

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson III. Oct. 21, 1917.
The Temple Rebuilt and Dedicated.
Ezra 3: 8-13; 6: 14-18.

Commentary.—1. The foundation laid (vs. 8-13). 8. Second year. month—This was May. B. C. 536. Zerubbabel—The name indicates that he was born in Babylon. His Chaldean name was Sheshbazzar. He was the civil governor of Jerusalem. Jeshua—the high priest. He was the religious leader of the Jews. They were come out of captivity—About fifty thousand persons. To set forward the work—The Levites were given the oversight of the great work for which Cyrus had given the Jews permission to return to Jerusalem. 9. Jeshua—A Levite, not the priest mentioned in the preceding verse. An honor is placed upon those to whom was entrusted this important work, in that their names are preserved for all time. They were given the responsibility because of their fitness for the work. 10. Laid the foundation—This was an occasion for impressive ceremonies. It marked an epoch in Jewish history. It pointed backward to the dark past. It pointed forward to a bright future for God's chosen and restored people. Priests in their apparel—The priestly garments are described in Exod. 28. They denoted the consecration of the wearers to sacred service. With trumpets—These were used in calling the people together. Sons of Asaph—Descendants of Levi. They were prominent as singers in the temple service. To praise the Lord—It was an occasion which should call forth the strongest expressions of thankfulness. After the ordinance of David—See 1 Chron. 6: 31; 15: 16-21; 16: 4-6; 25: 1. 11. They sang together by course—"They sang one to another."—R. V.

12. Many that had seen the first house—it had been about fifty-two years since the destruction of the first temple, and the final deportation of the Jews to Babylon, and some of those who returned with Zerubbabel to Jerusalem could well remember the former temple. When the foundation of this house was laid wept—The building of the new temple must have been well under way at this time for the people to be able to judge of its proportions and beauty. While this was larger than the temple built by Solomon, it could not be as costly, for there was not the wealth in the remnant of Israel to supply the rich furnishings that distinguished the first temple. The ark of the covenant and its contents were lacking, and the aged Jews realized that in an important sense the former glory was lacking. Not that this second temple was not a very grand and beautiful structure, but how great soever its material splendor, it was inferior in this respect to that of Solomon. Yet the glory of the second far outshone that of the first temple in another and more important point of view, namely, the receiving within the walls the incarnate Saviour (Hag. 2: 9).—J. F. & B. Some have supposed that the weeping was for joy, but this is not probable. 13. Could not discern—In the East the people are very demonstrative in their expressions of joy and sorrow, and commonly the walls of grief are mistaken for shouts of joy. Sorrow and joy were closely mingled on this occasion, and both were in consequence of what God had done for his people, either in the past or at that time.

14. The building finished (vs. 14, 15). 14. The elders of the Jews build—Between Ezra 3: 13 and this verse is given the account of the long delay in building the house of the Lord. The Samaritans wished to join with the Jews in the work, but the latter would not consent to this on the ground that the Samaritans were not true worshippers of Jehovah. Thereupon the Samaritans appealed to the king and secured an order from him that the Jews should cease their work upon the temple. After a delay of fifteen years King Darius issued a decree which gave the Jews full authority to build the house of the Lord. The Lord gave to his people two faithful prophets in Haggai and Zechariah to encourage them in the great work which they had undertaken for him, according to the commandment, etc.—The God of Israel planned for his people the restoration of the nation and the rebuilding of the temple, and the world-rulers, here mentioned, gave orders to have these plans carried out. 15. This house was finished—That which at the time seemed impossible was at last accomplished. month Adar—This corresponds nearly to our month of March.

16. The Temple dedicated (vs. 16-18). 16. children of Israel, etc.—From the mention of the different classes of persons it is evident that the people were united in the building and dedication of the temple. The temple of Solomon had been dedicated solemn ceremony and the new temple was dedicated, or given over to God for divine service, with impressive ceremonies and with great joy. 17. offered—This verse describes different ceremonies of the dedication. sin offering—An atonement was made for all Israel. twelve according to the number of tribes—Those who returned from captivity represented all the tribes of Israel. The twelve tribes had joined in the dedication of the former temple, and the restored temple was dedicated by a restored and reunited Israel. 18. set the priests in their divisions—The temple service was fully organized. The service was distributed by periods of a week each among the priests and Levites.

