

Sunday School Lesson

April 21. Lesson III—Comfort for God's People—Isaiah 40: 1-11. Golden Text—As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.—Isaiah 66: 13.

ANALYSIS

I. THE MESSAGE OF COMFORT, vs. 1, 2.
II. THE VOICE, vs. 3-8.
III. THE GOOD TIDINGS, vs. 9-11.

INTRODUCTION—With this chapter we begin the reading of the second part of the book of Isaiah, now commonly called Second Isaiah. It will be noticed: (1) that while in the first part of the book the Assyrian empire and its invading armies are everywhere present, here Assyria is mentioned only once, and then, with Egypt, as an oppressor of times past (ch. 45: 4); and (2) that the prophet appears to be addressing messages of comfort and of hope to people who have been long in exile in Babylon, and predicts both the overthrow of that empire, whose period of great power followed that of Assyria, and lasted from about B.C. 604 to 538 (47: 1-9; 48: 20), and also the return of the exiles to their own ruined and devastated land.

It will also be noticed that the prophet mentions Cyrus the Great, king of Persia, who conquered Babylon in B.C. 538, and who permitted the captive Jews to return to their own country, as having already been raised up, as having already, for some time, proceeded upon his career of victory (41: 2, "the righteous man"; 44: 28; 45: 1-5; 45: 11; 48: 14). This fact would seem to fix the date of this second part of the book of Isaiah, or at least of chs. 40 to 49, shortly before the fall of Babylon, or within the four or five preceding years. The people to whom he addressed himself, and to whom he brings his message of comfort, are the Jewish exiles in Babylon, despairing after long years of captivity of ever seeing their home land again.

It will greatly help in the understanding of the Lesson if the whole of chs. 40 to 49 be read.

I. THE MESSAGE OF COMFORT, vs. 1, 2.

The prophet hears the divine voice calling upon him and his fellow prophets to bear a message of comfort and of hope to his captive people, to Jerusalem in exile. The word warfare means literally a period, or term of service, and should be translated "appointed time" (cf. Job 7: 1, here the same Hebrew word is translated "appointed time"). The reference here is to the period of exile which now is to be ended. Her iniquity for which the prophets, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, declared she had been sent into exile, is now pardoned. She has received an ample sufficient punishment for all her sins. Such seems to be the meaning here of the word double. Compare Jer. 16: 18 and Rev. 18: 6.

II. THE VOICE, vs. 3-8.

The company of the prophets now hear the divine voice bidding them prepare the way for the coming of the Lord to deliver the captives and to lead them back to their own land. The language is highly figurative, and preparing the prophets as pioneers preparing the road for the coming of a both here and elsewhere frequently used. The same words with slight variation are used of the preaching of John the Baptist, Matt. 3, etc. The voice calls the prophet to prepare the minds and hearts of a deeply discouraged people for the great deliverance which he foresees. The words spoken by the voice (vs. 3, 4), may be rendered:

In the wilderness prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make level in the desert a highway for our God;

Set every valley be filled up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;

Let the uneven be made smooth,
And the ridges a plain.

The deliverance of the Jewish captives in Babylon, following the capture of that city by Cyrus (45: 13), will be so notable an event that all the world will see and acknowledge the power and the goodness of Jehovah. (Compare ch. 52: 10 and Psalm 98: 1-3).

And one said (v. 6), probably one of the company of the prophets who voices the hopelessness of them all. They have no faith, or courage, to bear such a message of hope. Fifty years or more of exile, since the first deportation of captives in 597 (2 Kings 24: 10-16), had passed. The older people had died in Babylon, the younger had grown old, a new generation was growing up, born in Babylon.

Missing No Chance For Popularity



HERE IS LLOYD GEORGE STARTING SOMETHING
In this case it was the football match in which Wales and Scotland vied for supremacy and a trophy. The fighting Welshman kicked off the ball that started the championship game.

The generations of men, like the withering grass and fading flower, scorched by the breath of God's wrath, were passing away. There was no hope, vs. 6, 7.

The voice replies, v. 8. It is that the generations pass like the grass that withers, and the flower that fades, but the word of our God shall stand for ever. That word of promise spoken by the prophets at the beginning of the exile, stands, and will surely be fulfilled (see Jer. 23: 5-8; 30: 10-24; Ezek. 36: 17-24).

III. THE GOOD TIDINGS, vs. 9-11.

In vivid, dramatic style the prophet now calls upon Jerusalem to shout the good news from the mountain-top to the other desolate cities of Judah, that the exiles are returning home. Very beautifully he pictures the Lord as a good shepherd bringing home his flock, dealing gently with the weak, and bearing the little ones in his bosom. For a similar picture see 49: 9-10 and Ezek. 34: 12-16.

