people and animals when the tired, dusty travellers from Nazareth arrived. The markets were unusually busy, and Piero wondered at all the excitement. What had brought everyone to Bethlehem?

He feared for Mary's comfort as people stumbled against her in their hurry, pushing her roughly

with their loads. She said nothing, but Piero felt her tremble and knew she was in great distress. Joseph sensed it too, and yet they dared not hurry faster.

Evening was fast approaching as Joseph searched for the night's lodging-place. At last they came to a large inn. Joseph shook his head anxiously when he saw the crowd already trying to push their way inside.

"It seems almost useless to ask for lodging here, Mary, but it will do no harm to try," he said. Leaving Mary and Piero to wait, he hurried inside.

Piero knew his master was troubled when he returned. "They will not let us in, Mary," Joseph explained sadly. "Others richer than us have first choice of the rooms, and now the inn is full."

He stood wondering and helpless. "The landlord said we could sleep where the animals are, for all that he cared!"

Mary smiled calmly and touched his sleeve. "Then, my husband, we shall sleep there. It will at least give all of us shelter. And there will be food and water for Piero as well. He has done well to bring me so far, and it is not his fault that there is no room in the inn."

The stable was a low, dark cave in the hillside. Two oxen, already bedded down for the night, watched curiously from a corner of the stable, as Joseph lifted Mary from Piero's back and carried her gently to a heap of clean, fresh straw.

Mary breathed a sigh of relief and gratefully lay back in the straw. "Ah, this is more than fine for me, Joseph. What softer bed could I have than this?" She closed her eyes to rest.

His work done, Piero wandered over to salute the oxen. The friendly animals pushed some of their hay toward him. In between mouthfuls of hay, Piero told them

of the long journey. Lowing softly in welcome, the oxen reverently watched the beautiful lady resting in the straw. And then, crowding close together in the cool night air, they too fell asleep.

Not knowing how long he slept, Piero suddenly awoke to find the stable full of light. Mary still lay in the straw. Joseph was kneeling beside her, speaking softly. A look of happiness and peace had replaced the tiredness and pain which Piero had before seen on Mary's face.

Now she smiled happily, for in her arms lay a tiny, new Baby.

"He is asleep now, Joseph," she murmured softly. "Lay Him in the manger for me, please, where He will be warm and safe." As Joseph did so, Piero moved forward timidly and looked at the tiny Baby. "Look, Joseph," Mary whispered. "The little donkey comes to greet my new-born Son."

Piero stood looking into the manger (the animals' food box). Somehow he knew he must not touch the sleeping Infant. Silently the two oxen joined him, gazing in reverence at the Baby.

Mary and Joseph watched the animals at the manger. "Joseph, I believe that they know this Child is different from all other babies," Mary whispered to her husband. "God must have put it in their hearts to know that this is His Son."

The animals heard her words and were glad because she understood. They knew that here was the One who was the Maker of all donkeys, all oxen, all creatures of every kind.

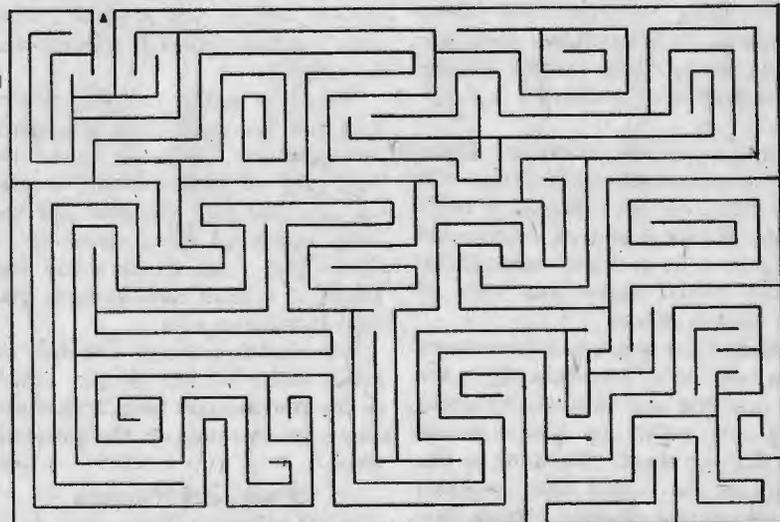
"We know who this Child is and why He is here, but what will men think of Him? Will they care for Him?" the donkey quietly asked his two companions.

"No, probably not," answered the big brown ox, old and wise in his

(Continued on page 8-4)



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



HELP THE WEARY TRAVELLERS find their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem. There are many roads which they may take, but only one goes all the way without crossing any lines. Starting at the lower right-hand corner, see if you can find the way.



The School of God *By Peggy Arbogast*

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(20th Installment)

"Oh say, Dr. Blake!" cried Bob as the man turned to leave the room. "Do you have a few minutes before you go? There's something I'd like to talk over with you."

"Why sure, Bob, if it won't take too long. I'd be glad to help you in any way I can," responded Ted as Bob followed him from the room.

"Suppose we go in the den," suggested Bob. When they were comfortably seated, the boy began, "I guess you knew about our father—I mean about his drinking habits."

