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"THANKS, MR. BENSON"

In the Chicago Stock Yards the other day, a Lanark, Ill. farmer told Secretary of Agriculture Benson, "Thanks for trying to do a good job." When asked by the Secretary if he would care to change jobs with him, Bernard Crofton answered "Even with these low farm prices, I wouldn't change my job for yours."

Improvement in hog prices — which was also included in the conversation between Mr. Benson and Mr. Crofton — has been one of the most encouraging news notes in recent weeks.

The Secretary promised something would be done to narrow the spread between the pork producer and the consumer, a spread that is now "too wide" considering the farmers' rising expenses and low income.

Meanwhile, the White House has refused to furnish price supports for hogs. It would mean production controls, no practical means has been offered on how the job could be done, other proposals will be presented for consideration, the White House added.

Pork processors were told to keep marketing margins and profits in line and to pay farmers "as much as possible" for their livestock.

"This is no time to take advantage of the American farmer," the Secretary told. "We simply cannot afford to let him carry the full brunt of increased processing and distribution costs, yes even increased profits, in other sectors of the meat industry."

RABBITS AND TOBACCO MOSAIC

Rabbits are being infected with juices from diseased plants to find some solution to several viruses, including Potato X, tobacco mosaic and cucumber mosaic, the United States Department of Agriculture reports.

In a living bank at Lincoln, Neb., rabbits now contain antisera of purified preparations. "Viruses, whether in plants or animals, are made up largely of proteins. Any warm-blooded animal will produce antibodies in response to an injected virus"

The reaction of the animals is similar to that of humans injected with diptheria toxin-antitoxin or small-pox vaccine. They don't get the disease, but antibodies specific for the particular virus injected are built up in the serum of the blood.

Now the rabbit in the tobacco field may be doing more benefit than the day when he was chomping cabbage in the garden.

DOWN ON THE FARM

"How you gonna keep them down on the farm, once they've seen Paree?"

This statement from a World War I song is proving more true day by day. The boys got a taste of the big city. It was different from the farm. They liked it, and they came home to move to the city.

During the five-year period from 1949 to 1954, an average of 198,000 farm youths were mustered into service each year. But only 84,000 returned to the farm after discharge — considerably less than half.

This is a trend that has sociologists and agricultural experts worried. The obligation of the farmer today is greater, producing more and more for an ever-increasing population, with less help than ever.

And sometimes Junior's missing in this labor force.

ASPIRIN MIGHT HELP MORE

We suppose there is something to be said for the Internal Revenue Bureau's announced intention to ease as much as possible the burden of parting with our hard-earned cash at tax time by offering all manner and means of advice, counsel and guidance — perhaps even to taking over the tedious chore of removing the coin and green from the pocket without it having to pass through our tired hands. A considerate gesture, we would say, and in the absence of some real pain-easers, we'll settle for a little assistance in putting daylight 'twixt us and our favorite brand of paper.

After all, it isn't every day that someone is willing to grease the skids to the poorhouse for you. These fellows not only apply the grease and give you a shove, but they make the reservation, open the door and close it after you. They are so generous that they'll gladly do it whether you ask them to or not. So until something better comes along, we'll be content to get a little help with our subtraction and hope to draw a roundtrip ticket.

(Chicago Daily Drivers Journal)

Cheap at Half the Price



(Courtesy Corn Belt Farm Dailies)

Voice Of Lancaster Farms

AND FARM FRIENDS

(Readers are invited to write comments on Lancaster Farming, about current events, or other topics. Letters should be brief, and must be signed. Names will be withheld if requested. — Editor).

FLYING FARMERS REPORT

Kennett Square—I want to thank you on behalf of the Flying Farmers as well as ourselves for the wonderful coverage given the state meeting. If you stop by soon, wish you would try to make it on Monday or Thursday to see our operations. Just accepted an order this week for Rome. We have chicks going to Belize, British Honduras, and also to Georgetown, British Guiana—L. L. Logan Poultry Farm and Hatchery.

Flying Farmer Queen

Kennett Square—May I again on behalf of the Flying Farmers of Pennsylvania and their Queen thank you for what you have done for us and our state organization. I know that you will help us to keep flying and create a greater interest in flying by reaching people reading articles in Lancaster Farming and seeing pictures of what the Flying Farmers of Pennsylvania are doing—Lois M. Logan, Flying Farmers' Queen of Pennsylvania

State Office

Harrisburg—We surely appreciate the publicity received through the excellent pictures you took during the Pennsylvania Flying Farmers meeting at the Harrisburg State Airport.—John W. McFarlane, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Aeronautics Commission.