Mining Market Sound for Future

Temporary Recession in Many Issues Will Give Opportunity to Investors to Profit by Good News

NORANDA STRONG

By LLOYD J. MOORE,
Member Standard Stock and Mining Exchange

Reversals overtook the entire Canadian mining list during the final week of March. Sharp declines were registered all across the list. There was a fairly substantial recovery before the Easter holiday, but indications were present that the selling movement was not entirely finished. There were some exceptional opportunities for securing stocks at bargain prices. Noranda dipped below \$47 and Nickel went to \$11.75 on March 26th, when call money commanded 20 per cent. in New York. The liquidation of mining stocks was caused primarily by the disastrous break which took place in New York. International Nickel was one of the principal sufferers, but although the decline in this stock was sharper than in most of the others, it was not greatly out of line. Much distress selling took place. This involved a great many people, since the stock is very widely held in Canada. The New York selling had every appearance of including heavy short sales augmenting the already large New York interest on the short side that has been known to exist.

Nickel recovered vigorously to \$52 before the end of the week, but was again subject to further selling on Easter Monday in New York while the Canadian exchanges were closed. The sponsors of Nickel are quite as long as they were in more buoyant markets of January and February. Its market course has been more or less in line with the general trend of New York stocks. From the Canadian

angle at least, it was vulnerable because of the large amount of stock held on thin margins.

Noranda Meeting

One of the most interesting developments of the week was the annual meeting of Noranda Mines, at which President J. Y. Murdoch gave much data of a favorable character concerning recent operations at the Horne property. It was announced that diamond-drilling data shows the continuance of ore to a depth of 1,500 feet. The management is conservatively estimating a production of 2,000 tons from two reverberatory smelting units toward the latter part of the year. It is expected unofficially, however, that the production will be about 2,500 tons a day. Full advantage is being taken of the present high price of copper. The highest quotations available are being obtained for the current production of metal. The results of exploration and development work since the beginning of this year have been highly encouraging. Occurrences of sulphide below the \$75-foot level are shown to be of very large dimensions containing much highly profitable ore. Mr. Murdoch was unable to give any further figures of new ore placed in sight beyond saying that the work thus far this year had shown up more ore than would be handled by the smelter during the entire twelve months. Last year's work showed \$9 of ore placed in sight for each \$1 put through the smelter. In other words—the additions of new ore amounted to \$52,000,000 and gross production was approximately \$6,000,000. As has been indicated in these columns in previous articles the Horne smelter is performing much beyond expectations.

The shareholders were informed that only a small portion of the possibilities of the property has yet been explored and the officials are confident that ore will be found at much greater depth than have been investigated up to the present.

The shareholders approved the by-law to issue one new share for each thirty held at \$45 per share.

Sheritt-Gordon

Among the other stocks that recovered readily from the selling pressure of the past week, none was more impressive than Sheritt-Gordon. This stock rebounded from its low of \$7.10 to a high of \$8.75 before the close of the week. On numerous occasions recently Sheritt stock has seemed scarce and remarkably good buying power has been noticed. Upon the completion of construction of the railway line to the property probably by September the development of the mine will enter a new phase. It has been practically decided that the Hudson Bay smelter will be located adjacent to the mine deposits about twenty miles from the Flin Flon and not far distant from Cranberry Port. This smelter will treat concentrates from both properties according to present indications. It seemed like unnecessary duplication to have two smelters in Northern Manitoba. Both Hudson Bay and Sheritt-Gor-



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don should benefit substantially from the co-operative arrangement. Both properties are developing well. Current prices of copper should swell the probable profits of each and especially of Sheritt-Gordon, which has a higher copper content in its ore. It is difficult to predict the metal markets far ahead. The price of around 21½ cents for copper looks entirely too high to be reasonable. The demand and supply situation points to the continuance of comparatively high prices. An average of around 17 cents a pound over a long period would enable the new Canadian producers to earn very handsome profits. Such an estimate price appears to be very conservative.

Copper Refinery Promised

An announcement of far-reaching importance was made by Premier Ferguson in the Ontario Legislature that a copper refinery would be built by International Nickel-Consolidated Smelters and Ventures, Ltd., in the Sudbury district. The probability that Sheritt-Gordon and Hudson Bay blister copper will be treated at this refinery. It will have a capacity 10,000 tons a month and will cost approximately \$4,000,000. It will treat Frood blister copper as soon as the mine comes into production. At the same time it is interesting to note that President J. Y. Murdoch has affirmed Noranda's intention of building its own refinery at some site to be decided, probably on the Lower Lawrence. The Noranda enterprise has British Metals Corporation and Nichols Copper Company associated with it.

Don't forget, Mr. Moore answers any questions on mines and mining investments. Address, L. J. Moore & Co., 10 Jordan Street, Toronto.

Question at Shoreditch County Court—"Did you hear her swear?" Man—"She looked as if she was going to, so I walked away."

LIMERICK CORNER

Joyous Jingles By Gifted Rhymsters

The Contest is closed. For the time being at any rate, the Limerick Contest will be discontinued. There is no question, however, about its popularity with readers as we have been literally swamped with letters. We will be glad, however, to hear from any others who have taken part in the contest, or who have found pleasure in following it in the papers. Let us know what you think of the Limerick Corner and whether or not you would like to see this feature continued.

On the other hand, if you have any ideas for a feature to take the place of Limerick Corner, let us have them. Editor, Limerick Corner, Associated Publishers, 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Following are some prize winners:—

THIS ARTICLE REMOVED

THIS ARTICLE REMOVED

MUTT AND JEFF—

—By Bud Fisher.

That's Going Too Far Even With An Innocent Deception