Ted nodded and Bob went on. "Well, he's been worse since Connie's been so sick. A little while ago I went to call him and I received no answer. When I went into his room, it was empty. I found this note." Bob handed the note to Blake and the latter read it with a sober expression.

The doctor clasped the hand of the younger boy. "Bob," he said gently. "You've got some hard times ahead, I'm afraid. You have a great responsibility. From now on you are the physical head of this house. But never lose sight of the real Head, Bob—that unseen Guest. He knows all about what's happened. More than that, He knows why, and He'll work it out some way. We can't see how, but He is able to do it, and He will do it. He always takes care of His own."

Dr. Blake turned to leave, then hesitated and stopped again. "Bob," he cried. "Would it help any if we were to kneel and have a word of prayer together?"

"Would you?" asked Bob eagerly. And so, side by side at the couch knelt the strong doctor and the babe in Christ as they poured forth their petitions before the throne of Grace. A few minutes later Betty, having finished her kitchen duties, found them thus as she peeped into the room. With a shrug of her shoulders, she hastened down the hall to her own room. There were tears of anger and resentment in her eyes.

Betty rarely admitted even to herself how much her twin meant to her. She had received great satisfaction in the fact that he shared with her an unbelief in the old-fashioned gospel which meant so much to their sisters. Now even that bond was gone. Hadn't she just seen him praying? Oh—if the doctor had been praying it might have been all right. She could

have persuaded herself that Dr. Blake had forced Bob to kneel while he prayed. But it was Bob's voice she had heard in that moment when she had watched them. She had distinctly heard him say, "I thank Thee, Father, for saving a sinner like me."

At just this time, in a house about a half-mile away, Kitty Boyd was also waging a battle. The girl had been very much under conviction the night of the campfire service. She had almost yielded to her Saviour that night, but as in the heart of Bob, Satan had interfered. However, the victory of the Evil One had not held sway for long in the girl's life, for during the testimonies in the church service the following morning she had yielded to the Saviour's gentle knocking at her heart's door.

During the weeks that followed, Kitty had made one great mistake. She had neglected to make any public confession of her new faith. She had told no one that she had received the Saviour. Kitty had had no definite teaching along this line. She wanted to tell people, because she was so happy, but she wanted to tell her beloved Sunday school teacher, Ruth Arnold, first. Of course, she had not seen Ruth, and so Kitty had told no one.

There was one thing that Kitty didn't consider. She didn't know that her life was speaking for her. The quiet testimony of Ruth's life up to the night of the campfire had not been without effect upon the girls in her class. And, although Kitty had no one to instruct her in her new found faith, she began to pattern her life according to what she thought Ruth would do. The result was that Mrs. Boyd had noticed a change in her daughter's life and had begun to wonder concerning the cause.

One thing that Kitty had been sure of was that Ruth would say she should read her Bible daily and pray. So Kitty with a new earnestness set out to do this, just at the time when Ruth herself was neglecting this means of grace. And although she had no human teacher, the Holy Spirit was faithfully instructing this babe.

On this particular morning, Kitty had been voluntarily helping her mother with the weekly cleaning, a task which before she had always sought to evade. Mrs. Boyd had commented on this fact. Kitty had remained silent. A few minutes later Mrs. Boyd had repeated some of the gossip which had been

spread about the Arnold's—and especially about Ruth. Kitty had opened her mouth to give an angry retort but had closed her lips before the words could come forth. When the cleaning was finished, Kitty had hastened to her own room and there she was waging a fierce battle at the same time as Dr. Blake and Bob were praying together.

Mixed feelings filled the girl's heart. She felt a feeling of loyal devotion to her former teacher, a burning indignation against Ruth's persecutors, including Kitty's own mother. The former desire, to tell Ruth first of all of her conversion was also present, but reasoned Kitty to herself—"How can I do this and defend her now? I'll have to tell mother why I'm different—and maybe she'll listen and believe that Miss Arnold is good." The thought that she might possibly in this way be a help to Ruth finally overcame her other thoughts and Kitty slowly descended the stairs to where her mother was preparing lunch.

"Mummy," she cried hesitatingly as she entered the room.

"Yes Kitty," replied her mother, waiting for her only child to go on.

"Mummy," repeated Kitty. "Do you remember when we were cleaning this morning, you said I was different—that my life has seemed changed in the last few weeks?"

"Yes dear, I do remember," said Mrs. Boyd. "You are different. You are growing to be a very sweet girl."

"Well, Mummy, would you like to know why?" asked Kitty timidly. Mrs. Boyd nodded, and Kitty for the first time confessed by spoken word, her salvation. She told her mother of how she had opened her heart's door as the Saviour had knocked—how He had come in and of the joy she now had. Mrs. Boyd listened in silence. The church services since Keith Stuart had come had not been without their effect upon her life either.

"And Mummy," continued Kitty as she finished telling of her salvation. "You know what the people are saying about Miss Arnold? Well, those things aren't true. Miss Arnold is sweet and good. I've been trying to live like she does since I've been saved, and you just said I'm different. It's true her father is awful, but Mummy, she can't help that. Why should she be blamed for what her father does?"