Questions.—How many years had passed since the temple was destroyed? What was the first step in religious work when the Jews reached Jerusalem? Who managed the building of the temple? How were their services conducted? Who among the people wept? Why? Who shouted for joy? How was the work of building delayed? When was the temple finished? Describe the dedication of the temple.

PRACTICAL STUDY

Topic.—The Temple Rebuilt.

I. A reminder of national sin.

II. The prospect of national peace.

I. A reminder of national sin.

more, on the ruins of the ancient sanctuary, the new temple was to be erected. It was a new era in the nation's history. Patriotism and piety combined to ennoble and consecrate the scene. The whole remnant of Israel was enlisted in the undertaking. To God who had redeemed them from bondage and given back to them their old liberties and their beloved land, they owed the very best service they could offer. They set about their work methodically and carefully, directing it according to the law of the Lord. The prophets and builders worked harmoniously together. Each part was wrought by those who were especially adapted to it. The occasion was one which called forth the "fullest joy and the tenderest grief." Amid the joy of hope there was the sorrow of memory. There had been another house on that spot. There were men present who had seen it in all its glory. To these men the present foundation recalled years of shame and agony. That such magnificence should have been destroyed, that there ever should have been the pitiable necessity for their beginning again, filled them with profound humiliation. Such thoughts found expression in uncontrollable tears and outbursts of lamentations. There was a great contrast between Solomon's temple and the ruins which surrounded them; between the glorious past of Israel and the demoralized condition of the nation as it appeared after the captivity; between the flourishing condition of the land and the prospect it presented when a remnant of people were endeavoring to restore it to its former fruitfulness. Those who remembered the former days and the glory of the first temple and considered how far the second one was likely to be inferior to it, wept with loud voices. When those who knew only the sorrow of having no temple at all saw the foundation laid, they praised the Lord with shouts of joy. Though each expressed himself according to his sentiment, there was no disagreement, no retarding of the work.

II. The prospect of national peace.

To the opened vision of God's prophet it was revealed that the glory of the latter house should be greater than the former. The people stood face to face with the work they had undertaken. Its difficulties were before them. They felt their inability to rise to the demands of the great occasion. They faced great obstacles through the oppression of their enemies. There was a faithful ministry in the midst of the people. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah urged them to remember God's special commission to them in that he had brought them out of captivity to do that special work. They were assured that his blessing must surely crown their fidelity with success. They inspired the people with their own earnest spirit. The building of the temple was a visible and abiding testimony to their faith in the existence and power of the God of heaven. The temple was a testimony to the heathen nations and to all people of the worship and sacrifice due to Jehovah from His people Israel. The completion of the temple was a proof in itself that the "fierceness of God's anger" had been turned away and that He would again show mercy to His people. The wisdom of the leaders was evident in their pressing forward in the work, taking advantage of every favorable circumstance. They did not relax their efforts while waiting for a reply from Darius. Patriotism, wisdom and piety were manifested in their plans. The king's decree and the prophet's message together were like wings to their work. From the time of the arrival of the decree of Darius they looked upon the completion of the temple as only a question of time, and so at last regarded their condition of captivity as being practically at an end. Opposition to their cause was exterminated for good. It brought the necessities occasioned by the neglect of the decree of Cyrus under the notice of Darius who regarded the Jewish nation with special favor so that the work was carried through without intermission after it was resumed. There was rejoicing over the finished work. It was the visible triumph of their faith and hope. They were thrilled with enthusiastic joy as they took possession of the new temple. With it they a new life. At the dedication the ancient order of service was restored. T.R.A.

Macready's Caustic Reply.

A scapegrace baron pawned the coronet he had worn at the coronation of Queen Victoria. Having a slight acquaintance with Macready, the tragedian, he wrote to the actor offering to sell the pawn ticket and suggesting that the redeemed item of headgear would be an interesting theatrical "property." Macready replied with characteristic sarcasm that if anything had been owned by a nobleman of mark who had got into strained circumstances he would have favored consideration of the application. But he did not think his stock of "properties" would be improved by the addition of a gilded coronet that had been worn by a numskull and pawned by a profligate.

