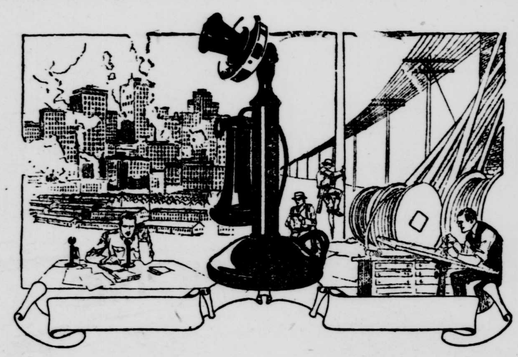

Our investment in Maryland is more than twenty-one million dollars.

What Is Meant By "Net Earnings?"

THE net earnings of an enterprise is the money left from revenues after expenses are paid. Judged solely as a sum of money—without relation to anything else—the net earnings of a public utility such as ours may seem large.

The meaning of net earnings can be determined only when they are related to the investment in the property.

The net earnings of this company for the year 1921, based on nine months, will be $884,000, which may seem a large sum.

But our investment in Maryland is more than $21,000,000, so that the net earnings are less than four and one-half per cent. on the investment.

Compared with the present high rates for money prevailing, this is a very modest rate of return.

The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company

R. C. HARRIS, Manager

(H)

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 11

PAUL WRITES TO A FRIEND.

LESSON TEXT—Philemon.

GOLDEN TEXT—Whosoever would be chief among you, let him be your servant.—Matt. 20:27.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Deut. 15:12-15; John 13:14, 35; I Cor. 1:26-29; Col. 3:9-11; Jas. 2:1-9.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of a Runaway Slave.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul's Kindness to a Runaway Slave.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Paul Pleading for a Slave.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Social Teachings of the Letter to Philemon.

This is a private letter. Philemon was a member of the church at Colosse. Onesimus, his slave, wronged him, perhaps stole from him, and fled to Rome. There he came under Paul's influence and was converted. Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon with this letter. This is one of the most tender and beautiful letters ever written, and the first anti-slavery petition ever penned.

I. The Salutation (vv. 1-3).

His aim was to touch Philemon's heart, so refers to himself as a prisoner, and links Philemon to himself as a fellow-laborer in the Gospel of truth. He makes mention of Apphia, Philemon's wife, and Archippus, the son, who had already enlisted as a fellow-soldier.

II. Philemon's Reputation (vv. 4-7).

Paul paid a fine tribute to Philemon, reminding him that he never prayed without bearing him up before God. This is a fine example of tact on the part of the minister.

1. His faith and love toward the Lord and all saints (v. 5). It was his hope and desire that this faith might bear fruit in Christ Jesus.

2. His ministry to the saints (v. 7). Philemon was generous in his help to the poor saints.

III. Paul's Request (vv. 8-16).

He requested Philemon to receive back Onesimus, the runaway slave, as a brother in Christ.

1. He beseeches instead of commands (vv. 8-10). Though conscious of his right to enjoin, he pleads as the prisoner of Jesus Christ for love's sake.

2. He makes his plea on the grounds of grace (vv. 11-14). He admitted that Onesimus had been unprofitable—had forfeited all claim upon Philemon, and that on grounds of justice his plea might well be rejected, and yet Onesimus was begotten in his bonds (v. 10)—was in a real sense a part of his own suffering nature (v. 12)—he ventured to suggest that he should be accepted. Though Onesimus hitherto had been unprofitable to his master, now was profitable to both Paul and Philemon. Paul would gladly have retained him as a personal attendant, but sought first his friend's permission.

3. Paul desired that Onesimus be received back not as a slave, but as a brother in Christ (vv. 15, 16). Here is the real fugitive slave law. Paul never attacked slavery, though it was contrary to Christianity, and therefore hateful to him, but emphasized principles which destroyed it. The establishment of Christianity changes the whole face of human society. The wise thing to do is to get men and women regenerated and thus transform society instead of seeking change by revolution.

In Paul's request you can hear the pleadings of Christ for us sinners. All men have broken loose—gone astray—and have become unprofitable. We are reconciled to God through the interceding of Christ. He has made us profitable. We have been begotten in His bonds—through His passion, agony of heart, we shall be changed.

III. The Basis Upon Which Onesimus Is to Be Received (vv. 17-21).

The debt of guilty Onesimus is to be put to the account of Paul, and the merit of Paul is to be put to the account of Onesimus. This is a fine illustration of the atonement of Christ. Whatever wrongs we have committed—debt incurred—all our shortcomings are debited to Him. Jesus Christ, on behalf of the whole universe, has said to God: "Put that to my account; I have written with my pierced hand; I will repay." Onesimus was taken back, not as a runaway slave, but a beloved brother in Christ.

IV. Paul Requests Lodging (vv. 22-25).

He expected a speedy release from imprisonment, and purposed to sojourn with Philemon. In all probability this was realized. What a welcome he must have received! Jesus Christ is saying to every one of His redeemed ones, "Prepare me a lodging."

The Lord Changeth Not.

And I will come near to you to judgment; I will be a swift witness against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts. For I am the Lord, I change not.—Malachi 3: 5, 6.

Prophecy as to Backslider.

Now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith.—I Timothy, 4:1.

CATARRH

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If you haven't completed your list of Christmas gifts, give us the opportunity to show you our new lines of stationery, calenders, school supplies, etc. All our visitors so far have remarked on the excellent quality and the low prices of every article we are offering for sale. There is a gift for every member of the family, big or little, in the new stock which has been arriving this past week. Come in and see the new things.