Yes, as Ruth slept, Her Heavenly Father was working in her behalf. He had used Connie to show Ruth that she had been playing truant from His School, and now He was using Bob, Dr. Blake and Kitty Boyd as truant officers to prepare the way for her return.

CHAPTER XVI

It was late afternoon before Ruth awoke with a start. For a few moments she had difficulty in collecting her thoughts. When she remembered what had happened, and saw what time it was, she jumped hastily out of bed.

In a few minutes she was hurrying down the hall to Connie's room. She found the little girl enjoying the broth which Bob was feeding to her.

"Oh, Ruthie, I was beginning to think you'd never wake up," she cried as she saw the older girl.

"I did do a pretty good job of sleeping," smiled Ruth.

"You need it," was Bob's remark. Then he added, "Say, don't you think I make a pretty good nurse? Suppose we fire Ruth, and I'll take over the job?" Bob winked at Ruth as he asked this question.

"You make a pretty good nurse," replied Connie seriously, "But I don't want my Ruth fired. Unless she's tired of taking care of me?" There was a slight note of alarm in Connie's voice as the possibility of such a thing entered her mind.

Ruth hastened to reassure the child, and for a few moments they had a happy time of fellowship together as Connie was told that Bob too now belonged to Jesus.

After finishing the broth, Connie dropped off to sleep again, and Ruth followed Bob down the stairs. "I think Betty has dinner almost ready," whispered Bob on the way.

"I certainly have been a deserter today," Ruth grinned. "But I feel so much better now that I've had that sleep."

"Of course you do, and now that I'm the head of this house, I'm going to see to it that you regularly get all the sleep you need," responded Bob as they entered the kitchen.

"What do you mean, now that you are the head of the house?" questioned Ruth, for Bob had forgotten that she did not as yet know of their father's disappearance.

"Oh—haven't you heard?" said Betty sarcastically. "Mr. Arnold has deserted his children."

"Betty!" cried Ruth in astonishment. Then she turned to Bob as though she were hoping that he would say it was not true. But the boy sadly shook his head.

Ruth dropped into a chair weakly. "Talk about Hitler's bombs!" she ejaculated. "I feel as if one had exploded right here."

"Something has exploded," growled Betty. "What do you suppose we're going to do now? Dad's gone! No one here is working. We haven't any money. There will be a big doctor's bill for Connie. There's enough food in the refrigerator for a few days—perhaps for the rest of the week. After that—what? If you can answer that, you're better than I am."

(To be continued)

Mennonite Brethren Mission Notes

Brother and Sister Vernon A. Reimer and Sister Esther Wiens arrived safely in Cali, Colombia, on Saturday, November 10. On Sunday a child was born to the Reimers. Mother and child are reported doing well.

Sister William G. Baerg and children were scheduled to arrive in Minneapolis on November 26. It is necessary for them to return for medical aid for daughter Eleanor.

Two experiences reported by Sister Ernest W. Schmidt are causes for gratitude to God for His blessing the work in the Belgian Congo. On the first Sunday of October several Christians from one district walked as far as five miles on a rainy morning to feed upon the Word and to fellowship around the Lord's table. On another occasion, Sister Schmidt writes, it was necessary to discipline a new class of nurses for negligence in looking after a man who had been wounded by a buffalo. "Next morning they confessed. The Lord spoke to them through the parable of the Good Samaritan and they were sorry. Praise God for the victory they won."

Brother and Sister E. W. Schmidt, Kajiji, Belgian Congo, are parents of a baby daughter, Kathryn Jane, born September 23, 1956.

Sister Rubena Guenther arrived in Yokohama, Japan, November 19 to begin her second term of service.

Brother and Sister Dan W. Petker are to proceed to their appointment in the Bible school work at Nuevo Ideal, Mexico, during the early part of January. Pray that all documentation may be arranged so they may proceed as planned. Petkers are currently in the Rio Grande Bible School, Edinburg, Texas.

The work at Piedras Negras, Mexico, under the leadership of Brother I. M. Alaniz continues to enjoy the Lord's blessings. Services are all held in the downtown chapel to which the people from the hill also come for worship. Brother Alaniz is seeking to deepen the understanding in the Word of God in the membership and also impress upon them that in order to be effective Christians the members should have a great share in helping to promote the work of the church and the witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

From Ishibashi Church, in Japan, Harry Friesens report: "The church now meets in its newly-rented quarters behind a dental office downtown near the train station. If the attendance record were the spiritual thermometer of the church, it would be very high, for the little church room is full nearly every Sunday. However, a number of the members do not come and a

large percentage of those attending are unsaved people.

School work on the Belgian Congo field is experiencing satisfactory progress. Station schools at Kipungu, Matende, Kafumba and Lusemvu have been recognized and subsidized by the government. Kajiji and Panzi station schools are not subsidized, but are operated with mission funds. Total enrollment of the station schools is 1,597. At present there are schools conducted in 250 different villages. Enrollment in the village schools during 1955-56 was 3,354, thus making a total enrollment of 4,951 students in the primary schools. To this must be added the secondary school with an enrollment of 45, teacher-training school with 48 and the Bible school with 68. Our workers are also putting forth special efforts toward strengthening the evangelistic ministry in the school system.