A Hint for Young Romeos.

If the hero has no bad habits he should acquire some or at least lead her to believe that he has one or two. Courtship isn't complete unless the heroine can beg him to quit something that is destroying his sweet health or, worse still, something that makes him almost a bold, bad man. She used to beg and beg us to quit gambling, and a few years after the wedding she was cruel enough to tell us that she knew all the time that we were not a gambler. She was just humoring us.—Claude Callan in Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

A Mighty Bridge.

In the fourth bridge there is a horizontal pul. of 10,000 tons on the chief girders and a weight of 100,000 tons on their bases. Half a dozen British ironclads might be hung upon them without causing any undue strain.—London Telegraph.

POINTERS ABOUT PLOWING—HOW AND WHEN TO DO IT

Most Important Operation in Tillage—Essentials Explained—

Second Article—By R. Summerby.

While it is true that good plowing under some conditions would not be considered good in others, many of the principles will hold in all cases. Good plowing of a given field implies that all land in that area should be plowed in such a way as to achieve the desired object most efficiently with the least further work. This means that not only must the type of furrow used be suited to the conditions and purpose, but also that the crown, the ridge itself, and the finish, be adapted to that purpose.

CROWN VERY IMPORTANT.

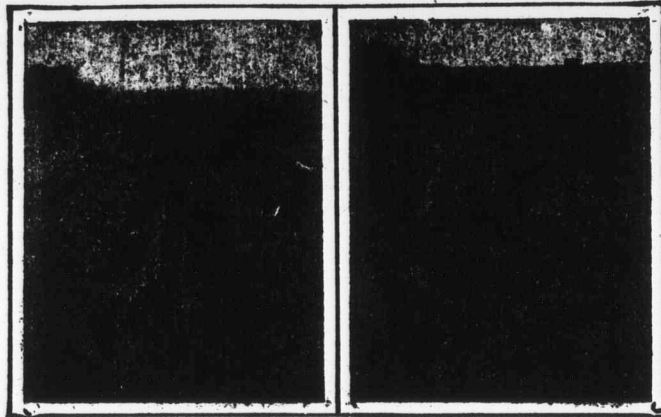
A score card is here inserted which embodies the important features to be considered in plowing. Percentage values have been placed opposite these points to show their relative importance. In this particular case, the figures are designed to relate to plowing done on sod land in the fall. Other conditions will require that different relative values be placed on each point, for more attention must be

paid to some than to others, depending upon the time of year, the type of soil, and the object to be attained in doing the work. Points considered Values Crown or commencement 20 Shape of land when plowed 20 Finish 17 Style and evenness of furrow 13 Straightness 10 Covering 8 Ins and outs 7 Total 100

No part of the plowing operation requires more attention than the commencement, for not only is the crown itself important, but upon it also depends the degree of excellence of a large part of the remainder of the work. Evidences of neglect on this score are to be seen in many of our grain and hay fields, where the original commencement is marked by the presence of some of our worst weeds, such as couch grass, bladder campion, chicory, ox-eye daisies, etc. This part of the land, on account of its

sod land, but is excelled by the previous ones for stubble, where especially thorough work is desired. One of the most common methods of setting a crown in either stubble or sod land is one in which a light furrow is thrown out and a heavier one is thrown against it. Under certain conditions this will prove satisfactory but too often results in this part of the land forming a starting point for weeds, turning the land not being cut and turned. Again, on stubble land it sometimes happens that a plowman will attempt to start the land by throwing up two heavy furrows one against another, in the pretence of making a crown. This is the poorest method possible, in that there is a wide strip of land uncultivated and unplowed, and moreover it is difficult to plow the first furrows to their full depth. Any dangers experienced in the previous method, through grass and weeds becoming troublesome, are much more apt to occur here.

A type of commencement that is suited only to sod plowing and partic-



Two different stages in the double scratch, double comb crown, a method that is used on heavy sod land and adapted to fancy plowing. By this method the two crown furrows are placed on two light scratch furrows, made by means of a high cutting share.

ularly to heavy soils plowed in the fall, is illustrated by Figure 3. W to light scratch furrows are thrown together by means of a high-cutting share, and on these the two crown furrows are placed, forming what is called a double comb crown. This method is used where the commencement is made in a previous dead furrow, and is in more common use at plowing matches than in general practice. It cannot be claimed that all the sod is cut, but the position of the crown furrows is such as to make conditions favorable to the smothering of the grass that still remains. It is also one of the most difficult

ones to set, but when properly done lends itself well to a nicely shaped land and, moreover, the soil settles evenly in such a case.