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MARYDEL

Mr. and Mrs. Scotton, accompanied by Mrs. Hanson, were Dover visitors on Saturday.

Mr. Carl Ware is spending some time in Wilmington, Del.

Owing to the illness of the mother of our principal, Miss Maud Hummer, there was no school on Thursday and Friday of last week.

Mr. Walter Hanson of Virginia has purchased the Charles Hackett farm and moved in on Wednesday.

Miss Ruth Hall of Dover spent Sunday with her mother.

We can boast of a barber once more. Mr. Harry Weist purchased the Rash property and has opened a first class barber shop.

Mr. John Starkey has moved into the house vacated by Mr. H. W. Cohee.

Mr. Floyd Hummer has returned to his home in Wilmington.

Winter is here with all its splendor. What a beautiful sight on Monday—snow everywhere. And oh, what fun for the kiddies. On account of the bad weather, the Ladies Aid did not meet last Monday evening, but will hold a meeting next week at the home or Mrs. Anna Shoebrooks.

Mr. B. R. Kaler is suffering with an attack of lumbago.

Mr. James Scrotton was in Denton Monday on a bbusiness trip.

Mrs. I. N. Smith is on the sick list Mr. and Mrs. Alex Griffith are visiting their daughter, Mrs. Thomas Dabson, of Greensboro.

Mr. Henry Robinson, one of our butchers, sold his business to Mr. J. W. Shoebrooks. Mr. Shoebrooks promises a good market for fruits and vegetables of all kinds, as well as a full line of meats, both fresh and salt.

December 17 will be a big day in Marydel. Watch for further news.

Mrs. Paul Standertson accompanied by Mr. Henry Denny motored to Wilmington on Wednesday.

Mrs. J. R. Smith is sojourning in Wilmington.

HILLSBORO

Mrs. M. E. Knott of Cordova spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Evans.

Mrs. Emma Locke was a visitor in town one day last week.

Mrs. H. S. Fisher entertained the Ladies Aid Society of Hillsboro M. E. Church on Thursday of last week. The society has purchased, through Mr. Charles Jarrell, a velvet carpet for the church, and expects to have it laid before Christmas.

Miss Christine Wilson is home

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Thompson for a few weeks.

spent part of last week in Philadelphia.

Mr. T. W. Coffin has moved his family to Franklin City, where he will continue in the same work he did here, repairing shoes.

Mr. Gurney Tarbutton is confined to his home, suffering with a severe cold.

Mrs. H. Saulsbury Sparks has returned to her home after a delightful visit with her daughter. Mrs. J. U. Taylor, near Trappe, Md.

WILLISTON

Mr. W. E. Crane has returned after spending a few months in Canada.

Mr. Milo Crane spent Sunday with Mr. Alfred Gelletly.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ellwanger of Whitlesburg were the guests of Mrs. Sadie Neal on Sunday.

If your calling card supply is low, better replenish it before Xmas. Are they engraved or printed? We do both. The American Union.

TUCKAHOE NECK

Mr. Holland Downes and family of California, who have been visiting Mr. Philip Downes, will remain with him until this week end.

The November patrons' meeting at Thawleys School on Tuesday evening, November 29, was well attended. On Saturday morning four of the patrons met and tinted the school walls.

Mrs. Howard B. Wright entertained the Ladies Aid Thursday evening, December 1. There were about one hundred and fifty present.

A surprise party was given to Miss Blanche Jackson on Friday night.

Misses Jessie and Beulah Clopper visited Mrs. Wallace Clark.

Miss Evelyn Pepper spent Sunday with Miss Ida Jester.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anstee of Tuckahoe Neck have been entertaining company from Canada the last week.

ORPHANS COURT

At the regular session of the Orphan's Court on Tuesday there were present their Honors, Judges West, Harper and Shawn, and the following business was transacted:

Cora E. Lord and Carlton Lord, administrators of the personal estate of Walter H. Lord, deceased, filed their first and final administration account and distribution, also releases from Cora E. Lord and Carlton Lord, distributees.

Mary Gruwell, administratrix of Frank R. Jump, deceased, filed her first and final administration account and distribution.

George C. Luff, administrator of Mary E. Melvin, deceased, filed releases from William H. Melvin, James F. Melvin, Alfred W. Melvin and Annie E. Luff, distributees.

The last will and testament of Mary F. Dukes, deceased, exhibited in this Court by Mary Roberta Dukes, the custodian, after having been duly proven was admitted to probate. Mary Roberta Dukes, the executrix named in the will, qualified by filing an approved bond. Notice to creditors ordered and M. Carroll Merideth and Thomas W. Jones were named as appraisers.

John W. Stowell, administrator of the personal estate of Henry F. Stowell, deceased, filed an additional inventory which was approved by the Court.

Hiram Leroy Bailey, executor of the personal estate of George W. Bailey, deceased, filed a first and partial account of administration, a dividend, and a second and final account of administration, which was approved by the Court.

In the matter of the sale of the real estate of George W. Bailey, deceased, Calvert C. Merriken, trustee, filed a first and final account of trusteeship, audit and distribution.

CENTRAL

The Mite Society of Central M. E. Church was very pleasantly entertained at the home of Mr. John Nichols on Friday evening of last week.

Miss Gertrude Morgan of Townsend, Del., spent Thanksgiving with her mother, Mrs. K. D. Spence.

Mrs. Robert Brubaker has been spending a few days with her mother in Burrsville.

Miss Pauline Nichols has had as her guest this week Miss Pearl Quillen of near Greensboro.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Have The American Union make for you a handsomely printed supply of Letterheads and Envelopes on Worthmore Bond, put up in cabinet style for desk.

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