Our Brazilian mission high

Farming in the Chaco

By Peter Derksen

(Excerpts from an address given by Oberschulze Peter Derksen at a Neuland colony meeting August 30, 1956, translated from Menno Blatt, giving information on Mennonite colonists.)

The past half year was filled with hopes, successes, disappointments and failures. Our main interest lies in farming. Although all of us know what we harvested, it is well that we concern ourselves with this matter.

For the harvest year 1955-56 the following were planted in Neuland Colony: cotton 1100 hectares, peanuts 565 hectares, kafir 1200 hectares, miscellaneous 1200 hectares. That makes an average of 9.3 hectares per farmer for 434 farmers, which is the number we had at the beginning of the year.

The average yield for cotton this year is a bit over 400 kilograms per hectare. This is 50 kg. below the average yield for the past eight years. Peanuts yielded on the average 1200 kg. per hectare, which is 400 kg. more than the average for the last eight years.

The kafir harvest was better than ever before. From this we must conclude that the crops in general were good. Regarding the cotton yield it should be mentioned that the average yield for most villages was quite a bit below the overall average. Since some villages had early spring rains, the yield there raised the overall average.

It is surprising to note that the average yield of cotton in eight years is about 200-300 kg. below the average yield in Fernheim and

school at Curitiba, Ginasio Erasmo Braga, has an enrollment of 32 this year. Fourteen are children from the orphanage, another 14 are from the Mennonite youth of the various villages and four are from the Brazilian neighborhood.

Colombia missionaries met the latter part of November for their field council sessions.

Three persons were baptized on October 7 at Amagasaki, the area in Osaka, Japan, where the Roland Wienses work. The baptism resulted from the summer tent evangelism. These charter members of the Amagasaki Mennonite Brethren Church meet with other believers of the area for Bible study and fellowship on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday evenings. A Bible class has been started for the women of the community which meets on Wednesday afternoon. Bible classes are held in two other homes on Sunday morning and afternoon and Friday afternoon in the southern section of Amagasaki which is about a half hour by bus and street car from the other section.

Mennon colonies. I believe the reason for this is that we have not fully recognized the need for pest control.

In Neuland the opinion prevails (I was of the same opinion) that the cost of living has risen because the price of cotton has not kept pace with the rise in cost of food. If in November 1948 1 kg. of flour cost .65 guaranis and 1 kg. raw cotton cost .40 guaranis, one had to figure 1,650 kg. cotton for 1 kg. flour. If we figure the average price of cotton this year at eight guaranis, then 1 kg. flour now costs 1,680 kg. cotton. Hence, the cost of food has not risen. Most things are cheaper in comparison with prices in 1948.

If we examine the statistics covering the acreage planted since the establishment of our colony, we see that already in the year 1952—four or five years after our colony was established—we had reached the peak of our total acreage planted.

What is the reason for this standstill? The main reason simply is that we cannot increase our cotton acreage because we cannot harvest more without machinery. It is not possible to consider mechanized cotton farming in Paraguay because it is too expensive.

Nothing is left for us except to look around for other possibilities. I believe I can say today that there are other possibilities. Namely, the Chaco colonies will gradually have to change from cotton to oil-producing crops—such as peanuts, castor beans and others.

The market and price for these crops are good. Partial mechaniza-

tion is possible which would make the harvesting a great deal easier for us. The edible oil production in Paraguay meets only a very small part of the demand for them, so there should not be any immediate difficulty in finding a market. In addition, various other South American countries do not produce sufficient edible oils so that it would be possible to export some too.

Colony Fernheim recognized this fact several years ago and experiments with peanuts in the past several years have produced very good results.

We do have to take into consideration that the peanut yield will not always be as good as it was this year. However, considering the average yield for the past eight years at today's prices we get the following picture:

Cotton brought in on the average 4,068 guaranis and peanuts 5,187 guaranis per hectare. Using the same manpower one needs to harvest one hectare of cotton, one can harvest at least two hectares of peanuts.

In addition, peanuts are subject to fewer pests than cotton. I believe there is enough proof to say that the conditions are here for the Chaco farmer to double his income.

I believe I can see that the living conditions in the Chaco will also improve. I know that it is not easy to remain firm and not be pulled along when the main topic of conversation in the colony centers in emigrating. But we must not let ourselves be influenced by this attitude or else we go directly to our ruin. Let us not always look only where the material conditions are better today.

Let us make an effort to look back ten years and remember our loved ones in Russia whose fate today is still more difficult than ours. Let us all be more concerned about looking up to our Father in Heaven who directs the destiny of nations and also of Colony Neuland.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

(Continued from page 6-4)

ways. "There are so many who will not understand—and others who will choose not to. Think of the masters who beat animals to make them do their will. Many with hearts such as theirs will not care who this Child is."

The old ox paused thoughtfully in his speech.

"Of course, some who will learn who He is will believe in Him and love Him," answered the white ox. "He will be able to show them who He is."

"And they are the ones I envy," Piero added thoughtfully; "for I know that some day this One will give His life to redeem His fellow men. Creatures like you and me can only know Him as our Creator, but they can know Him as Saviour and Lord."