WHAT THE FINISH MEANS.

Of the seven methods mentioned above, the first six are used in stubble land and are discussed in order of efficiency for thorough work. The fourth, fifth and seventh are adapted to sod plowing, and of these the fourth one is probably the best adapted for general work. No matter what method is used, however, the aims of the plowing should be kept in mind in this part of that operation.

With regard to the shape of land when plowed, it should be as level as possible, with a slight but gradual slope to the finish, and with no pronounced rise at the crown. If the land is heavy, and not well drained, this slope should be more distinct. Hollows and depressions in the land result in puddles of water after heavy rains, and may thus cause much damage during the growing season, while in the fall and winter they are apt to cause winter-killing in grasses, clovers and fall sown crops through the formation of ice. Much can be done toward filling in such hollows by a good plowman, by changing the depth of the furrow as the plow enters and comes out of the same. Skill in this, however, can only be attained through much practice.

Just as there is no marked difference between the furrows of the crown and those of the land, there should be little difference between these and the furrows at the finish. If anything, the ones at the finish should be slightly smaller; for if heavier the result will be a broader, deeper finish, with higher edges, which may hold the water on the land after rains. A good finish must be adapted to the soil and subsoil. If the sub-surface soil is good, a deep, broad finishing furrow will result in a narrow dead furrow, which can easily be filled in with the discs, so as not to interfere with the growth of the crop, and the proper working of implements. Where the subsoil is poor, a narrower, shallower finishing furrow, followed by a couple of strokes of the disc harrows, or by a round with a plow when the land is being prepared for seeding, will give the best results; while where soil is poorly drained a deeper finish must be made to meet that condition.

The style of furrow should be suited to the conditions and aims, but as this has been discussed it is unnecessary to repeat it. It should, however, be as uniform as possible throughout. Gaps and flaps are serious objections in plowing, but if their prevention is impossible, such as would be the case on stoney ground, the plow should be got back to its proper depth and width as soon as possible. Evidences of poor plowing on this score are to be seen in many fields, and in such cases a poor crop and a prevalence of weeds is always the result.

Straightness of furrow is a desirable feature in plowing, but has not the relative importance that the inexperienced is apt to believe. As will be seen from the score-card, several other points are considered of great

importance, if the grass is abundant in the uncovered condition, it seriously hinders the best action of cultivators and harrows, and, therefore, more work is required in fitting the land for the purpose desired.

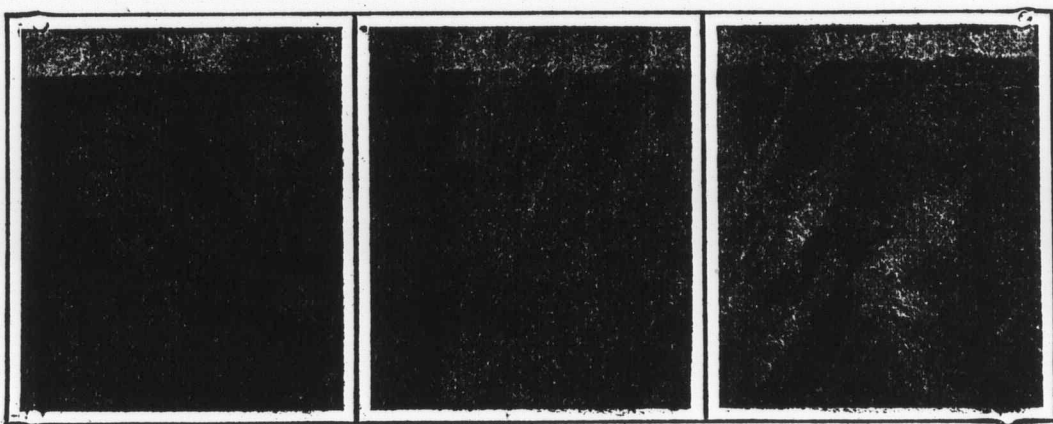
In the score-card above the heading "Ins and Outs" is included. Under this is considered the evenness, neatness and abruptness of the furrow ends. Each furrow slice should continue in its full size and shape to the head-land, and there be broken off abruptly. This is done by having the plowshare enter and come out of the soil as abruptly as possible along a straight line at the ends of the land. Unless this is done a considerable amount of land in this area will not be properly plowed.