Chester County

West Chester—Thanks for putting us on your mailing list to receive Lancaster Farming. It's one of the best farm papers I've seen—current items of interest geared to the farmer and wife, written in a complete and concise manner enabling the busy farmer to catch up on important farm problems and programs.—Robert A. Powers, Jr., Chester County Agricultural Agent.

NICE LITER.

FAIR LAWN, N. J.—While Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mondelli attended a picnic recently, somebody littered up their automobiles — with paper money — \$297 in bills. The Mondellis, who live in Midland Park, turned the "debris" over to police.

50 Years Ago

This Week on Lancaster Farms

(This Week in 1905)

By JACK REICHARD

Snow of All Snows

Fifty years ago this week Lancaster farmers were reading weather reports from Luzerne County, where farmers were having the snow of all snows, with the weather bureau reporting the heaviest fall of snow in that section within the history of the bureau. An official report placed the fall as 16 inches at Scranton. Unofficial reports in the rural areas said the snow averaged 19 inches.

Hungry Foxes Invaded Farms

In Berks County, foxes ventured close to farm buildings in search of food, due to the extreme cold weather and heavy snow in that section. John Gruber, near Eshbach, reported shooting two red fox from the window of his farmhouse within a period of ten minutes.

Guernsey Cow Produced 14,920 Lbs Of Milk

Lancaster dairy farmers were discussing the development of a Guernsey cow, Yeksa Sunbeam, at the Wisconsin agriculture experiment station, which produced 14,920 lbs of milk, testing 5.74 butter fat. Had the product been converted into butter, the cow would have produced 984 lbs during the 12 month period, it was estimated.

One-half Bale Cotton Equal To 40 Bu. Corn

Back in 1906 it was estimated that one-half bale of cotton to the acre to a southern farmer, meant just about the same value as 40 bushels of corn to the acre to a northern farmer. But there were cotton growers in the south who got one bale from the acre, just as there were farmers in Lancaster County who raised 80 bushels of corn to the acre, 50 years ago.

Apples Produced \$500 Per Acre

Apple growers in Colorado were turning their acres into real cash. It was reported that orchards in that State had returned their owners as much as \$500 per acre in 1905.

Farmers Too Much Interested In Brewery Horses

A writer in the Des Moines Register complained farmers were too much interested in draft horses exhibited at state fairs purely for advertising purposes by brewers. The writer stated: "A fine horse never appears to greater disadvantage than when he is hauling a beer wagon, or a man when he is carrying a load of the stuff."

25 Years Ago

Long In Looks, Short In Wind

Twenty-five years ago this week farmers were telling the story of a horse in the New Park, Pa. areas, where a man had an animal to sell which was "long" in looks but "short in wind. One day a farmer came to look at the horse. The animal was harnessed to a buggy for the prospective buyer to try out. When he returned from a trip down the road, the owner, desiring to attract attention from his short-winded horse, started rubbing his hand over the sleek, shining hair, saying, "See what a fine coat he has". The farmer retorted: "Yes, but I don't like his pants."

Gov. Pinchot Promised Farmers Good Roads

At Harrisburg, Governor Pinchot, at a meeting of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, announced the State would take over 20,000 miles of township dirt roads "to get Commonwealth farmers out of the mud"

Uncle Sam Held Corner In Wheat

Twenty-five years ago this week, Chairman Legge of the National Farm Board predicted a wheat shortage. He reported the carry over from 1930 was only about 40 per cent of normal. It looked like Uncle Sam was certain of a profit on his corner in wheat in 1931.

At a meeting of the lower end Friendly Farmers' Club at the residence of Mr. Lester Gallagher, the endorsement of Governor Pinchot plan for 20,000 miles of improved roads was approved, with instructions to the group's secretary to write senators and representatives of Lancaster and Chester counties, informing them of the club's action.

Other questions up for discussion at the session included whether the State and Federal Governments should pay indemnity for abortion reactors in 1931, and to what extent did Government aid to mid-west farmers effect markets in the eastern part of the nation, especially the dairy industry.

At Lancaster, C. R. Nolt, prominent tobacco buyer, was receiving daily deliveries at his warehouse, paying ten and two, 25 years ago this week.

Prince Edward seed potatoes, No. 1 government certified, Green Mountain and Cobler varieties, were on sale at \$1.75 per bushel.