THE RELIGIOUS KALEIDOSCOPE

Wycliffe Sending Translating Teams to New Fields

The Wycliffe Translators are planning to send teams of translators into Papua and the Australian Trust Territory of New Guinea. Three Wycliffe representatives recently spent several weeks surveying the field and conferring with Administration officials about the possibility of making linguistic studies and doing literary and Bible translation work.

Although the Administration has recently been committed to a heavy English teaching program which would leave little room for use of the vernaculars, the officials were helpful and encouraging, to the extent of recommending a suitable site for a headquarters base.

Wycliffe reports that the territory to be served has more languages without the Scriptures than almost any other comparable area in the world. The latest government language list names 471 languages in Papua and Australian New Guinea, two of which have the whole Bible; ten more have the whole New Testament, and thirty-nine more have only some lesser portion of the Bible. This leaves 420 languages with no part of the Scriptures. Most of these languages have not yet been reduced to writing. (MNS)

* * *

Ceylon Imposes New Restrictions

During the past years Ceylon has been a strategic outpost for missionary activities in the Far East. From this island empire 46 fundamental Gospel broadcasts have been beamed weekly to India, to Burma, to Malaya, to Pakistan, and to millions of other people.

But the new Buddhist government (Ceylon is 62% Buddhist) has set up new restrictions. They are: no more Christian broadcasts after mid-February, 1957; no government grants to maintain Christian schools and colleges; all schools to be limited to not to exceed one Christian teacher for each one hundred teachers; all Christian churches and institutions to be heavily taxed; no churches to be erected in a community where even one-half dozen residents object; no religious orders to nurse in the hospitals; and missionary activities to be curtailed.

* * *

70th Anniversary for German Seamen's Mission

The seventieth anniversary of the Seamen's Mission of the Evangelical Church in Germany was observed at Bremen, Germany. Pastors, missionaries and directors of seamen's homes in West Germany, Italy, Belgium and Holland participated in the ceremonies. The Seamen's Mission maintains seventy homes and stations for mar-

iners in world ports. Sixty full-time pastors and church workers are serving in the mission. They visit German ships in port, hold worship services and provide individual pastoral care.

CANADASCOPE

Refugees Arrive on Ship

The liner Arosa Sun docked on Dec. 9 with 257 Hungarian refugees amid a cheering, flag-waving reception from more than 3,000 persons. Tears streamed from the eyes of many of the refugees lining the jammed boat decks. They are the largest group of refugees from rebellion-torn Hungary to arrive in Canada and the first to arrive by ship. Others had preceded them by plane. Later this week, nearly 500 more refugees are expected aboard the Arosa Star.

* * *

Canada Developing Trade in Plastics

Canada is developing a small but growing business in plastics materials in the Far East. The Asian trade consists mainly of raw materials going to several countries that are engaged in building up their plastics manufacturing industries. The market now stands at about \$2,000,000 a year, says the current issue of Foreign Trade, publication of the federal trade department.

* * *

Fire Guts Four-Storey Business Block

A two-alarm fire gutted a four-storey business block at Princess St. and McDermot Ave. in Winnipeg on Sunday night. The fire in the building owned by Western Smallware broke out around midnight and kept firemen busy for several days trying to put out a stubborn blaze in the basement. The below-zero weather hampered firemen considerably, while exploding fireworks in the basement helped add to the spectacle. The fire-wall and the persistent efforts of firemen saved the adjoining building.

This structure is opposite C. A. DeFehr and Sons and the fire disrupted the traffic in front of the store.

* * *

Plane With 62 Aboard Goes Down in B.C.

An east-bound Trans-Canada Air Lines plane vanished Sunday night with 62 persons aboard in turbulent weather over the mountains bordering the Fraser Valley. It was last reported near Hope, B.C. Low clouds, rain and snow hampered the air search for the missing plane. If all those aboard the aircraft were killed, it would be the worst disaster in Canadian history.

Milk, Cream and Buttermilk Prices Rise

Beginning on Monday, Dec. 10, consumers in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Neepawa paid more for their milk, cream and buttermilk. Milk climbed one cent a quart, while cream went up one cent a pint and buttermilk two cents a quart. Milk presently costs 22 cents for home delivery and 20 cents in the store.

* * *

First Real Snow of Winter

Manitoba received its first real snow of the winter with the blizzard that blew in from the west on Sunday and continued until Tuesday. Broadview reported 10 inches by Monday, while Winnipeg had received about 5 inches by Tuesday. The winds that accompanied the snow reduced visibility, drifted the snow heavily in some areas, and closed some roads.

THE 'WORLD TODAY

Hungarians Still Rebellious

Various demonstrations during the past week, some of them involving large groups of women, showed the Russians in Budapest that the spirit of the Hungarians had not yet been broken. Martial law was finally proclaimed by Premier Kadar's desperate government. In spite of that a 48-hour general strike called by the major Workers' Council affected the country very much. Telephone service with Budapest was interrupted. Violence reportedly flared again in Budapest.