Apart from the discussion relative to types of furrow, nothing has been said with regard to the time of plowing. Clay soils and land that is not properly drained require the action of the frost to pulverize them, and should, therefore, be plowed in the fall. Moreover, if left until spring, it is often impossible to get on them to work before most crops should be seeded. Neither of these facts hold true with regard to sandy or gravelly soils, and equally as good crops can often be grown when plowing is done in the spring, providing it is done early, and that the proper cultivation is given. Experiments with our most important grain crops, however, show so much advantage in favor of early seeding that it is advisable to do as much fall plowing as possible even on these soils, when intended for grain. Fall plowing, moreover, allows of the absorption and retention of moisture. When land is intended for corn, more time is available in spring before planting time and, under ordinary conditions, well drained land on a sandy or gravelly nature can, if necessary, be plowed to good advantage in the spring for this crop.

In a few cases only is it possible to do away with plowing. This will hold true on well cultivated, and light soils, after potatoes, roots, and, in some cases, corn. It must, however, be replaced by thorough and deep surface tillage. On the heavier soils, and on those that have not been thoroughly worked, plowing will prove the most efficient and economical method of preparing the land for grain crops. Light, well drained corn-land that has been thoroughly cultivated, may be fitted for the following crop by running a furrow along each row, deep enough to turn out the corn roots. This should be done in the fall, and if followed by thorough cultivation in the spring, may be the best way of preparing the seed bed for grain and for seeding sown on this land.

Although present day conditions make it imperative that the operation of plowing be accelerated wherever possible by means of gang plows, and, in some cases, that it be replaced by the more speedy methods of tillage, it still requires to be thoroughly done. It is yet the most important operation in cultivation, but must be followed by other implements to complete the work if its best results are to be realized. The slowness and expense of the operation makes this all the more necessary. Good plowing, followed by intelligent tillage to complete the work, would go a long way towards making "two blades of grass grow where one grew before," and would place agricultural production in Canada on a much higher level than it now is.

—The Canadian Countryman.



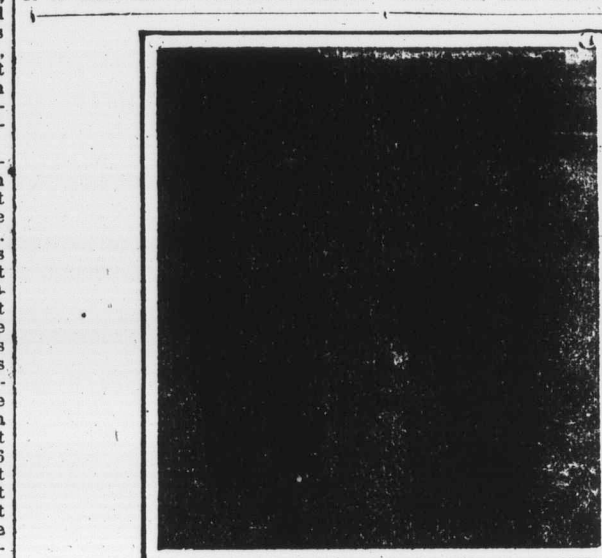
Three progressive stages in setting an ideal crown on stubble land. Two furrows are first thrown out and then the whole is thrown together by one round to form the crown. This is the crown that more nearly approaches the ideal, but requires three full rounds to complete it. A half round can be saved, as explained in the text, by working from the stage shown at the left.

greater depth of soil and better conditions generally, should be producing the best part of the crop, instead of forming a stronghold for weeds.

An ideal crown is one that meets all the aims of plowing on that particular part of the land. This involves that all weeds should be destroyed, and that as far as possible the land should be cut and turned to the full depth of the rest of the plowing. When completed, the crown furrow or furrows should stand out slightly above the others, but no marked distinction should be possible. Further, when the soil settles after cultivation and seeding, it should do so evenly, without leaving an inverted V-shaped ridge where the commencement was made. Different types of crown are, of course, necessary to suit different conditions. A few of these in common use, including those that are considered the best ones, are here discussed.

Probably the crown that approaches nearest to the ideal is one in which two full rounds are first thrown outwards, and then the whole is thrown together by a third one. This results in all the advantages mentioned above, but this type cannot well be used on sod land. Unfortunately, too, it requires much time, as it takes three full rounds before the crown is completed. This method is illustrated in Figure 2, which shows three different stages of the operation. The first figure will also serve to illustrate a second method, in which only one round is thrown out instead of two, and a strip about 6 inches wide is left. This is then cut off with the wing of the share but allowed to remain in place, and on it the crown is formed by turning the first furrow back by means of deeper ones. This is thus a modification of the first method and requires only

er importance. Its greatest value lies in its influence upon the type of furrow, and upon its bearing on the character of the finish. It is also desirable from an aesthetic standpoint, but this need not be emphasized here. In both sod and stubble land it is desirable that all grass, weeds or stubble be turned under. This is referred to as "covering." Its importance is due to the fact that when grass or weeds are left protruding from between the furrow slices, they are apt to start and grow if opportunity offers, whereas when turned under proper conditions are more favorable for their decomposition. More-



A good type of crown for use in either sod or stubble land.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Dairy produce—	
Butter, choice dairy	\$0.45 to \$0.48
Eggs, new-laid, doz	0.45
Cheese, lb.	0.35
do, fancy, lb.	0.35
Dressed Poultry—	
Turkeys, lb.	0.25
Fowl, lb.	0.25
Spring, Chickens	0.25
Ducks, Spring, lb.	0.25
Fruits—	
Apples, bkt.	0.50
do, bbl.	3.00
Thimbleberries, box	0.15
Peaches, Can., bkt.	0.40
Pears, bkt.	0.60
Plums, bkt.	1.00
Cantaloupes, bkt.	0.50
Vegetables—	
Beans, small measure	0.20
Beets, bkt.	0.35
do, bag	0.20
Cucumbers, doz.	0.20
Caulliflowers, each	0.15
Corn, doz.	0.20
Carrots, doz, bunch	0.20
do, bag	0.75
Celery, per head	0.65
Cabbages, each	0.10
Gherkins, bkt.	1.00
Egg Plant, bkt.	0.65
Lettuce, doz, heads	0.20
do, heads, doz	0.60
Vegetable marrow, each	0.05
Onions, bag	1.25
do, small bkt.	0.75
do, picking, bkt.	0.75
do, Silver Skins, bkt.	1.25
Potatoes, bag	1.50
do, pick	0.30
Pumpkins, each	0.10
Parley, bunch	0.10
Radishes, bunches	0.10
Peppers, rd, doz	0.40
do, green, doz	0.15
Sage, bunch	0.05
Squash, each	0.10
Savory, bunch	0.05
Turnips, peck	0.15
do, bag	0.65
Tomatoes, lt-qt	0.40

WHOLESALE MEATS.

Beef, forequarters	\$12
do, hindquarters	17
Carcasses, choice	13
do, common	13
Veal, choice	20
do, medium	12
Heavy hogs, doz	18
Shop hogs	23
Mutton, light	18
do, heavy	18
Lamb, yearling	20
Spring lambs	24

SUGAR MARKET.

Local wholesale quotations on Canadian refined sugar, Toronto delivery.	
Acadia granulated	\$0.11
Redpath granulated	0.11
St. Lawrence gran.	0.11
No. 1 yellow, Atlantic and	0.11
Acadia	0.10
No. 2 yellow	0.10
No. 3 yellow	0.10
No. 1 yellow, St. Lawrence and	0.10
Redpath	0.10
No. 2 yellow	0.10
No. 3 yellow	0.10
Lentic, granulated	0.11
Light yellow	0.11
Brilliant yellow	0.11
Dark yellow	0.11
Granulated in 20-lb. bags	0.11
cwt. price: 10-lb. bags, 20 cents over; 5-lb. cartons, 25 cents over, and 2-lb. cartons, 30 cents over.	