* * *

NATO Meets

The North Atlantic Council opened its session in Paris on Tuesday, December 11. Present for the important discussions were Secretary of State Foster Dulles from the USA and British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd. When Mr. Dulles arrived he pledged U.S. help to "assure unity and strength" of the Atlantic Alliance and to help Western Europe to overcome economic losses due to blockage of Middle East oil.

* * *

Fire Rockets in Conquest of Space

United States Navy and civilian scientists fired "the first test rocket of the earth satellite program" early Dec. 8 from the air force missile test centre at Cape Canaveral, Fla. The defence department said the Viking rocket reached a peak velocity of 4,000 miles an hour and climbed to an altitude of 125 miles, ending its flight in the Atlantic Ocean about 180 miles from the launching base.

The department said the rocket was fired to test instruments and gather information to be used later in the satellite launching during the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year.

Frozen Food and Better Nutrition

From a nutritional standpoint, frozen foods are the equivalent of fresh foods. In some instances they may rate higher in nutritive value than fresh produce purchased at the local market. However, this is true, according to A. W. Moyls, Fruit and Vegetable Processing Laboratory, Experimental Farm, Summerland, B.C., only if the products have been properly handled. This means harvesting at the right stage of maturity, followed by proper processing techniques and proper storage of the finished product.

It has been established that the temperature at which foods are kept is an important factor in controlling the rate of loss of certain vitamins. For example, within a 24-hour period some vegetables if left standing at room temperature will lose as much as half their vitamin C content. At a refrigeration temperature of 32 to 30 degrees F. the loss is a fraction of this amount, while at zero F. the loss is practically negligible. This applies particularly to leafy vegetables and snap beans. Root crops such as beets, carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, and potatoes, also lose vitamin C even in cool storage, but the rate of loss is relatively slow.

Important studies regarding the freezing of foods and their nutritive value have been carried out for many years. Research has indicated many valuable facts about the merit of these foods and their important role in providing a balanced diet. Food preservation by freezing has been termed one of the great discoveries of history. Properly frozen foods make available the highest possible dietary standard at an economical level in all seasons.

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SILVER WEDDING FOR JOHN FASTS

Mr. and Mrs. John Fast of Main Centre, Sask., had the privilege of celebrating their silver wedding on Wednesday, Oct. 7, in the M. B. church at Main Centre. The church was crowded with guests and relatives from as far away as Saskatoon and Hepburn.

Present at the happy occasion were also the three children of the couple. Lawrence, the oldest son, was chairman for the service.

The pastor, Rev. Abram Goertz, made the opening remarks in German, later speaking on Romans 15: 1-6 in English. In his message on "Likemindedness" he pointed out that the stronger ought to bear the weaker, and not only to please oneself. Likemindedness is not something natural, it comes only through the yielding of our wills to God. When God through Christ rules in our hearts, then there will be likemindedness.

Of special interest were the items on the program in which the members of the family participated. In several songs the whole family participated, while several musical items were presented by the children, Lawrence at the piano and Kenneth and Virginia playing their violins. Mr. and Mrs. Fast both

gave testimonies, reminiscing on some of the happy memories of the past, both humorous and otherwise.

A reception in the church basement brought the evening to a pleasant close.

Obituaries

MRS. M. DERKSEN

Mrs. Maria Derksen, 76, of Abbotsford, B.C., passed away November 29 in the MSA General Hospital.

Mrs. Derksen was born on May 25, 1880, in Russia. She came to Canada 32 years ago and moved to the MSA area four years ago.

Funeral services were held at the Clearbrook Mennonite Brethren church on December 5, with Rev. Abe Konrad and Rev. Philip Wiebe officiating. Pallbearers were John, Walter, and Arthur Block, Frank Friesen, Henry Wiebe and John Derksen.

She is survived by two sons, Peter Block of Clearbrook and Jacob Block of Sicamous; two daughters, Mrs. Aaron Derksen of Alberta, and Mrs. I. Derksen of South Dakota; 21 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren; two step sons and three step daughters, and one brother and one sister in Manitoba.

Mennonites under the sponsorship of MCC.

Bender and Wiens had interviews with individual Mennonites in Russia who indicated a renewed interest in the Church following many years of tribulation when the Mennonite brotherhood was dispersed into many parts of the Soviet Union.

There are a few congregations but no organized Mennonite Church in the country, they reported. Initial leadership in some localities is being taken by women as there are few men with their families above the age of 30.

Bender and Wiens said, materially the Mennonites in Russia are getting along satisfactorily and

they do not need packages of food and clothing sent to them. Rather, they appreciate receiving Bibles.

Bender and Wiens had fellowship in Baptist churches, where many Mennonites worship. Russian Baptist churches attended by Bender and Wiens had large numbers of young people in the congregation.

AUSTRIA

A camp for Hungarian refugees is being set up by the MCC Vienna team in addition to cooperative material aid distributions with other relief agencies.

It is expected that this type of service to refugees will provide good opportunity for spiritual and personalized Christian care. Irene Bishop (Perkasie, Pa.), the Vienna director, is in charge. The camp is to be staffed with five persons, including Paxmen.

More than 120,000 Hungarians have crossed into Austria from Hungary, making the refugee situation there critical. It is reported that the Red Cross has medical needs well-in-hand as the majority of the refugees are healthy. New shipments of material aid to Vienna have been made by MCC.

MCC is accepting financial contributions marked "Hungary" through conference offices. Contributions of clothing should not be designated specifically for Hungary, but should be unmarked to facilitate processing (this corrects earlier statements).

THE NETHERLANDS

The Heerewegen Peace Center in the Netherlands is housing groups of Hungarian refugee university students while they are being processed for admission to Dutch schools.

Paul Bender (Goshen, Ind.), MCC peace section representative there, said a group of 85 students were at Heerewegen for orientation. Plans call for another group to replace the first.

Four couples of students were married following their arrival in the Netherlands. A Protestant couple was married in the Mennonite church.

JAPAN

Japan has afforded widespread opportunities for teaching, writing and witnessing in the area of Christian peace for Melvin Gingerich (Goshen, Ind.), the peace section's "ambassador" there.

Such opportunities have opened in Mennonite missions, other Christian groups and Christian schools, plus groups and individuals who are not Christian but seek light on their problems and are receptive to the Christian message.

It is reported Japan has an inadequate amount of Christian literature concerning Christian peace. Arrangements are underway for the translation into Japanese of J. A. Toews' booklet "True Non-resistance Through Christ."

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

The current drought in the Great Plains section of the United States has brought about a new project in the framework of Mennonite Disaster Service—mutual aid with hay.

Hay committees are being formed in Kansas to arrange shipments of hay from out-of-state Mennonite communities where there is surplus hay. This operation also represents a financial saving.

One of the first such committees was formed in the Hillsboro, Kans., community. In the Hillsboro operation orders were taken from farmers and compiled by a committee, which was authorized by buyers and the local bank to go to an out-of-state community to negotiate for the purchase of hay.

PERSONNEL

Sam Wollmann of Carpenter, S.D., is the new representative to MCC of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Church. He replaces George L. Classen of Yale, S.D.

Gerhard Reimer (Giroux, Man.) has been made director of the Summer Service program. He replaces Arlene Sittler (Hespeler, Ont.) who is studying at the New York School of Social Work.



RUSSIA DELEGATION

The Mennonite Church in Russia is still alive and appears to be experiencing a renaissance.

That is the impression reported by Harold S. Bender (Goshen, Ind.) and David B. Wiens (Saskatoon, Sask.) upon their arrival in the United States following a three weeks visit in the Soviet Union as representatives of North American

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BIBLE INSTITUTES

MENNONITE BRETHERN BIBLE INSTITUTE North Clearbrook, B.C.

A cheerful student body, consisting of sixty-five members, gathers each morning in the school auditorium for a thirty-five minute period of devotion. After receiving the morning blessing and the day's challenge, the students make their way up the stairs to the four classrooms. Six enter the first door to the right, as first class students. Entering the next door are twenty-two students of the second class. Of the twenty-three in the third class, many are attending this school for the first time, being graduates of a Christian high school. Lastly, of the fourteen in the graduating class, twelve are last year's third class students.

Of the total student body, '33 are ladies and 32 are men, with the average age of the students at 20.5. The average secular education stands at grade eleven. Those with more advanced education include a student from the Winnipeg Bible College, one from the University of British Columbia, three elementary school teachers and the pastor of a neighbouring mission chapel.

The object in attending this school is to receive a better working knowledge of the Word of God, and since it is a voluntary effort, in the most part, each student is desirous to take advantage of every opportunity to learn. Even at recess and noon hours there will be some students feverishly fumbling through one commentary after another, getting 'all points of view'. It is not only intrinsic interest that produces such zeal, but also the necessity of meeting assignments made by faithful and consecrated instructors.

This past week the Annual Committee has been overly active, photographing students and activities in order to portray school life to the public. For the first time in the school's history one of our students is doing all the photography for the yearbook. So far the proofs have turned out exceptionally well. This will certainly reduce the high cost of the yearbook.

The school has also extra-curricular activities including a program to be rendered in the Fraserview M. B. church (Vancouver) on December 9, and a prospective Christmas program scheduled for December 16 in the Mennonite Educational Institute at Clearbrook. Then, too, the school prepares a weekly, half-hour radio broadcast. This gospel broadcast may be heard on KPUG, Bellingham, Washington, at 9:30 p.m. every Thursday.

We have had the privilege of

having a number of distinguished guest speakers address our morning assemblies. Rev. Leslie Buhler, on furlough from India, after delivering a short message on Isaiah 6:1-8, gave a report of the appalling spiritual need of the people in India. Then he challenged the students to yield their lives completely to God that He might use them for His honor and glory. Mr. M. Bedford, Shantyman Association, stressed God's faithfulness versus the activity of the adversary. He based his heart-warming message on I Peter 5:8. He related numerous incidents where God had miraculously supplied their spiritual and particularly their temporal needs, while preaching the gospel to loggers, miners and fishermen in the isolated regions of our province.

We are blessed anew daily, have wonderful Christian fellowship and every opportunity to practice what we learn. Great is our responsibility! Please pray for our school, and others like it; we need your prayers.

By Victor Guenther.

COLLEGES

MENNONITE BRETHERN BIBLE COLLEGE

National Democracy Issue in Debate

The resolution for a recent debate at the M. B. Bible College stated: "Resolved that National Democracy is the Solution to World Peace."

Nearly all the students and faculty members were present as the first speaker for the affirmative, Mr. Harold Jantz, rose to outline how national democracy has been an instrument for peace. His enthusiastic beginning reminded one of a Grecian orator defending the cause of democracy, but when he quoted the definition of democracy from the American Constitution he brought us to the present. Mr. Jantz maintained that there are basically only two forms of government in this world: democratic and totalitarian. He demonstrated thereupon that the "record of the democratic nations in the United Nations in their efforts for peace is good." The totalitarian states, however, constantly blocked the efforts of the Security Council to take steps toward peace.

The first speaker for the negative, Mr. Arthur Bartsch, stated in his opening remarks that the resolution, as stated, posed the possibility of a Utopia. He asserted that "the question of peace is not a matter of government at all." "Peace is the tranquillity of the soul achieved by the satisfaction of man's basic wants," he averred. However, national democracy has

(Continued on page 12-1)

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**MENNONITE BRETHREN
BIBLE COLLEGE**

(Continued from page 11-2)

done nothing to change human nature. He said, "The post-revolutionary man, educated, enfranchised, and emancipated, has not turned out the predicted new man. He is the old Adam." Mr. Bartsch felt that if man's needs are not satisfied, he tries to satisfy them by war and not by national democracy.

The very nature of a democracy is found in tolerance, Mr. Henry Regehr, the second speaker for the affirmative stated. This tolerance is effected in a democratic nation by various ethnic groups living peaceably with one another, as in Canada. Mr. Regehr showed that historically the democratic nations are peace-making and peace-loving.

The final speaker, and second speaker for the negative, Mr. Jake

Dueck, said that national democracy fosters nationalism, which was one cause of the First World War, for instance. National democracy "has not eliminated the economic problems of distribution and mass production, which are the cause of war," he continued. Neither had democracy eliminated racial discrimination, as shown in the southern United States. He concluded, "The quarrel of children at the sand pile; Hitler's invasion of Poland; and England's attack upon Egypt vividly illustrated human nature. Hitler was greedy for land and power; England intended to defend her interests; and the child wanted the sand pile." This trait of human nature democracy has not changed.

The standard of the debate was high. A great deal of investigation and preparation had preceded the debate, but time limited elaboration on points, while definitions had to be cut to a minimum. The rebuttals were not on as high

a standard as the rest of the debate, the judges stated, for they were lacking in a wider historical outlook and insight. The judges felt the debaters had the idea that democracy was a recent development, while the Greeks in 350 B.C. had a purer form of it than we have today. "The prepared speeches were excellent. Teamwork was good," stated the judges.

The affirmative won the debate by a narrow margin.

By Walter Dahl.

**COLLEGE ON THE AIR
IN DECEMBER**

Winnipeg, Man. — The M. B. Bible College Acappella Choir and Rev. David Ewert are on the air over CJOB, Winnipeg, every Sunday morning during December.

The Pastors Evangelical Fellowship of Winnipeg sponsors a half-hour program every Sunday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. They have asked the M. B. Bible College to supply a choir and speaker for the December services. It is a live broadcast, requiring early rising on the part of the choir, but it is a unique experience nevertheless.

the cantata, "While Shepherds Watch" in the Regina M.B. church at 2226 McKay St. on December 16, 7:00 p.m. Helmut Klassen is the director.

December 21 — The Winkler Bible School will present their Christmas program at 8 p.m. in the Mennonite Brethren church in Winkler, Man.

December 21 — The Bethany Bible Institute of Hepburn, Sask., will present their Christmas program in the Hepburn M. B. Auditorium at 2 p.m.

December 28-30 — Rev. J. B. Toews and Dr. A. H. Unruh will speak at the annual "Bibelbesprechung" in the Elmwood Mennonite Brethren church. See program on page 4.

Feb. 11 to March 9. — The Canadian Mennonite Bible College is sponsoring a Ministers' Course, with a variety of subjects, both exegetical and practical, being offered. Applications should be in by December 31. Those interested should write to Rev. I. I. Friesen, C.M.B.C., 600 University Boulevard E, Tuxedo, Winnipeg 9, Man.

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On the Horizon

December 16, 23 and 30 — The M. B. Bible College Acappella Choir and Rev. David Ewert may be heard every Sunday morning, 7:30 to 8:00 a.m., throughout December on CJOB, Winnipeg.

December 15 — The choir of the Elmwood M.B. Church will sing the cantata, "Christ and His Soldiers", in the Elmwood M.B. church, 155 Kelvin St.

December 16 — The choir of the Regina M.B. Church will present

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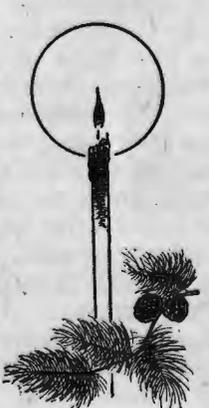
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